

Rhodes College
INTS 110-01: Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2020 CRN: 20200
M/W/F 12:00 am – 12:50 pm, 110 Buckman Hall

“International politics, like all politics, is the struggle for power” – Hans Morgenthau

Course Description:

This course surveys the historical and contemporary international politics and the theoretical and empirical foundations of international relations as a field of study. This course explores one central question: is the world plagued by entropy? In other words, is there a tendency towards disorder in world politics or can international political actors make meaningful progress in “curing” the ailments of the international system since 1648 (conflict, a dearth of cooperation, human rights failures, etc). To this end, we will establish a historical and theoretical frame to understand world politics and possible responses to the problems of the modern world. In particular, we explore themes of continuity and change in world politics, especially surrounding the topics of international anarchy, conflict, cooperation, decision making, regime type, and international institutions (among other topics).

Instructor Information:

Connor Sutton, Ph.D.

Email: Suttonc@Rhodes.edu

Office: 113 Buckman Hall

Office Hours: T/W 1:00-2:30 pm or by appointment

Required Texts:

*Global Politics, 10th edition**

Kaarbo, Juliet and James Lee Ray. 2011. Wadsworth.

*This text is purposefully older, meaning there should be many used copies available at considerably lower prices than more recent texts. You are welcome to consider older editions of the text but be aware that content changes by edition. Purchase earlier editions at your own peril.

Theory of International Politics and Zombies

Drezner, Daniel W.. 2015. Princeton University Press.

Current Debates in International Relations

Ed. Shiraev, Eric B., and Vladislav M. Zubok. 2016. Oxford University Press.

Other Required/Optional Readings:

Throughout course of the semester, several other texts may be provided, either as required or suggested, and will be posted electronically. Additionally, a host of additional readings (usually books) are listed as suggested. These are suggestions for a deeper dive into the subject and are often seminal works in the field and are recommended for those interested in a deeper dive into the field.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop a knowledge of the concepts central to international relations and world politics, as well as the various actors and problems in the world political arena;
- Interpret and analyze recent and historical events using theories and concepts central to world politics;
- Apply learned knowledge and critical thinking skills to a variety of questions which arise from the multitude of problems facing the modern world;
- Argue through persuasive and informed writing on topics relevant to world politics at a high level of effectiveness.

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to critically engage evidence presented in class lectures, discussions, and films. You will need to regularly attend classes, participate fully in class, and complete all assigned readings and assignments. This course will consist of weekly lectures and class discussions. The course will engage a range of topics central to international relations – including the topics of international relations theory, basic actors and concepts, international organizations, war, and terrorism, among other topics. Final grades in this class will be earned from two take-home exams, two essay assignments, a news quiz, a geography quiz, and participation. There are two chances for extra credit in this course: an in-class prisoner's dilemma game and journal guides.

Take-Home Exams

This course has two exams. These exams will be take-home exams and the exam will be given to students **ONE WEEK** before the due date. All exams must be submitted both electronically and in-class (with the exception of the final exam, which only needs to be submitted electronically). All exams are expected to be the sole work of the student and not completed with other students. The second exam will be due on the scheduled 'final' date per the Rhodes final exam schedule. Each Exam will be worth 50 pts.

Assignments

Students will complete **TWO** assignments throughout the semester. Prompts will be provided for each of the assignments. These assignments are worth 25 points each.

News Quiz

Students are expected to be avid consumers of international news on global issues. As a measure of this, there will be a news quiz where students are asked to answer questions on international news over the course of a two-week period.

"The Map Test"

Politics is necessarily spatial. You will complete "the Map Test" in class. The International Studies Department **REQUIRES** a grade of 90% on this quiz to pass this course. This test will occur in class and

will ask students to identify all 193 sovereign states in the world. The quiz is worth 20 pts or 10% of your course grade. You may retake the exam as many times as you need to achieve a 90% score but only your first attempt will count towards your grade in the course. Practice tests are posted on Moodle. For a master list of possible states, see the membership of the United Nations. You must spell the country name correctly to receive credit. I encourage you to begin working on this as soon as possible in the semester to prepare for the challenge ahead. By completing the test, you join a storied group of Rhodes College Students.

