International Relations INR 3081 (U01)

**Contemporary International Problems**

**Fall 2018**

A Global Learning Course

Meetings: M, W 5:00PM - 6:15PM Instructor: Elizabeth Juhasz, PhD.

Classroom: ZEB 110 Email: [ejuhasz@fiu.edu](mailto:ejuhasz@fiu.edu)

Class Number: 84125 Office Hours: M,W 6:30PM - 7:00PM

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes**

This course explores various contemporary international problems each week. The literature is wide and consistently growing, and this course only covers a small portion of such issues. However, please note that while we will discuss topics relating to history and current events, it is a social science class. By the end of this course, you will be able to critically analyze various global issues.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will become aware of facts and concepts, and explain contemporary international issues across many policy areas and levels of governance.

Students will be able to use evidence and information in order to conduct comprehensive analyses of various problems.

Students will be able to form their own theses in order to account for complex issues or problems.

Student will be able to draw logical conclusions from analyzing problems and issues.

Global Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems. (Global Awareness).

Students will be able to conduct multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems. (Global Perspective).

Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving. (Global Engagement).

Academic Integrity

You should include proper sources and citations for any of your work, such as primary and secondary literature. Please familiarize yourself with FIU’s academic integrity (http://integrity.fiu.edu/misconducts.html).

**Course Requirements**

Class Participation and Attendance 15%

Class attendance is required. Students are expected to read the readings before class. The reading load can be heavy, and it only includes a small fraction of the literature. Students are expected to lead most of the discussions in class. If you come unprepared to class, such as by failing to do the readings or participate in class, you will not do well. If I notice the class in general is consistently unprepared, I will administer pop quizzes. You are allowed two unexcused absences this semester. The class starts 5:00PM, but not 5:00PM M.T. (Miami Time). Please arrive in class by 5:00PM. Coming in late, coming in and out, and leaving early, disturbs other students. Please be mindful of your peers. If this becomes an issue, I will begin refusing entry after 5:00PM (Please do not make me do this!).

*Medical Emergencies*

If you must miss class due to a medical emergency you must notify me as soon as possible. A doctor’s or medical staff’s note does not constitute an automatic excuse from the class assignments and other requirements for the course. Acceptances of medical emergencies are at my discretion.

Response Papers for Weekly Readings (Choose only five. Five papers, 1-2 pgs.) 25% (or 5% each)

You can choose to write a response paper for any five weeks of your choosing starting on *Week 2*. In other words, you do not have to write a response paper every week. **You choose only five**.

That being said, it is not advisable to wait to do all of your response papers until the last five weeks. Papers should be no more than two pages, double-spaced. Response papers must discuss a reading (or readings) and possibly themes for the week’s readings. They should not merely summarize the reading(s). Points will be deducted for papers that are only summaries. You should identify common themes and ideas. Do you agree with them? You will notice that many readings are very diverse. Feel free to post questions, comments, concerns, and other discussion points that may arise during your reading. I am flexible if you only want to critique one reading or more than one reading and how you want to critique. Please reference the reading(s) you will be doing either as a regular citation or in-text. I am also flexible if you want to discuss the week’s themes more generally. Just do not provide mere summaries. If the majority of the response paper is a summary, points will be deducted.

The response papers are to help generate class discussion for the entire week. In other words, you do the reading(s)/discussion *before* the lecture begins for the week. The response papers are due on Canvas by Noon on Monday. Absolutely no papers will be accepted after Noon on Monday. I prefer doc files be posted to discussion boards, because it is easier to provide and organize comments.

Paper Proposal 25%

The proposal is for your final paper. I am very flexible with your topics and proposal, but please keep in mind this is an international relations course. The final paper my take different forms. For example, you may try to apply a theory to a case (or cases), or discuss a certain issue under a new light. The actual proposal should not exceed two pages, double-spaced. Alongside the 1-2 page proposal, you must include a preliminary works cited page. The paper proposal is due before class on October 3rd, and uploaded via Canvas. After the start of class, points will be deducted. The longer you wait, the worse the grade. Further information on the paper proposal and final paper will be provided later in the semester.

