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**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**  
**POLS 3360-003: International Relations (17020)**  
**Online Course**  
**Fall 2021**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Cigdem V. Sirin

**Office:** [Honors House](#)

**E-mail:** [cigdemsirin@utep.edu](mailto:cigdemsirin@utep.edu)

**Virtual Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11am-12pm (or by appointment) [via Zoom](#)

**Class Website:** Blackboard through MyUTEP portal

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## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

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This course is a general overview of the study of international relations. The primary goals of the course are to cover key concepts and theories within the scientific method of studying world politics, increase your familiarity with global issues and problems, and help you develop a better understanding of major foreign policy affairs.

We will discuss topics such as international conflict and terrorism, international law, and international political economy. Moreover, through participation in the Statecraft simulation, students take on the roles of foreign policy decision-makers and grapple first-hand with the sorts of tradeoffs and responsibilities that characterize world politics. In doing so, you will increase your ability to think more critically and systematically about international relations.

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## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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I believe, with adequate effort and willingness, all of you are capable of doing well in this course. By the end of this course, you can expect to accomplish the following learning outcomes:

- To recognize major perspectives, levels of analysis, and analytical methods used for the scientific study of international relations.
- To define, understand, and apply major concepts, principles, and practices of international politics.
- To apply and critique a body of factual knowledge and theories relevant to understanding different international political factors and structures.
- To comprehend and evaluate major foreign policy events and issues.
- To recognize and evaluate alternative points of view on historical and contemporary problems in global politics.

Targeted Edge advantages based on these learning outcomes: Communication, critical thinking, problem solving, global awareness, and social responsibility.

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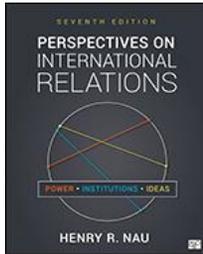
## **COURSE FORMAT AND LEARNING MODULES**

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This course is fully online and designed using a modular format—that is, each level is “packaged” as a single module so that all the materials, lecture notes, submission areas, discussion posts, and other tasks for that level are in one area before we move to the next level throughout the semester.

## REQUIRED COURSE TEXT

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Henry E. Nau. *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, and Ideas*. CQ Press. ISBN: 9781544374390.

The newest edition is the seventh edition but earlier editions are fine. This book is available at the UTEP Bookstore and also available at online bookstores. If you choose to order your book via an online provider, please be mindful of the delivery time.

## REQUIRED ONLINE SUPPLEMENT: STATECRAFT SIMULATION

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Students are required to purchase access to the Statecraft International Relations (IR) Simulation (\$35). To purchase and join the simulation, go to <https://ir.statecraftsim.com/Public/Student/Login.aspx>, click on "Not Registered?" and sign up with the code: **SirinFall21**.

## GRADING POLICY

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Your final grade in this class will be based on the following requirements:

Course Requirement	Weight	Due Dates
Midterm Exam	25%	Midterm Exam will be activated on Monday, 10/11 @ 11:00am and due on Tuesday, 10/12 @ 11:00pm (MT).
Final Exam	25%	Final Exam will be activated early on Monday, 12/06 @ 11:00am and due on Tuesday, 12/07 @ 11:00pm (MT).
Statecraft Reflection Essay	10%	Sunday, November 21 @ 11:00pm (MT).
Statecraft Simulation Memos	10%	See the "Course Schedule and Tasks" section for the dates for these activities.
Discussion Posts	20%	
Map Games	10%	
Practice Quizzes	Bonus points	

All grades (including the final grade) are based on the following distribution of points:

Points	Letter
$\geq 89.50$	A
79.50-89.49	B
69.50-79.49	C
59.50-69.49	D
$\leq 59.49$	F

I do not change grades or give individual-specific extra-credit opportunities to be fair to everyone. If you are concerned about your grade, please contact and/or visit me during my office hours or by appointment. This is particularly important if your grade on the first exam is not what you expected. I will not change the grade, but I can give you feedback and suggestions on how to improve your performance in the class.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS**

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Although completing a course online might seem easier than attending face-to-face classes on the surface, it actually takes a large amount of effort and time to (a) read and comprehend all the material (both the detailed lecture notes and assigned readings) and (b) type out and turn in the online class discussion posts, assignments, and other online class activities. The key to success is to log into our Blackboard course page on a regular basis. As mentioned above, the course is designed in a modular format so each module provides new lecture materials, instructional simulations and games, practice quizzes, discussion posts (posted not only by me but also your peers on a rolling basis), and many other supplementary materials (such as videos, documentaries, and relevant web sources). The course page also includes important announcements and instructions to guide you throughout the semester.

