

POL 271, WORLD POLITICS
Fall 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:15-3:55 pm
204 Harrison Hall

The online version of this syllabus contains active links.
<http://www.users.muohio.edu/neacklj/271fall2009.pdf>

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Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 8-10 am, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course on world politics. Students in this course will explore the factors and processes producing harmony and conflict in world affairs using the conceptual approaches used by scholars in the study of world politics. Additionally, students will explore the ways in which historical, geographical, social, economic and cultural traditions and circumstances combine to create vastly different voices, abilities and desires in the global arena.

COURSE GOALS

In this course, students will develop an understanding of the major theoretical traditions in the study of world politics, and learn how to apply the analytical tools used by scholars. Students will learn to identify world views and how historical, geographical, social, economic and cultural traditions and circumstances affect one's understanding of what is important in world politics. Further, students will learn to recognize and identify major issues in the study of world politics and how to fit the major political issues of the day into the general study of world politics. This course is designed both to prepare students for further study in international relations and to make them more informed national and global citizens.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students in this course should be aware that the instructor takes all issues about academic integrity seriously. The university policy on academic integrity can be found at the following site:
http://www.units.muohio.edu/secretary/policies_guidelines/student_handbook/documents/2009-2010%20Student%20Handbook.pdf

The following is a verbatim rendering of the university's statement on academic integrity and violations thereof:

CHAPTER 5. Academic Integrity

1.5.A Introduction

The rights and responsibilities that accompany academic freedom are at the heart of the intellectual integrity of the University. Students are expected to behave honestly in their learning and in their behavior outside the classroom. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the value of a Miami education for everyone, and especially for the person who cheats.

Misunderstanding of the appropriate academic conduct will not be accepted as an excuse for academic dishonesty. If a student is in doubt about appropriate academic conduct in a particular situation, he or she should consult with the instructor in the course, the department chair/program director, or the academic dean in the appropriate division in order to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty.

1.5.B Criteria

Academic dishonesty is defined as any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the institution or subverts the educational process. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1.5.B.1 Conduct with respect to and during a quiz, examination, or similar evaluation

Possessing, referring to, or employing open textbooks or notes or other devices not authorized by the instructor.

Looking at or using information from another person's paper.

Communicating with, providing assistance to, or receiving assistance from another person in a manner not authorized by the instructor.

Possessing, buying, selling, obtaining, or using a copy of any unauthorized materials intended to be used in the preparation of a quiz or examination or similar evaluation.

Taking a quiz or examination or similar evaluation in the place of another person.

Utilizing another person to take a quiz, examination, or similar evaluation in place of oneself.

Violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of a quiz, examination, or similar evaluation.

Changing material on a graded examination and then requesting a re-grading of the examination.

1.5.B.2 Written and other assignments

Submitting an assignment purporting to be the student's original work that has been wholly or partly created by another person.

Presenting as one's own the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.

Knowingly permitting one's work to be submitted by another person as if it were the submitter's original work.

Submitting the identical or substantially the same assignment to fulfill the requirements for two or more courses without the approval of the instructors involved, or submitting the identical or substantially the same assignment from a previously completed course to fulfill requirements for another course without the approval of the instructor of the later course.

Violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of the assignment.

Students should consult the Student Handbook for a discussion of the penalties for violating the university's academic integrity policy.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Miami University requires that students attend all regularly-scheduled class sessions. The university attendance policy can be found in full at the following link:

http://www.units.muohio.edu/secretary/policies_guidelines/student_handbook/academic_regulations/chapter9/index.html#toc194198528

The exception to Miami's full-attendance policy is as follows:

"There are no University-recognized excused absences except for religious observances that require absence from a class session and other required class activities. Students must give written notification to their instructor within the first two weeks of class of the religious event which prohibits class attendance, and the date that will be missed, if officially known. Instructors will, without prejudice, provide such students with reasonable accommodations for completing missed work. However, the students are ultimately responsible for material covered in class, regardless of whether the student is absent or present." Student Handbook 2008-2009, Part 1: Undergraduate Academic Regulations, Chapter 1.9.A. General Attendance Policies.

Beyond this, the following attendance policy will be used in this course:

- Students who are 5 minutes late for class will be marked absent for that class meeting.
- Students who leave before the end of class without prior permission of instructor will be marked absent for that class meeting.
- Upon the **third unexcused absence**, the student's **final grade will be reduced one full letter grade**.
- Upon the **fourth unexcused absence**, the student **will be dropped from the course with a grade of F**.

The instructor retains the sole right to determine what is or is not an excused absence. Early semester break departures and late returns to campus will not qualify as excusable absences.

Consult the [Miami University Student Handbook](http://www.units.muohio.edu/secretary/policies_guidelines/student_handbook/code_of_conduct/index.html) for more information on university attendance policy and other student rights and responsibilities. In the Handbook, be sure to review the Code of Student Conduct (http://www.units.muohio.edu/secretary/policies_guidelines/student_handbook/code_of_conduct/index.html) especially on matters regarding academic honesty and respect for other members of the class and university community.

NO LAPTOPS AND NO CELL PHONES

Laptop computers may not be used during class sessions. Laptops are often used for non-class purposes during class and this is disruptive to students sitting around the laptop user(s). No activity that disrupts the conduct of the class will be permitted, including laptop usage.

Any cell phones that are visible to the instructor or that ring during class time will be confiscated for the remainder of the class period. More than two violations of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the class.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

You must be registered with the Office of Learning Assistance if you have a disability for which accommodations should be made. For more information, consult the online directory for services for students with disabilities, http://www.units.muohio.edu/secretary/policies_guidelines/student_handbook/health_and_safety/chapter3/index.html#toc194198556

REQUIRED BOOKS AND OTHER READINGS

Karen Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations*, **Fourth Edition** (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2008).