Final Paper 35%

The final paper must be 6-8 pages, double-spaced with an acceptable font (e.g. Arial, Times New Roman, 12 point). It should not exceed more than 8 pages. It is due by 11:59 PM on Monday, December 3rd via Canvas’s plagiarizing detector. I will deduct a letter grade for each day it is late. The final paper will be graded according to your mastery of the course topics, the logic of your argument, and the quality of your writing. Final papers must be **ORIGINAL**, and must not be recycled from another class.

I will post grading rubrics on Canvas.

**Readings**

No books have been ordered at the FIU bookstore. The articles for discussion should be available via FIU’s database. If not, they will also be posted on Canvas. These readings are denoted by **(C).**

**Grading Scale**

The grading scale is in accordance to FIU’s scale.

A: 100-93% C+: 79-78%

A-: 92-90% C: 77-70%

B+: 89-88% D: 69-60%

B: 87-83% F: 59%-0

B-: 82-80%

*But I need an A for my GPA!*

Students that will do well in this class will actually attend class and pay attention. Work must be high quality (not sloppy and careless), and turned in by the due dates and times.

**Incompletes**

I will not assign incomplete grades.

**Social Justice Statement**

I believe in providing and maintaining a positive and safe learning environment.

FIU remains firmly committed to diversity and social justice. FIU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Students with disabilities that need accommodations should contact the instructor immediately, during the first week of class, and contact the Disability Resource Center (https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/disability-resource-center/) telephone number (305) 348-3532.

**Student Evaluations**

FIU remains committed to high-quality teaching; therefore, student evaluations of the course instructor are greatly respected. Evaluations allow students to provide feedback to both the instructor and the university regarding their experience with the course. Evaluations are imperative for improving instruction and learning environments. Evaluations are confidential, and are not available to the instructor until after final grades are released.

**Notes**

1. Phones! Phones must be turn off and put away. Yes, I know when your phone is out. If your phone is out, you will receive an absence for the day.
2. Laptops! I am okay if you wish to use laptops for notes. Yes, I know when you are not taking notes, or doing things not related to class. It is very, very obvious from the professor’s view. If this privilege is abused, I will make the class take notes by hand (ouch).
3. Recoding devices! It is our legal right to prohibit any kind of recording of this class, and we exercise that right. Therefore, recording devices of any kind, audio or video, are prohibited in this class. Violating this policy is illegal, and violators will be sanctioned.
4. Do not assume that I have received an email or other attachments. If you do send an attachment, please make sure that attachments were uploaded correctly.
5. We are living in some very interesting times. However, it is imperative to listen and debate without being rude to your fellow classmates. The department will be notified if a student is consistently rude to either the instructor and/or other students. If the problem continues, the student will be removed from the course.
6. Plagiarizing includes not properly citing sources. Please be advised, if you change a few words, paraphrase and do not cite, it is considered plagiarizing. You can read more about preventing plagiarizing at http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism.
7. Papers that plagiarize will receive an automatic F. I will forward plagiarized papers to the departmental administration for academic dishonesty proceedings.
8. Email is the best way to reach me.

**Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction to Contemporary International Problems [8/20], [8/22]**

[8/20]: Overview of course

[8/22]: Theory and Science

**Quickly skim** the following readings. They will be broken down in class:

1. Bellinger, Nisha Mukherjee. 2017. “Voting and Human Rights in Democratic Societies.” *Human Rights Review* 18(3): 263-282.
2. Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and Brandon C. Prins. 2004. “Rivalry and Diversionary Uses of Force.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6): 937-961.
3. Gartzke, Erik. 2007. “The Capitalist Peace.” *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166-191.
4. Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 1999. “The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992.” *World Politics* 52(1): 1-37.

