International Politics
Political Science V1601x
Fall 2012
M,W 2:40-3:55
Location TBA

Professor Kimberly Marten
402 Lehman Hall, Barnard (office hours: Wednesday 10am to noon)
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Course Description
How can we explain the patterns of international politics? Why do wars happen? How do culture and religion affect international politics? Has the internet empowered individuals and social movements so much that states have become irrelevant? How are countries affected by the global economy, with its ever-increasing levels of international trade and investment, and in turn how does the political economy of individual countries shape international relations? How do alliances between countries function, and what impact do they have on foreign policy? What causes terrorism? Is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction a threat to peace, and if so, how should the world respond? Does the United Nations matter?

In this course we will begin to grapple with these issues, using the theories that both political scientists and policy makers use to try to explain and predict the patterns of international politics. We will analyze which theoretical perspectives actually lie behind common historical and current interpretations of international relations, and students will be encouraged to choose or develop their own theories to explain events.

Learning Objectives
Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Demonstrate broad factual and causal knowledge of important current and historical issues in international relations
- Apply contending theories from the political science literature and the policy world to analyze, compare, and evaluate events and trends in international relations
- Assess the value of competing theories in explaining events
- Synthesize facts and arguments across cases in order to reason critically and argue creatively, through both oral discussions in section and written essay exams

Course Requirements and Procedures
There is one closed-book (i.e., no notes allowed) in-class midterm, on Oct. 3, which will involve identification and other short-answer essays on conceptual issues. There is a second, take-home midterm assignment requiring essay answers to each of two questions, one from each of the middle sections of the course (i.e., 20th century wars, and international political economy). Each essay must be 5 pages, Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced with default margins, and must rely on currently assigned course readings alone for analysis. Questions will be emailed to students via Courseworks by Nov. 1, and the completed essays are due in our
normal classroom at 3pm on Monday, Nov. 19. Late turn-ins will be significantly penalized. There is also a final exam, consisting of two essay questions, on the official date and time set by Columbia University: Wednesday Dec. 19, from 1:10-4:00pm. (Please note that the university does not accept the excuse of holiday travel as a legitimate reason for missing the scheduled final exam.) One question on the final will reflect the material covered in the last section of the course (i.e., on current international security events); the second question will be comprehensive, asking students to apply what they’ve learned in the course to a hypothetical circumstance. Each student may bring one 8 ½” by 11” piece of paper to the otherwise closed-book final exam, on which anything may be typed or written on both sides. In addition, regular attendance at discussion section is required. Students must register separately for discussion section.

All grading is supervised by Prof. Marten, who sets grading guidelines and reviews section leader performance. Any student who wishes to challenge a grade must discuss the situation with the individual who graded the exam first. If the student remains unsatisfied after this, Prof. Marten will review the work in question; but students should realize that a change in grade is very unlikely, and that Prof. Marten reserves the right to lower a grade as well as raise it. Exams must be taken or turned in when scheduled. Exceptions will be granted only in cases of medical or family emergency, and will be granted only by Prof. Marten, not by the TAs. If you have an extracurricular event that will interfere with the midterm schedule, you should not take this course. A passing grade of C- or better must be achieved on each exam and assignment, and in section, for the student to receive a passing grade in the course.

Prof. Marten has served on the Barnard College Honor Board, and takes the issue of academic integrity very seriously. For each exam, all students (whether or not they are Barnard College students) must sign a Barnard College Honor Code statement, affirming that their written work is completely their own. For the two in-class exams, no collaboration is allowed. For the take-home essays, students are encouraged to work with each other in thinking through their answers and may consult anyone they wish as they are developing their ideas; but the final written product must be solely the work of the individual student. (Please note that the TAs will not read essay drafts or discuss the essays with individual students; all consultation with TAs must happen in section and in public only, so that all students in the section have an equal advantage.) Any student found to have violated the Honor Code will face the disciplinary rules of his or her home college.