Participation

Students are expected to fully participate in every class. Participation includes coming to class, being prepared for class (having done readings), critically engaging topics, etc. Participation is worth 10pts.

Journal Guides (Extra-Credit)

Students may complete up to ten journal/reading guides for 1 pt of extra-credit each. Guides must be submitted the day of the assigned reading. Guides may be completed for any required or suggested reading outside of the Kaarbo and Ray textbook. Note that the guides are

Grading Policies:

5% Participation (10 pts)

10% The Map Test (20 pts)

10% News Quiz (20 pts)

12.5% Assignment I (25pts)

12.5% Assignment II (25 pts)

25% Exam I (50 pts)

25% Exam II (50 pts)

100% (200 pts)

A = 94-100 A- = 91-93 B+ = 88-90 B = 84- 87 B- = 81-83 C+ = 78-80 C = 74-77 C- = 71-73 D+ = 68-70
D = 64-67 D- = 59-63 F = Less than 58

Late Policy:

For each calendar day an assignment, exam, or paper is turned in late, it will be marked down a full letter grade – Do not be late.

Attendance Policy:

This course meets approximately 42 times this semester and attendance is essential to success in this class. You may miss up to three class meetings (equivalent to one week) without penalty to your grade. Each successive absence will result in a 3 pt penalty to your participation grade. Missing more than nine class meetings will result in a failing grade. You may be excused from absences (above three) for appropriate Rhodes College events (e.g. varsity sporting events, academic travel) or individual obligations (religious observances, personal injury or illness, bereavement). However, if you must miss for a valid reason, please communicate as far in advance about the absence as possible. Excused absences above

three require a signed note from the Dean's office. All work is still due on the assigned day regardless of actual attendance (exceptions on a case by case basis).

Mutual Respect Policy:

The Department of International Studies is committed to creating an academic climate that is safe, respectful, and appreciative of all students, staff, and faculty regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, size, socioeconomic background, religion, spirituality, physical ability, mental ability, or any other aspect of one's identity. A climate of mutual respect allows us to ask difficult questions and to participate in honest discussions, even in the context of strong disagreement. Creating this kind of open, honest, and respectful climate is our mutual responsibility.

Diversity Statement:

The college classroom can and should be uncomfortable, pushing myself and students out of our normal modes of thinking. At the same time, the classroom should be a moderated environment where difficult topics and realities can be addressed with civility. This inherent tension is fertile soil for growth, personally and academically. Students should expect to consider a wide latitude of opinions and topics in this course. No student will be discriminated on the basis of race, gender identity or expression, color, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin. Such discrimination or harassment will not be tolerated in this classroom or at Rhodes College.

Student Accessibility Services:

Please take full advantage of resources at Rhodes College. Please explore the following link:

<https://www.rhodes.edu/student-life/services-and-support/student-accessibility-services>

Access and Accommodations: Your experience in this class is important to me. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so we can discuss options. If you have already established accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through SAS, but have a condition that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or chronic health), please contact SAS at 901-843-3885, Burrow Hall 4th floor, www.rhodes.edu/accessibility. SAS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and temporary conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, SAS, and your faculty. It is the policy and practice of Rhodes College to create inclusive, equitable, and accessible learning environments for all students.

Writing Center:

I strongly encourage all students to make frequent use of the resources available at the Writing Center. The Writing Center is located in Barrett Library 122.

<https://www.rhodes.edu/academics/majors-minors/english/writing-center>

Rhodes College Honor Code:

All Rhodes College students pledge to uphold the Rhodes College Honor Code: "As a member of the Rhodes community, I pledge I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and that I will report any such violation that I may witness." Plagiarism, purposeful or accidental, will result in a failing grade and will be referred to the honor council.

<https://handbook.rhodes.edu/student-handbook/honor-council-constitution>

Communication Policy:

If at any point in the course of the semester questions, comments, concerns arise, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is the fastest and easiest way to reach me. I will respond within 24-48 hours, with the exception of weekends, breaks, and holidays. Please be sure to identify yourself in your email. Finally, remember that emailing is not text messaging. Be sure to use full sentences, punctuation, and all formalities you would use in formal communications. If for whatever reason you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, please send another email. *Please note that I may not respond if there is not a specific question due to the volume of emails I receive but that does not mean I have not made note of your comment.* As a test to see if you read the syllabus on your own, send me an email briefly introducing yourself for 2 pts of extra credit!

