Professor
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Office: Benedict Hall 301
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9-11am; Tuesdays 11am-noon; and by appointment
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Class Time/Location: T 6-8:50pm/BEND 205

Catalog Description
Examines the political structures and the interactions that characterize the global nation-state political system.

Course Content
The aim of the course is to introduce the main theories and evidence of International Relations. Scholars approach the study of IR in various ways. However, the scholarship does have a long history in the utilization of a science based epistemology, one that we will deeply tap into during the semester. In addition, the subfield has moved away from the purely theoretical approach that marked the realist and neorealist era and is evolving towards more rigorous testing. In keeping pace with this evolution, we will study and judge the theories by first examining what they are attempting to explain, how well they explain, and if the empirical evidence supports their explanation.

After a relatively brief discussion of methodology, the course will tackle one broad question: Why are some states’ relations characterized by conflict while others are cooperative? We will investigate this question in the areas of conflict and cooperation separately, and sometimes simultaneously. At the end of the course, however, we may see that conflict and cooperation are two sides of a continuum.

Course Policies
We will follow polices outlined in the 2019-2020 Graduate Catalogue (http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/). In addition, all participants will follow a professional decorum at all times. Reasonable accommodations are in place for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and
Support Services (CASS) in 302 Union East within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:
Web: http://sa.utep.edu/cass/
E-Mail: cass@utep.edu
Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Course Obligations
There is a mix of obligations you must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes 1) participation in discussions; 2) two exams (midterm and final); and 3) five essays on the course readings. Late assignments will be accepted only under extreme circumstances.

All assignments that are completed outside the seminar are to be typed using the following format:
1) double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
2) new times roman font (12 point),
3) 1 inch margins,
4) title page (title, course, name, and date),
5) page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
6) stapled with no plastic cover of any type, and
7) citations (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography when necessary.

Participation
What distinguishes a seminar format from the lecture variety is the degree of student participation. During the seminar, the professor will present the ideas of the weeks’ readings (the course Blackboard page has a folder with all the course readings) and pose several questions that will begin our discussion. While he has certain broad goals each evening, there will be a degree of flexibility to where the discussion will take us. The aim is to leave each evening with a deeper understanding of the readings so that students can synthesize and offer a constructive critique of the research and research agenda of the scholarship.

Exams
There will be two take home exams for the course: one midterm and one final. The examination answers will be in an essay format. The lengths are approximately five pages for the midterm and approximately seven pages for the final, excluding references. The midterm will cover the material presented up to October 15 and the final will be cumulative. The professor will post the exam questions 24 hours before they are due. The exams are due by 6pm October 15 and December 10, respectively. Students will upload their exams using the Blackboard course site. Please do not email exams directly to the professor. Collaboration on the exams is strictly prohibited.
Essays
You will need to write five essays that synthesize and critique a particular week’s readings in five to seven pages. Please uploaded them onto Blackboard. Each essay is due one week after the particular week you choose. Which week you choose is up to your discretion with one the exception: please do not write an essay based on the first night’s readings.

A synthesis and critique needs to answer the following questions, but organized in a thematic manner. First, what are the major points of the readings? What are they trying to explain and what are the explanations? While it is tempting to create a ledger of all that was said, recall that you only have five to seven pages. Instead present the answers to the questions in the critique. The critique should answer the following: What are the major problems of the readings? What can be done to improve the explanations and/or testing of the theories? We will discuss the essays’ content on the first night and follow-up as the semester progresses.

Grades
Each obligation will be given a score out of a total 100 points and have the weights found below in determining students' final grades for the course. Letter grades will be based on the absolute scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five Essays</td>
<td>Students Discretion</td>
<td>40 percent</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(8 percent each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>All Meetings</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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</tbody>
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All letter grades have the following distribution of points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Readings

August 27 – The Scientific Study of International Relations

September 3 – Realism and Neorealism and Their Assessments

September 10 – Power Transition Theory
September 17 – Hegemonic Stability Theory

September 24- The Role of Institutions in International Relations

October 1 – The Democratic Peace
October 8 – Decision Makers and Decision Making

Midterm Examination due October 15 by 6pm

October 22 – The Theory of Deterrence
1) Brodie, Bernard. 1959. Strategy in the Missile Age. Chapter 8

October 29 – National Cycles and International Relations
November 5 – Constructivism

November 12 – Domestic Politics and International Relations

November 19 – International Trade: Cooperation and Conflict
November 26 – Regional Integration


Final Exam due December 10 at 6pm