Signing into our Blackboard course page only once in a while will not be sufficient for you to effectively review the posted material and fulfill all the course requirements. In other words, trying to do everything in a single day each week is simply not feasible to fully understand the course material, effectively engage in the course activities, and produce high-quality work. In short, I urge you to access the course on a regular basis and I am sure you will feel much more in synch with the course flow that way.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

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In each module, you will have assigned readings from your textbook. Lecture notes will be provided for the readings but simply reading the lecture notes will not be sufficient for effectively completing the course tasks. It is important that you begin each module by first carefully doing the required readings. The list of readings per module is provided on the last two pages of the syllabus.

Among other Edge Advantages, the required readings in this course align particularly well with the Edge Advantage “Global Awareness” that promotes a mindset in which students understand and appreciate people, cultures, and ideas from around the world that impact our community.

## **EXAMS**

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There are two exams for the course. Each exam constitutes 25 percent of your final grade point average. Questions are primarily based on the readings, lectures, online discussions, and simulation tasks. The exams will be “open book” so that you are allowed to review all the support materials you think are necessary to answer the exam questions. The exams will be administered via Blackboard. The exams are to be taken individually—it is not allowed to discuss the exam questions with the classmates or anyone else. Please refer to the section on “Academic Integrity” below to review the university and instructor policies on cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

Among other Edge Advantages, the exams and quizzes in this course are primarily designed to trigger the Edge Advantage “Problem Solving” where students find solutions to difficult or complex issues.

## **DISCUSSION POSTS/CLASS PARTICIPATION**

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Keep in mind that class participation is more than just completing the scheduled assignments and taking exams—you should be willing to ask and answer questions, and contribute intellectually to class debates via online discussion posts. In each module, you will submit (1) a discussion post in response to a guided question (minimum of 250 words and maximum of 500 words) and (2) respond to at least one of your classmates’ post (minimum of 100 words and maximum of 500 words). I expect everyone to actively participate in class and do so in a positive and appropriate way (see the “Online Etiquette and Effective Communication” section below). Before posting a discussion, you should complete the assigned readings and go over the lecture notes. Exams will cover material from the readings, lectures, and our online discussions, so doing just one or the other will leave you at a disadvantage. Discussion posts constitute in total 20 percent of your final grade point average.

Among other Edge Advantages, this activity is particularly in line with the Edge Advantage “Communication” that encourages UTEP students to reach mutual understanding through the effective exchange of information, ideas, and feelings.

## **STATECRAFT SIMULATION**

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This course employs Statecraft—an immersive simulation experience where you will become world leaders in a virtual, fictitious world. Throughout the simulation experience, you will have the opportunity to experience the drama and challenges of world leadership first-hand and will be able to apply the concepts, perspectives, and strategies in International Relations that are covered in this course. The objective of the game is to gather as many points as possible and cultivate the most impressive country! Active participation and timely completion of the simulation tasks will constitute 20 percent of your final grade point average (10 percent for Statecraft Reflection Essay and 10 percent for Statecraft Simulation Memos).

Here are the key elements of the simulation:

- You are playing to earn points by achieving both your individual country goals and the world collective goals

- The simulation runs live 24-7 so you can play anytime
- At the end of each turn, the decisions or “moves” you have made during the turn will actually happen in the simulated world and you can see the results of your actions
- Every turn, each country produces resources that can be used to buy military units and domestic structures, trade with other countries, research technology, and invest in developmental projects
- You also make strategic decisions such as drafting treaties, forming alliances, or launching a military attack
- Global issues such as terrorism and climate change will affect all of the countries in the world, requiring collaboration to resolve

**Statecraft Reflection Essay:** The reflection essay requires you to integrate your simulation experience with class material. Specific requirements for the paper are available on Blackboard.

**Simulation Memos:** Before the end of each turn, you will submit a simulation memo. These memos must be at least 300 words in length, although you are encouraged to write more if you wish to do so. In a sense, these memos will become your ongoing “journal” for the simulation experience. They are intended to help ensure that students are actively participating in, and thinking about, the simulation during each turn. See our Blackboard course page for details on what your memo should include.

## **MAP GAMES**

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There will be seven map games during the semester, which constitute in total 10 percent of your final grade point average. Each game will include a map on which you will locate a selection of countries from a certain region (i.e., The Middle East, Asia, Africa, Central and South America, Caribbean Countries, and Oceania). You will not need to know capitals or topography. Submission instructions are provided on the course website.

## **PRACTICE QUIZZES**

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After you do the assigned readings for a given module, you can take the practice quiz (which will have a total of 25 questions per module). These practice quizzes are not only useful for preparing for the exams but also for earning bonus points toward your final grade point average. At the end of the semester, those who achieve an average score that ranges from 70 to 79 for their practice quizzes will receive 1 bonus point to be added to their final grade point average. If your average practice quiz score ranges from 80 to 89, 2 bonus points will be added to your final grade point average and if your average score is 90 and over, you will earn 3 bonus points. No bonus points will be earned for a score less than 70.