I also encourage students to make use of office hours (times listed above). If these hours do not work, please inform me and we will make other arrangements to meet.

Technology Policy:

In today's classroom, technology plays an integral role. With that in mind, you may use laptops, electronic note taking devices, etc...but I strongly suggest an old fashioned pen and paper! (see <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/2014/02/student-notetaking-for-recall-and-understanding-a-lit-review-review/>) *However, if at any point your electronic device becomes a distraction to you, those around you, or to me, I will ask that you cease to use it.* Please refrain from cell phone usage in the class. Please also keep cell phones on silent in class. I expect that at no point will you need to wear headphones in class, so please refrain from wearing them in class.

Title IX:

Rhodes is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment that supports the dignity of all members of the Rhodes community. Rhodes prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, dating/domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, sexual harassment and sex/gender discrimination. Rhodes strongly encourages members of the Rhodes community to report instances of sexual misconduct immediately. All Rhodes faculty, staff, Peer Advocates, and Resident Assistants are Mandatory Reporters (exceptions are confidential resources: Counseling Center- 901-843-3128, Chaplain Beatrix Weil- 901-843-3822, and Student Health Center- 901-843-3895) and are required by the College to report any knowledge they receive of possible violations of this policy to the Title IX Coordinator, Tiffany Cox. If you choose to share information related to sexual misconduct with me I will report it to the Title IX Coordinator; however, you will control how your report is handled and you are not required to pursue a formal claim. The goal is to make you aware of the range of options and resources that are available to you. For more information about Rhodes' sexual misconduct policy or to make a report please see www.rhodes.edu/titleix.

Rhodes faculty are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are required by policy to share knowledge of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, sexual exploitation, stalking,

sexual harassment and sex/gender discrimination with the Title IX Coordinator, Tiffany Cox. For more information about Rhodes' sexual misconduct policy or to make a report please see www.rhodes.edu/titleix.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having survived sexual violence, including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking or sexual exploitation, I am required to report this to the Title IX Coordinator, Tiffany Cox, who will contact you to inform you of your options and available resources. If you do not want a report to be made to the Title IX Coordinator you can speak confidentially with the Student Counseling Center- 901-843-3128; Student Health Center- 901-843-3895; or Chaplain Beatrix Weil- 901-843-3822.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading (* = Moodle; + = Textbook; @ = suggested)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Syllabus	1/15 W	Syllabus	Read, then reread, the syllabus!	Welcome!!!
The World Stage	1/17 F 1/20 M 1/22 W	Basic Concepts and the world stage	+Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 1-7 *Kagan 2015, <i>The Weight of Geopolitics</i> +Drezner Preface, 1-23	<i>Remember, the zombies are allegorical. Zombies are not real.</i>
Paradigms in World Politics	1/24 F 1/27 M	Paradigms and Inquiry in International Relations	*Kuhn 1970, <i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> (Chapters 1-4) +Drezner 23-32 @*Vasquez 1997, <i>The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs</i> @*Waltz 1997, <i>Evaluating Theories</i> @Holsti, <i>The Dividing Discipline</i>	<i>The Kuhn reading is a bit different and can be quite difficult – be patient with it and think about the big picture: what is science and how do we “do” it?</i>
Realist Thought	1/29 W 1/31 F	Classical Realism	+ Hobbes, 44 +Carr, 45 +Morgenthau, 49 @Hobbes, <i>the Leviathan</i>	