**Week 2: Power [8/27], [8/29]**

1. **(C)** Mearsheimer, John J. September/October 2014 Issue. “Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West’s Fault: The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin.” In *Foreign Affairs* at <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russia-fsu/2014-08-18/why-ukraine-crisis-west-s-fault>
2. Marten, Kimberly. 2018. “Reconsidering NATO Expansion: A Counterfactual Analysis of Russia and the West In the 1990s.” *European Journal of International Security* 3(2): 135-161.
3. Mearsheimer, John J. 2010. “The Gathering Storm: China’s Challenge to U.S. Power in Asia.” *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 3(4): 381-396.
4. De Graaff, Naná and Bastiaan Van Apeldoorn.  2018.  “US-China Relations and the Liberal World Order:  Contending Elites, Colliding Visions?” *International Affairs* 94(1): 113-131.
5. Le Corre, Philippe and Jonathan Pollack. 2017. “China’s Rise: What about a Transatlantic Dialog?” *Asia Europe Journal* 15(2): 147-160.

**Week 3: Energy [9/3], [9/5]**

[9/3]: **NO CLASS. LABOR DAY.**

[9/5]: 1. Getmansky, Anna. 2017. “Who Gets What from International Organizations? The Case of the

International Atomic Energy Agency’s Technical Cooperation.” *International Studies*

*Quarterly* 61(3): 596-611.

2*.* Wolf, Albert. B. 2018. “After JCPOA: American Grand Strategy toward Iran.” *Comparative*

*Strategy* 37(1): 22-34.

3. Ball, Jeffrey. July/August 2015. “Why the Saudis Are Going Solar: The Fate of One of the

Biggest Fossil-Fuel Producers May Now Depend on its Investment in Renewable Energy.” *The*

*Atlantic*. https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/07/saudis-solar-energy/395315/

**Week 4: Political Economy [9/10], [9/12]**

1. Stokes, Doug. 2018. “Trump, American Hegemony and the Future of the Liberal International Order.” *International Affairs* 94(1): 133-150.
2. **(C)** McLean, Elena V. and Mitchell T. Radtke. 2018. “Political Relations, Leader Stability, and Economic Coercion.” *International Studies Quarterly* 62(2): 357-370.
3. Chwieroth, Jeffrey M. and Andrew Walter. 2017. “Banking Crises and Politics: a Long-Run Perspective.” *International Affairs* 93(5): 1107–1129.
4. Otrachshenko, Vladimir, Olga Popova, and José Tavares. 2016. “Psychological Costs of Currency Transition: Evidence from the Euro Adoption.” *European Journal of Political Economy* 45: 89-100.
5. Inoue, Takeshi and Shigeyuki Hamori. 2016. “Financial Access and Economic Growth: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa.” *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* 52(3): 743-753.

**Week 5: Poverty and Inequality [9/17], [9/19]**

1. Weber, Heloise. 2014. “Global Politics of Microfinancing Poverty in Asia: The Case of Bangladesh Unpacked.” *Asian Studies Review* 38(4): 544-563.
2. Ross, Michael. 2006. “Is Democracy Good for the Poor?” *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 860-874.
3. Phillips, Nicola. 2017. “Power and Inequality in the Global Political Economy.” *International Affairs* 93(2): 429–444.
4. **(C)** Houle, Christian. 2018. “Does Economic Inequality Breed Political Inequality?” *Democratization* 1-20.
5. Sumner, Andy. 2013. “Poverty, Politics and Aid: Is a Reframing of Global Poverty

Approaching?” *Third World Quarterly* 34(3): 357–377.

**Week 6: Human rights [9/24], [9/26]**

1. Symons, Jonathan and Dennis Altman. 2015. “International Norm Polarization: Sexuality as a Subject of Human Rights Protection.” *International Theory* 7(1): 61-95.
2. Englehart Neil A. and Melissa K. Miller. 2014. “The CEDAW Effect: International Law’s Impact on Women’s Rights.” *Journal of Human Rights* 13(1): 22-47.
3. Tsutsui, Kiyoteru, Claire Whitlinger, and Alwyn Lim. 2012. “International Human Rights Law and Social Movements: States’ Resistance and Civil Society’s Insistence.” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 8(1): 367-396.
4. Conrad, Courtenay R., Daniel W. Hill, and Will H. Moore. 2018. “Torture and the Limits of Democratic Institutions.” *Journal of Peace Research* 55(1): 3-17.
5. Paris, Roland. 2014. “The ‘Responsibility to Protect’ and the Structural Problems of Preventive Humanitarian Intervention.” *International Peacekeeping* 21(5): 569-603.

