

MC 220 – International Relations I: World Politics and International Security

James Madison College
Michigan State University
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Instructor: Matthew Zierler

Email: zierler@msu.edu

Phone: 432-8300

Office: 361 South Case Hall

Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2-3, and by appointment (and open door)

Class meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 5-6:20 P.M.

Class location: 342 Case Hall

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to the field of international relations. As you will soon see, this is not a course about current events. Its primary purpose is to introduce you to the systematic study and evaluation of world politics. Thus, some of the course material will be highly theoretical. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to make you better consumers and evaluators of international politics. Therefore, we will be paying attention to current and past events in world politics with an eye towards explaining and understanding why things turned out as they did and then trying to speculate on how the future will play out.

International politics is an exciting and varied field. This course tries to sample the range of themes in current international politics while providing you with a common language to put everything together. This course emphasizes the political and military side of international relations, while MC 221 examines international political economy. As you will see, however, the two courses are not always neatly separable, and your hard work this semester will help you throughout your career as an IR major and future practitioner.

This course will begin with you reading a book on the Rwandan genocide, with a focus on the (lack of) response from the international community. The book and the accompanying writing assignment will get you thinking about the actors, interests, issues, and values that exist in international relations. By examining a more recent event, we can see how international relations has developed and what, if anything, has changed over the last few centuries of the state system. This will be a central theme of the course. The first part of the course will discuss what international relations is all about and provide the roots of a vocabulary that we can use to analyze international politics.

Part 2 examines some of the major theoretical traditions used to understand international relations. These sessions will provide the basic assumptions and implications of the various theories. We will then use these theories to evaluate different aspects of international politics throughout the semester. Your term paper assignment is designed for you to show how well one of these theoretical traditions helps us understand a real-world event.

Part 3 of the course focuses on the traditional understanding of international security. Our goal here is to understand the causes of war and how states behave once conflict arises. Part 4 examines theoretical explanations for and empirical examples of forms of international cooperation. Even though conflict is an ever-present possibility of the international system, it is important to examine the various attempts to mitigate its outbreak. We will conclude the course with a series of short units looking at specific new issues and problems in international politics,

including the post-Cold War international system, emergent security threats, human rights, and the environment. We want to be able to see both continuity and change in international politics.

There is some flexibility built into the schedule, especially near the end of the course, so there is the possibility of spending a bit more time on certain topics and rearranging some topics as student interests and current events may warrant. I'll announce any changes in class, giving you enough time to adjust your schedules. I will send out email to the class periodically – be sure to check regularly your accounts registered with ANGEL. Please note that this syllabus and the writing assignments are also posted on ANGEL should you misplace them.

Feel free to come see me at any point if you wish to talk more about the course or other concerns. I am generally around and available even outside of office hours – feel free to stop in if my door is open or set up an appointment. I will answer email questions, but I will also ask to talk with you in person for subjects that cannot be treated appropriately electronically. As this is a Madison course, my expectation is that we will talk frequently outside of class hours to discuss your term paper and/or other aspects of the course.

Required Readings (please obtain the appropriate editions)

Make sure to do the reading for the session for which it is assigned. While I know that the reading load is heavy at times, it is very important to keep on track with it. I recommend doing the reading in the order listed. For some topics it may not matter, but for others some readings provide a foundation and others provide a critique or extension. The reading includes both theoretical and empirical material. In the first class and throughout the semester, we will discuss strategies to master the reading.

1. Michael Barnett. 2002. *Eyewitness to a Genocide*. Cornell University Press. (either hard or soft cover is fine)
2. Richard W. Mansbach and Edward Rhodes (editors). 2006. *Global Politics in a Changing World: A Reader*. 3rd edition. Houghton Mifflin. {noted as MR in syllabus}
3. Phil Williams, Donald M. Goldstein, and Jay M. Shafritz (editors). 2006. *Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in International Relations*. 3rd edition. Thomson Wadsworth. {noted as WGS in syllabus}
4. A couple of articles as marked on the syllabus. They will all be on reserve in the Madison Library and one is also available on-line. The syllabus posted on ANGEL will have the direct link to that reading.
5. Regular reading of a periodical with good international coverage. *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and/or the *Economist* are preferred. *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and *International Security* are also recommended journals with more sustained coverage of many of the topics we are studying. They are also good resources for your term paper. Knowledge of current events is expected for the exams.
6. Any other readings as assigned – these would typically be short newspaper articles on a topic pertinent to the course.