## **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS**

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My virtual office hours are on Tuesdays 11:00am-12:00pm via Zoom. If you want to be heard and/or seen, you will need a microphone and/or webcam. However, you can also just “chat” with me. Keep in mind that anyone in the main room of the virtual office hours session can hear/see you if you use a microphone/webcam and can read your chat postings unless you use the “private chat” option. If you need to talk to me privately (which you will need to do if you want to discuss issues such as your grades), make sure to use the private chat option or request to be in a

“break-out room” where others in the main room cannot listen in our conversation. Please note that by joining a given Zoom session, you are giving consent to accessing your webcam and microphone, and any recordings of such session. Also note that any recordings of our discussions during office hours sessions that contain FERPA-protected information will not be publicly shared. Please see the “Course Recordings” section for more information.

To attend my virtual office hours, click on the following Zoom link: <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/83459297247?pwd=TEpscGY2dWZmMmhjNm5TZnViblJaQT09>. Remember that the link will be active only during the scheduled office hours.

Feel free to email me ([cigdemsirin@utep.edu](mailto:cigdemsirin@utep.edu)) if you need to make an appointment for a virtual meeting outside of regular my office hours.

## **COURSE/INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

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### ***E-Mail Protocol***

UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt during weekdays. I will respond to weekend messages by Monday at the latest. When e-mailing me, please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

### ***Excused Absences and Excuse for Late Work***

I will excuse absences and late work when a student participates in an official university-recognized activity, observes a recognized religious holiday of their faith that happens to coincide with a class session, is called to and participates in active military service for a reasonably brief period, or confronts a medical emergency. To be excused, you must notify me *in writing* prior to the date of absence. That said, in cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. a medical emergency), you must provide notification as soon as possible following your absence. Such notification must include an explanation of why notice could not be sent in advance. You must also provide satisfactory documentation verifying the reason for the absence. In case of an illness, a doctor’s note is the proper documentation required. For my records, you should e-mail me a scanned copy of the documentation that verifies the reason for your absence (if you don’t have access to a scanner, you can take a photo of the documentation). Documentation that is not provided in a timely manner will not be accepted.

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.”

### ***Incomplete Grade Policy***

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

### ***Online Etiquette and Effective Communication***

In an online environment, it is essential that utmost respect and professionalism be adhered to in all exchanges between class members. This is a political science course and we will be at times discussing sensitive and controversial topics. In our virtual discussions, avoid any unnecessary arguments with other class members, such as negative partisan talking points targeting those of opposing ideological perspectives or particular political figures or, even worse, personal attacks on others for having different views. No inappropriate behavior will be tolerated. Unprofessional conduct will be dealt with swiftly through the university and it is at the professor's full discretion to have a student dropped from the course for any inappropriate behavior. Please carefully read the following rules for online etiquette and effective communication:

#### **Online Etiquette and Effective Communication Policy**

**Language:** Given the absence of face-to-face clues, written text can easily be misinterpreted. Avoid the use of strong or offensive language, all capital letters, and the excessive use of exclamation points. If you feel particularly strongly about a point, it may be best to write it first as a draft and then to review it, before posting it, in order to remove any strong language.

**Respect:** A web-based classroom is still a classroom, and comments that would be inappropriate in a regular classroom are likely to be inappropriate in a web-based course as well. Treat your professor and your fellow students with respect. Remember that members of the class and I will be reading any postings.

**Be Forgiving:** If someone states something that you find offensive, mention this directly to me as your professor. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion may be new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may quite possibly have been unintended and can best be cleared up by the professor.

**Think First, Post Later:** Think carefully about the content of your message before composing and posting it. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

**Edit Your Work:** The grammar, spelling, and punctuation of a message are part of the grading criteria – you should not expect your professor and peers to decode misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences. It is a good practice to compose and check your comments in a word-processor before posting them.

**Test for Clarity:** Messages may often appear perfectly clear to you as you compose them, but turn out to be confusing to your reader. One way to test for clarity is to read your message aloud to see if it flows smoothly. If you can read it to another person before posting it, even better.

**Follow the Parameters/Stick to the Point:** Follow the posting requirements and parameters set up by your professor. You need to stick to the point. Don't waste others' time by going off on irrelevant tangents. Also keep in mind that no credit will be received for yes/no answers. Posts should justify positions and provide specific examples. Students must demonstrate that they have read the assignment and their classmates' comments carefully and thoughtfully.