**Week 7: Terrorism [10/1], [10/3]**

1. Kis-Katos, Krisztina, Helge Liebert, Günther G. Schulze. 2011. “On the Origin of Domestic and International Terrorism.” *European Journal of Political Economy* 27 (Supplement 1): S17-S36.
2. Horowitz, Michael C. 2015. “The Rise and Spread of Suicide Bombing.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 18: 69-84.
3. Choi, Seung-Whan and James A. Piazza. 2016. “Ethnic Groups, Political Exclusion and Domestic Terrorism.” *Defence and Peace Economics* 27(1): 37-63.
4. Malet, David and Rachel Hayes. 2018. “Foreign Fighter Returnees: An Indefinite Threat?” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 1-19.
5. Fair, C. Christine and Ali Hazma. 2018. “Women and Support for Terrorism in Pakistan.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 1-22.

**Week 8: Conflict [10/8], [10/10]**

1. **(C)** Hoeffler, Anke. 2012. “On the Causes of Civil War.” In *The Oxford Handbook of The Economics of Peace and Conflict*, eds. Michelle R. Garfinkel and Stergios Skaperdas. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 179-204.
2. Gray, John. 2015. “Steven Pinker is Wrong about Violence and War.” *The Guardian.*  March 13. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/mar/13/john-gray-steven-pinker-wrong-violence-war-declining>
3. Fazal, Tanisha M. 2014. “Dead Wrong? Battle Deaths, Military Medicine, and Exaggerated Reports of War’s Demise.” *International Security* 39(1): 95-125.
4. Vautravers, Alexandre J. 2008. “Why Child Soldiers are Such a Complex Issue.” *Refugee Survey Quarterly* 27(4): 96-107.

**Week 9: Peace [10/15], [10/17]**

1. Kurtenbach, Sabine.  2010.  "Why Is Liberal Peacebuilding so Difficult? Some Lessons from Central America."  *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*8: 95-110.
2. Sikkink, Kathryn and Hun Joon Kim. 2013. "The Justice Cascade: The Origins and Effectiveness of Prosecutions of Human Rights Violations." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 9: 269-285.
3. Loyle, Cyanne E. and Benjamin J. Appel.  2017.  "Conflict Recurrence and Postconflict Justice:  Addressing Motivations and Opportunities for Sustainable Peace."  *International Studies Quarterly* 61(3): 690-703.
4. Mampilly, Zachariah.  2018.  "Shifts in Global Power and UN Peacekeeping Performance: India’s Rise and Its Impact on Civilian Protection in Africa."  African Affairs 117(467):  171–194.
5. Sotomayor, Arturo C. 2014. "The Nepalese Army: From Counterinsurgency to Peacekeeping?" *Small Wars & Insurgencies*25(5-6):  992-1016.

**Week 10: Migration [10/22], [10/24]**

1. Anderson, Bridget. 2017. “Towards a New Politics of Migration?” *Ethnic and*

*Racial Studies* 40(9): 1527-1537.

1. Trauner, Florian. 2016. “Asylum Policy: the EU’s ‘Crises’ and the Looming Policy Regime Failure.” *Journal of European Integration* 38(3): 311-325.
2. Hauslohner, Abigail and Andrew Ba Tran. 2018. “How Trump Is Changing the Face of Legal Immigration.” *The Washington Post*. July 2. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/how-trump-is-changing-the-face-of-legal-immigration/2018/07/02/477c78b2-65da-11e8-99d2-0d678ec08c2f_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.55d63fb4b586>
3. Stokes-Dupass, Nicole. 2017. “Mass Migration, Tightening Borders, and Emerging

Forms of Statelessness in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.” *Journal of Applied Security Research* 12(1): 40-60.