Evaluation (every assignment must be successfully completed to pass the course)

1. Short paper (2-3 pages) on the Barnett book. Specific details will be given in class, but this assignment is intended to get you thinking about some of the critical issues currently playing out in international relations, especially the role of morality in international politics. This book is intended to be a fairly quick read, and your goal is to try to capture

the images of the situation that Barnett is portraying. Make sure you identify the various issues, actors, and interests involved in this episode, and think about what this case can teach us about global politics in the current era. Due **Monday, September 12** at the beginning of class. Late papers will be marked down for each day they are late. **10% of course grade**

2. Term paper (10-12 pages). This paper will combine research on a decision or event related to international politics with an analysis of how different IR theories can help us understand that event. I will provide more details early in the semester concerning topic selection and the structure of the paper. That handout will also present a timeline for when different aspects of the paper (like the topic selection and preliminary bibliography) are due. The final draft of the paper will be due in class on Wednesday, November 30. Late papers will be marked down for each day they are late. Please see me throughout the semester to discuss your progress on various stages of the project. **25% of course grade for total project**
3. Midterm Exam. An in-class exam after Part 3 of the course that includes all material up to that point. **25% of course grade**
4. Final Exam. An in-class exam during the assigned time of finals period. **30% of course grade**
5. Participation. I expect that there will be ample opportunities for discussion in class. While at certain times there will be more lecturing than at others, I will make time in each session for questions and discussion. Attendance can affect your grade in two ways. First, if you are not in class, you cannot earn participation points. Second, more than three unexcused absences will automatically result in the loss of all participation points. Additionally, your performance on exams will suffer if you don't both attend lectures and read the required material. I expect that while we might all disagree on certain issues throughout the semester that all discussions will be civil and everyone should respect each other. **10% of course grade**

For the exams, you are responsible for both the lecture material and the assigned readings (even those not discussed in class). There will be no make-ups without *prior* permission based on an *extremely* good and documented reason.

Honors Option: For those interested in an Honors Option, please see me by the end of the first week of classes to make arrangements. There will be extra meetings and assignments (reading and written), and a 3.5 must be maintained in order to receive Honors credit.

The topic for the Honors Option will be on non-state actors and the use of force. Two books will form the basis for much for our discussions:

1. P.W. Singer. *Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry*.
2. Janice E. Thomson. *Mercenaries, Pirates, and Sovereigns*.

Academic Honesty: Of course, no form of academic misconduct (on papers and exams) will be tolerated. All violations will face the harshest penalties allowed under MSU policy (which, at the minimum, is a 0.0 for the course). In part, the JMC's Student Handbook reads:

The faculty recognize that it is the responsibility of the instructor to take appropriate action if an act of academic dishonesty is discovered. It is further understood that a student may appeal a judgment of academic dishonesty to the Student-Faculty Judiciary. The Faculty Assembled recommend that in cases involving proven academic dishonesty, the student should receive, as a minimum, a 0.0 in the course and that a record of the circumstances, sanctions, and any appeal, be placed in the student's confidential file. (In accordance with University policy, the record may be made available to faculty if such information is deemed necessary in the discharging of their respective responsibilities). The individual faculty member or the Dean may recommend further action, including dismissal from the University, to the Student-Faculty Judiciary. If a second case of academic dishonesty should occur, the recommendation is that the faculty, through the Office of Academic Affairs, should seek the student's dismissal from the College and the University.

That said, virtually all violations can be avoided if you speak to me first. Not waiting until the last minute to finish assignments helps to avoid most problems.

Schedule

Please read the material before the class meeting for which it is assigned. Lectures and discussions will inevitably run over the listed dates, but we will catch up quickly. The different topics appear neatly defined, but we will soon see how they are all linked together. I will announce any changes in readings or assignment due dates in class and with enough time for you to make the appropriate adjustments to your schedules.