**Laptop policy:** student use of electronic devices in lecture and discussion section is prohibited. An exception will be made for those who sign the Laptop permissions assignment on Courseworks with their name and UNI, and turn it in to Courseworks by Monday Sept. 17. The conditions of use are as follows: (1) Laptops and other electronic devices can be used in lecture only for taking notes, and in discussion section only for taking notes or referring to saved notes or readings. Students affirm that once class has begun, they will not use electronic devices for any other activity, including texting, email, social media, web searches, playing games, etc. (2) Anyone wishing to use a laptop or other electronic device in lecture must sit in the back third of the classroom, so as not to disturb other students. (Any student wishing to have an exception made to the seating rule because of special circumstances should talk to Prof. Marten.) Any student found violating these policies will be asked to leave the classroom at that time, and will not be permitted to use any electronic devices for the remainder of the term. (3) Electronic
devices are strictly prohibited during the in-class midterm and final exams; they must be turned off and stowed.

**Grading:**
First midterm: 20%
Second midterm: 40% (20% each essay)
Final exam: 30%
Section participation: 10%. Anyone who attends all section meetings (each student is allowed to miss one section meeting for any reason without penalty) will automatically receive at least an A- as a section grade. Straight “A”s will be used to reward active section participation, if that participation demonstrates that the student has completed the assigned reading. Each missed section beyond the first will result in the lowering of the section attendance grade by 1/3 grade (e.g. from an A- to a B+ for the second missed section, and a B+ to a B for the third). If you must miss an additional section because of illness, family emergency, or a religious holiday which prevents you from working on that day, you must notify your section leader by email or phone in advance and work out an acceptable makeup assignment, for example by turning in a one-page written answer to one of the discussion questions handed out for the section you missed.

**Required Reading List**
Please do the readings in the order they are listed. It may be helpful to do the readings after the lecture for which they are assigned; the lectures will help students understand what it is about each reading that is important. (The exceptions are the Dobbs book and the Marten book, which should be started early so that students do not fall behind.) A good skill to learn is “strategic skimming”: learn to extract the important arguments from each piece—how arguments are built and supported, what their strengths and weaknesses are—rather than reading each piece word-for-word. It may be useful to have a dictionary at hand while reading; some readings include difficult vocabulary. All readings are assigned because they are important elements in ongoing debates. In other words, read each piece critically and with a grain of salt, rather than taking it as the truth. On exams and essays you will be expected to analyze and critique the readings, not merely summarize them.

The books are available at Book Culture (536 West 112th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam), and are also on reserve at both the Barnard College and Butler libraries. You should feel free to buy used copies at discount rates, or to share purchases with a friend in class, too. The assigned articles are every bit as important as the books, and should not be considered optional. Many of these must be accessed through the Columbia University Library (www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/index.html) in order to avoid a fee. Students must have a Columbia email account and password to use these sources. (All registered Barnard and Columbia students are automatically eligible for such accounts. If you have not yet activated your account, you may do so at columbia.edu/acis/accounts/create/) To access the sources, simply enter the electronic journal title on the Columbia library web “quick search e-resources” page, and then find the correct issue number or article title when the corresponding database opens. (There will be an in-class demonstration of how to do this on the first two days of class.)


Course Schedule and Assignments

Sept. 5.  Introduction: thinking about international politics.
  
  **Nye and Welch:** “What Is International Politics?” pp. 1-16. Also note the study tool on p. 63, “Table 2.1. Key Features of Paradigms.”
  
  **Mingst and Snyder:** Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” pp. 2-10.

**Part I: The “Isms”: Realism and Its Critics**

Sept. 10. Realism: its roots and why it (still) matters.
  
  
  **Mingst and Snyder:** Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue” (pp. 10-12); Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory” (pp. 26-30); and Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and Struggle for Power” (pp. 31-50).

Sept. 12. Realism, polarity, and war.
  
  **Mingst and Snyder:** Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power” (pp. 99-104); Ikenberry, Mastanduno and Wohlforth, “Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences” (pp. 110-29); Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” (pp. 335-49).