1. Chibba, Michael. 2014. “Contemporary Issues on Human Trafficking, Migration and Exploitation.” *Migration and Development* 3(2): 163-173.
2. The Economist.2016. “Migration in the Gulf: Open Doors but Different Laws.” September 8. <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2016/09/08/open-doors-but-different-laws>

**Week 11: Climate Change [10/29], [10/31]**

1. Hale, Stephen. 2010. “The New Politics of Climate Change: Why We Are Failing and How We Will Succeed.” *Environmental Politics* 19(2): 255-275.
2. Pickering et al. 2018. “The Impact of the US Retreat from the Paris Agreement: Kyoto Revisited?” *Climate Policy* 18(7): 818-827.
3. Raleigh, Clionadh. 2010. “Political Marginalization, Climate Change, and Conflict in African Sahel States.” *International Studies Review* 12(1): 69-86.
4. Clapp, Jennifer and Linda Swanston. 2009. “Doing Away with Plastic Shopping Bags: International Patterns of Norm Emergence and Policy Implementation.” *Environmental Politics* 18(3): 315-332.
5. Bulkeley, Harriet and Michele M. Betsill. 2013. “Revisiting the Urban Politics of Climate Change.” *Environmental Politics* 22(1): 136-154.

**Week 12: Food [11/5], [11/7]**

1. Shepherd, Benjamin. 2012. “Thinking Critically about Food Security.” *Security Dialogue* 43(3): 195-212.
2. Agarwal, Bina. 2014. “Food Sovereignty, Food Security and Democratic Choice: Critical Contradictions, Difficult Conciliations.” *Journal of Peasant Studies* 41(6): 1247-1268.
3. **(C)** Moreda, Tsegaye. 2018. "The Right to Food in the Context of Large-Scale Land Investment in Ethiopia." *Third World Quarterly* 1-22.
4. Akter, Sonia et al. 2017. “Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equity in Agriculture: A Different Perspective from Southeast Asia.” *Food Policy* 69: 270-279.
5. Margulis, Matias E. 2014. “Trading Out of the Global Food Crisis? The World Trade Organization and the Geopolitics of Food Security.” *Geopolitics* 19(2): 322-350.

**Week 13: Water [11/12], [11/14]**

[11/12]: **NO CLASS. Veterans Day.**

[11/14]: 1. Kimmelman, Michael. 2017. “Mexico City, Parched and Sinking, Faces a Water Crisis.”

*The New York Times*. February 17th.

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/02/17/world/americas/mexico-city-sinking.html

2. **(C)** Wolf, A.T. 2018. “International Waters: Conflict, Cooperation, and Transformation.”

*Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene* 4: 291-299.

3. Oğuz, Sıla Pelin. 2017. “Right to Water: Politics and Struggles Concerning Water.”

*Research and Policy on Turkey* 2(1): 25-37.

**Week 14: Populism [11/19], [11/21]**

1. Blassnig, Sina et al. 2018. “Populism in Online Election Coverage.” *Journalism Studies* 1-20.
2. Krämer, Benjamin. 2017. “Populist Online Practices: the Function of the

Internet in Right-Wing Populism.” *Information, Communication & Society* 20(9): 1293-1309.

1. Dzur, Albert W. and Carolyn M. Hendriks. 2018. “Thick Populism: Democracy-Enhancing Popular Participation.” *Policy Studies* 39(3): 334-351.
2. de la Torre, Carlos. 2017. “Trump’s Populism: Lessons from Latin America.” *Postcolonial Studies* 20(2): 187-198.

**Week 15: The Internet [11/26], [11/28]**

1. Howard, Philip N., Samuel Woolley, and Ryan Calo. 2018. "Algorithms, Bots, and Political Communication in the US 2016 Election: The Challenge of Automated Political Communication for Election Law and Administration*." Journal of Information Technology & Politics* 15(2): 81-93.
2. Persily, Nathaniel. 2017. "The 2016 Election: Can Democracy Survive the Internet?" *Journal of Democracy* 28(2): 63-76.
3. Hart, Jeffrey A. 2011. "The Net Neutrality Debate in the United States." *Journal of Information Technology &* *Politics* 8(4): 418-443.
4. Scheuerman, William E. 2016. "Digital Disobedience and the Law." *New Political Science* 38(3): 299-314.

Final paper due by 11:59 PM on Monday December 3rd, 2018 on Canvas.