### ***Academic Integrity***

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. *Cheating* may involve copying from or providing information to another student and possessing unauthorized materials during a test. *Collusion* involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. One example of collusion is preparing a discussion entry for another person or having someone prepare a discussion entry for you. *Plagiarism* is commonly defined as passing off the ideas, works, writing, etc., of another person as your own. Accordingly, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own work, even if you have the permission of that person. I encourage students to study together and work collectively; however, working together to write any part of a written assignment, research paper, and/or exam is plagiarism. Be aware, just as the internet has made it easier to find material, it has also made it easier to trace the source of any written work. If you are unsure whether a citation is required, err on the side of caution and provide one. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

### ***Copyright Statement for Course Materials***

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

### ***Course Recordings***

Our online course is asynchronous so that students can work at their own pace and do not have concerns about access to the course at a specific time. That said, any recordings in this course is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. Any course-related recording will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. As your instructor, I will not share the recordings of class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. Any recordings that contain FERPA-protected information (such as recorded discussions during office hours) will not be publicly shared. You are not allowed to share any recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

### ***Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you require specific accommodations and support services, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Please keep in mind that accommodations need to be requested at least two weeks (or a month if advance planning, such as the acquisition of books-on-tape, is

required) prior to the beginning of the semester. Here is the contact information for CASS: web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>; phone: (915) 747-5148; fax: (915) 747-8712; e-mail: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu); location: UTEP Union Building East Room 106.

## **SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS**

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You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course (your computer may already have some of these programs installed):

- **Microsoft Office.** If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

## **ALTERNATE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

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I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#). You can email me ([cigdemsirin@utep.edu](mailto:cigdemsirin@utep.edu)) your back-up document as a last resort.

## **RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE**

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UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

### Technology Resources

- **[Help Desk](#):** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

### Academic Resources

- **[UTEP Library](#):** Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **[University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#):** Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **[Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#):** Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- **[History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#):** Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- **[RefWorks](#):** A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

### **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND ACCOMODATIONS**

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Even though our course is 100% online, students may still go to campus to visit the library or other services. Therefore, please read the information below about COVID-19 precautions and accommodations very carefully. Check out [UTEP's Resuming Campus Operations website](#) for updates and announcements.

#### **COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND TASKS**

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### **Module 1: Welcome and Course Introduction (08/23-08/29)**

- ✓ Carefully read the syllabus and do the syllabus quiz
- ✓ Introduce yourself to the class
- ✓ Review all the posted materials in the “Welcome and Course Introduction” module
- ✓ Sign-up for the Statecraft simulation

### **Module 2: Scientific Study of International Relations (08/30-09/12)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Introduction: Why We Disagree about International Relations
  - Chapter 1: How to Think about International Relations: Perspectives, Levels of Analysis, and Causal Arrows
- ✓ Play Map Game 1: The Middle East
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Review the orientation materials

### **Module 3: Historical Patterns (09/13-09/26)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Chapter 2 • World War I: World on Fire
  - Chapter 3 • World War II: Why Did War Happen Again?
  - Chapter 4 • The Origins and End of the Cold War
- ✓ Play Map Game 2: Asia
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Turn 0 – Follow the checklist provided in the course module

### **Module 4: The Contemporary International System: Realism vs. Liberalism (09/27-10/10)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Chapter 5: Realist Perspectives on Today’s World: Unipolarity, Rising Powers, Asymmetric Warfare, and Ethnic Conflicts
  - Chapter 6: Liberal Perspectives on Today’s World: Collective Security, Multilateral Diplomacy, Interdependence, and International Institutions
- ✓ Play Map Game 3: Europe
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Follow the checklist provided in the course module

**Midterm Exam – will be activated on Monday, October 11 @ 11:00am and due on Tuesday, October 12 @ 11:00pm (MT).**

**Module 5: The Contemporary International System: Identity (10/11-10/24)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Chapter 7: Identity Perspectives on Today's World: Democracy, Religion, Nationalism, and Human Rights
- ✓ Play Map Game 4: Africa
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Follow the checklist provided in the course module

**Module 6 (10/25-11/07)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Chapter 8: Realist and Liberal Perspectives on Globalization: Trade, Investment, and Finance
- ✓ Play Map Game 5: Central and South America
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Follow the checklist provided in the course module

**Module 7 (11/08-11/21)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Chapter 9: Identity Perspectives on Globalization: Development and Environment
- ✓ Play Map Game 6: Caribbean Countries
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Follow the checklist provided in the course module

**Module 8 (11/22-12/05)**

- ✓ Read:
  - Chapter 10: Critical Theory Perspectives on Globalization: Inequality, Imperialism, and Injustice
  - Conclusion: Applying Perspectives and Levels of Analysis: The Case of the Democratic Peace
- ✓ Play Map Game 7: Oceania
- ✓ Submit your discussion post
- ✓ Take the practice quiz
- ✓ Statecraft: Submit your "Statecraft Reflection Essay" (due 12/05 @11pm)

**Final Exam – will be activated on Monday, December 6 @ 11:00am and due on Tuesday, December 7 @ 11:00pm (MT).**