There is a student website for this textbook that offers practice quizzes and other materials on each chapter of the book. That site is <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/irmingst4/>. You should make use of this site throughout the semester.

Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, **Third Edition** (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008).

Additional readings can be found on the course blackboard site or at links indicated on the course outline below.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are expected to come to class ready to participate in class discussions. To do so, students must complete all reading assignments by the dates listed on the syllabus.

Beyond the assigned readings, students who perform best in this course are those who keep current on international events by reading a national/international news source on a daily basis (such as *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *BBC*), and by viewing or listening to broadcast news programs. This is not a current events course, but we will discuss current events to demonstrate ideas, theories and issues being discussed in the course. Don't be intimidated by classmates who seem to have a better background in world affairs or world history.

You can remedy this situation by reading, thinking and actively discussing the current events examples raised in class.

Final grades will be determined on the following basis:

- Three in-class exams, 20% each
- Two paper assignments, 15% each
- Quizzes, total of 10% of course grade

In-class Exams

The exams in this class will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer essay/explanation items.

Pop Quizzes

Pop quizzes will be used on a regular basis to ensure that students are reading the assignments prior to each class meeting. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice items and will cover all the assigned readings for the particular date. There are no dropped quiz scores. Unexcused absences on a quiz day will result in a zero for that quiz.

Paper Assignments

One of the required books for this course is *Essential Readings in World Politics* (listed on the course outline as Mingst & Snyder). We will be reading a number of articles from this book. **Each** article assigned will be included in the exams. In addition, students must select **three** of the **assigned** articles – **one each from three different chapters** of the book – and write the assignment described below.

For the first paper, students must select 3 readings from 3 different chapters assigned before October 15.

For the second paper, students must select 3 readings from 3 different chapters assigned between October 15 and November 24.

Purpose of assignment. This assignment is designed to help students begin to develop some building-block skills necessary for writing longer research papers. When writing research papers, students must be able to summarize the primary arguments of their source materials and be able to extract quotations that illustrate these key arguments. Students also must examine the source material critically in order to understand underlying assumptions and implications. Each part of this assignment replicates these initial building blocks of a longer research project.

Format. Each paper must be written exactly as follows:

1. Top of first page -- your name and then **full bibliographic information** on the article. The format for the bibliographic entry **MUST** be as follows:

Last name of author of article, First name. "Title of Article," in K. Mingst and J. Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, Third Edition (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008), page numbers of article.

2. **One paragraph summary** of the article. This summary must be **in your own words** and **exactly 3 sentences** in length.

3. **Three key quotes** from the article with proper page citations for each. The citations should take this form (Mearsheimer, 10). These quotes **must be no longer than two sentences** each. These quotes also **should be directly related to the summary you've written**.

4. **Two questions** for the author of the article. The **first question** must inquire into an **assumption** underlying the article. An assumption is an unstated idea that forms the basis for the foundation of the argument. The **second question** must ask about an **implication** of the argument made. An implication inquires into the logical next step

of the argument – if the author has argued point A, then the implication question should ask about point B. These questions must be no longer than **two sentences** each.

Mechanics. Each paper must be typed, double-spaced, and conform exactly to the specifications above. No credit will be given for any assignment that does not follow the directions.

Due dates. The first paper is due on Oct. 15 at the start of class. The second paper is due on Nov. 24 at the start of class.

Grade Scale

Plus/minus grades will be used in this course according to the following scale:

97-100 A+	93-96 A	90-92 A-
87-89 B+	83-86 B	80-82 B-
77-79 C+	73-76 C	70-72 C-
67-69 D+	63-66 D	60-62 D-
59 and below F		

COURSE OUTLINE

Aug. 25
→ Introduction

Aug. 27
→ Why Study World Politics?
Mingst, Ch. 1

Sept. 1, 3
→ Historical Development of World Politics
Mingst, Ch. 2
Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 2, ALL

Sept. 8, 10
→ World Views & IR Theories
Mingst, Ch. 3
Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 3, ALL

Sept. 15, 17, 22
→ The International System
Mingst, Ch. 4
Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 4, Morgenthau and Wallerstein
CIA report, *Global Trends 2025*, BLACKBOARD

Sept. 24 EXAM REVIEW

Sept. 29 FIRST EXAM

Oct. 1, 6
→ States and Nations
Mingst, Ch. 5
Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 5, Krasner, Huntington and Sadowski
Neack, "National Security," Blackboard

OCT. 15 PAPER 1 DUE

Oct. 13, 15, 20

→ Individual Decision Makers

Mingst, Ch. 6

Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 6, ALL

Oct. 22, 27

→ War and Other Violence

Mingst, Ch. 8

Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 8, Schelling, Sagan, Pape and Abrams

Oct. 29 EXAM REVIEW

Nov. 3 SECOND EXAM

Nov. 5, 10, 12, 17

→ International Organizations, Nongovernmental Organizations, and International Law

Mingst, Ch. 7

United Nations Charter, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 7, Keck & Sikkink, Power, Kissinger, Roth

Nov. 24 PAPER 2 DUE

Nov. 19, 24, Dec. 1, 3

→ International Political Economy

Mingst, Ch. 9

Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 9, Naim, Friedman and Moghadam

Klare, "The New Geopolitics of Energy," BLACKBOARD

Dec. 8, 10

→ Global Issues

Mingst, Ch. 10

Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 10, Easterly and Garrett

Dec. 15, 3:00-5:00 pm, THIRD EXAM