  
  **Nye and Welch:** “Liberalism,” pp. 64-69; “Managing Conflict” (pp. 193-200).
  
  **Mingst and Snyder:** Kant, “To Perpetual Peace” (pp. 12-15); Wilson, “The Fourteen Points” (pp. 17-19); Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics” (pp. 50-64); Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (pp. 616-26).

  **Note:** today’s class will be recorded for students away for Rosh Hashannah

Sept. 19: Liberalism, realism, and international institutions: the example of NATO and Libya (2011)
  
  **Mingst and Snyder:** Keohane, “From After Hegemony” (pp. 292-307); Mearsheimer, “False Promise of International Institutions” (pp. 308-14)

  **Columbia Library Websources:**
  
  
  
  

Sept. 24. Constructivism: ideas, culture and power in the international system.
  
  **Nye and Welch:** “Constructivism,” pp. 69-71.
  
  **Mingst and Snyder:** Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It” (pp. 64-82); Tickner, “Man, the State and War” (pp. 89-95); Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks” (pp. 253-62); Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations?” (pp. 159-65).

  **Websource:**

Sept. 26. Levels of analysis: bureaucratic, organizational, and individual actors.

Columbia Library E-reserves:


Note: today’s class will be recorded for students away for Yom Kippur

Part II: Explaining War and Peace:
20th Century Examples and Why They (Still) Matter


Columbia Library Websource:


Oct. 8. The Origins of World War II: Appeasement, Desperation, and Bandwagoning


Columbia Library Websource:


Oct. 10. The Cold War: Realism vs. Ideology.


Mingst and Snyder: Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct” (pp. 19-24).

Columbia Library Websource:


Oct. 15 and 17. The Cuban Missile Crisis: Parity, Deterrence, and Accidents.

Reading for both lectures:

Dobbs, entire.

Oct. 22. The End of the Cold War: Realism, Liberalism and Ideas.

Columbia Library Websources:


Part III. International Political Economy


Mingst and Snyder: Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy” (pp. 485-92); Milner, “Globalization, Development, and International Institutions” (only pp. 497-509 required; for this class session, pay attention to her GATT and WTO examples); Wolf, “Why Globalization Works” (pp. 516-40).

Oct. 29. The politics of international monetary policy: explaining 2008

Mingst and Snyder: Stiglitz, “Freefall” (pp. 554-73); also pay attention to Milner’s IMF examples (from last class reading) for this class.

Columbia Library Websource:

Oct. 31. The European Union: a slow death, or the success of “governance”? 

Columbia Library Websources:
Andrew Moravcsik, “Europe after the Crisis: How to Sustain a Common Currency,” Foreign Affairs 91, no. 3 (May/June 2012): 54-68.

Nov. 5. Election Day Holiday. No class meeting. If you are eligible, please vote!

Nov. 7. International oil and gas politics


Columbia Library Websources:

Websource:

Nov. 12. The rise of China.

Columbia Library Websources:

Part IV. International Security in a New Era


Mingst and Snyder: Juergensmeyer, “Global Rebellion” (pp. 166-86); Kydd and Walter, “Strategies of Terrorism” (pp. 392-411).

Columbia Library Websource:

Nov. 19. No lecture (Prof. Marten will be giving a presentation in Istanbul); midterm essays (covering material through Nov. 12) are due in our normal classroom at 3pm, and will be collected by the TAs.

Nov. 21. No class; Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving.


Columbia Library Websources:

Nov. 28. UN peace enforcement and the “responsibility to protect”

Mingst and Snyder: Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Work?” (pp. 224-31); Power, “Bystanders to Genocide” (pp. 233-53); Evans, “When Is It Right to Fight” (pp. 444-57).

Columbia Library Websource:

Columbia E-reserves:


Marten: chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, and conclusion (pp. 1-30, 102-200).

Dec. 5. Palestinian statehood

Websource:

Columbia Library Websources:


Dec. 10. Nuclear Proliferation.

**Columbia Library Websource:**


**Mingst and Snyder:** Posen, “A Nuclear Armed Iran” (pp. 375-88); Lieber and Baram, “Containment Breach” (pp. 390-92).

**Websource:**