			@Carr, <i>The Twenty Years Crisis</i> @Morgenthau, <i>Politics among Nations</i>	
	2/3 M 2/5 W 2/7 F	Neorealism	*Podcast, Annual Review of Political Science – Interview with Kenneth Waltz +Waltz, 53 +Drezner 33-45 @Waltz, <i>Man, the State, and War</i> @Waltz, <i>Theory of International Politics</i> @Buzan, Jones, and Little, <i>The Logic of Anarchy</i>	
	2/10 M	Offensive Realism, balance of power, and regional Hegemony	+Mearscheimer, 55 +Walt, 58 @Mearscheimer, <i>Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> @Walt, <i>the Origin of Alliances</i>	
	2/12 W F 2/14	Classical Liberalism and Idealism	+ Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 7-15, +Kant, 62 +Angell, 65 @Kant, <i>Perpetual Peace</i>	***News Quiz 2/12 @ start of class ***
	M 2/17 W 2/19	Neoliberalism, Soft power, and the information environment	+ Doyle, 67 + Keohane, 73 + Nye, 38 +Drezner 47-60 @ Keohane, <i>Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond</i> @ Nye, <i>The Paradox of American Power</i>	Prisoner's Dilemma Game (in-class) ***Assignment I due 2/19**
	F 2/21 M 2/24	Marxism and NeoMarxism	+ Wallerstein, 81 @ Marx & Engels, <i>Manifesto</i> @Marx <i>Das Kapital</i> @ Lenin, <i>Imperialism</i> @ Wallerstein, <i>World-Systems</i>	****EXAM I posted online 2/24***

			Analysis: An Introduction	
	2/26 W 2/28 F	Feminism and Constructivism	+ Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 15-23 *Tickner, You Just Don't Understand + Wendt, 85 + Tickner, 87 + Tickner, 265 + Drezner 61-76 @+ Etzioni, 93 @+ McDermott, 96 @ Tickner, Gender in International Relations	<i>Pending time, Marxism may be covered later in the semester</i>
Conflict in the international system	3/2 M 3/4 W 3/6	Interstate War	+ Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 34-48; 182-215 *Twain, <i>The War Prayer</i> *Waltz 1998, <i>The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory</i> *Waltz 1967, <i>The Politics of Peace</i> @ Hedges 2003, <i>What Every Person Should Know About War</i> @ Vasquez, <i>What Do We Know About War?</i>	***EXAM I Due 3/2 *** ***in-class activity Mark Twain's War Prayer***
	3/9 3/11 3/13 3/16 M 3/18 W 3/20 F	The Democratic Peace?	*Russett 1995, <i>The Fact of the Democratic Peace</i> *Layne 1994, <i>Kant or Can't: the Myth of the Democratic Peace</i> @ Singer, and Wildavsky 1996, <i>The Real World Order: Zones of Peace, Zones of Turmoil</i> @*Desch, 2002, <i>Democracy and Victory: Why Regime Type Hardly Matters</i>	***NO CLASS: 3/9-13, Spring Break***

States and the International System	3/23 M 3/25 W	International Organizations and the Prospect of Cooperation	+ Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 302-352 *Grieco 1988, Understanding the Problem International Cooperation: *Preamble to the U.N. Charter	***In-Class U.N. Preamble activity***
	3/27 F 3/30 M 4/1 W	State Decision Making	+ Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 140-180 +Drezner 77-107 *Allison 1969, Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis @Allison and Zelikow 1999, Essence of Decision	***Assignment II Due 3/30 in Class***
World Politics in the 21st Century	4/3 F 4/6 M	Nuclear Weapons	+ Kaarbo and Ray, pgs 271-294 *Geller 1990, Nuclear Weapons, Deterrence, and Crisis Escalation @* Mueller The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons @*Waltz, Nuclear Myths and Political Realities @Geller, Nuclear Weapons and War (in <i>What Do We Know About War?</i>)	***Geography Quiz 4/6 in-class***
	4/8 W 4/10 4/13 M	<i>Fog of War</i> Film	Fog of War (film in class)	***NO CLASS 4/10: Easter Break***
	4/15 W 4/17 F 4/20 M	Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)	* Ford School Debate Roth & Luck on R2P	
	4/22 W 4/24 F 4/27 M	Clash of Civilizations?	*Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations? (article) @ Hunting, Clash of Civilizations (book)	

	4/29 W 5/1 F	International responses to Climate Change		***Student Evaluations of Teaching 5/1 ***
Exam II		EXAM		***Exam II Due @ start of scheduled exam time***