Part I: What is IR? Major Concepts of International Politics

Monday, August 29: Introduction to the course and subject

Read: Start reading Barnett

Wednesday, August 31: The Development of the State System; States and Sovereignty

Read: Krasner, "Problematic Sovereignty" in WGS (p. 660-666)
 Krasner, "Sovereignty" in MR (p. 13-20)
 Rosenau, "Turbulence in World Politics" in MR (p. 20-25)
 Denison, "A Virtual Visa?" in MR (p. 25-28)
 Hamid, "International Relations" in MR (p. 28-30)
 Economist, "A World of Exiles" in MR (p. 403-408)
 Mansbach, Ferguson, and Lampert, "Towards a New Conceptualization
 Of Global Politics" in WGS (p. 209-221)

Monday, September 5: No Class – Labor Day.

Wednesday, September 7: Anarchy, Order, Power, Interests, and Levels of Analysis

Read: Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations"
 in WGS (p. 133-147)
 Bull, "The Idea of International Society" in WGS (p. 36-40)
 Waltz, "International Conflict and International Anarchy: The Third
 Image" in WGS (p. 260-262)
 Rosenau, "The Two Worlds of World Politics" in WGS (p. 114-121)
 Keohane and Nye, "The Characteristics of Complex Interdependence"
 in WGS (p. 122-125)

Part II: Theoretical Approaches to IR

Monday, September 12: Theory, Morality, and Science in Studying IR; Begin Realism

Assignment Due: Short Paper on Barnett book

Read: Holsti, "Models of International Relations and Foreign Policy" in
 WGS (p. 147-178)
 Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories" in WGS (p. 402-411)

Wednesday, September 14: Realisms

Read: Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism" in WGS (p. 57-62)
 Thucydides, "The Peloponnesian War and the Melian Dialogue" in
 WGS (p. 40-48)
 Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory" in WGS (p. 63-73)
 Herz, "The Security Dilemma in the Atomic Age" in WGS (p. 268-271)

Monday, September 19: Liberalisms

- Read: Doyle, "Kant's Perpetual Peace" in WGS (p. 19-33)
 Wilson, "The Fourteen Points" in WGS (p. 33-36)
 Axelrod, "The Evolution of Cooperation" in WGS (p. 331-335)
 Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation" in WGS (p. 379-390)

Wednesday, September 21: Constructivism

- Read: Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It" in WGS (p. 352-373)
 Barnett, "Social Constructivism" on reserve in the JMC Library

Monday, September 26: Feminist Approaches and Critical Theories

- Read: Tickner, "A Gendered Perspective on National Security" in WGS (p. 374-379)
 Wilmer, "Women, The State, and War: Feminist Incursions into World Politics" in MR (p. 413-423)
 Hudson and Den Boer, "A Surplus of Men, A Deficit of Peace" in MR (p. 426-430)
 Krasner, "Two Alternative Perspectives: Marxism and Liberalism" in WGS (p. 76-81)
 Mearsheimer, "Critique of Critical Theory" in WGS (p. 391-402)

Part III: Understanding International Security

Wednesday, September 28: The Uses of Force and Causes of War

- Read: Schelling, "The Manipulation of Risk" in WGS (p. 437-445)
 George, Hall, and Simons, "The Limits of Coercive Diplomacy" in WGS (p. 445-457)
 Clausewitz, "War as an Instrument of Policy" in WGS (p. 458-465)
 Gilpin, "The Theory of Hegemonic War" in WGS (p. 263-268)
 Hobson, "The Economic Taproots of Imperialism" in WGS (p. 73-76)

Monday, October 3: Causes of War (continued)

- Read: Pruitt and Snyder, "Motives and Perceptions Underlying Entry into War" in WGS (p. 465-485)
 Jervis, "War and Misperception" in WGS (p. 485-505)
 Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma" in WGS (p. 272-280)

Wednesday, October 5: The Balance of Power

- Read: Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power" in WGS (p. 281-285)
 Organski, "Criticism of Balance of Power Theory" in WGS (p. 285-289)
 Waltz, "The Stability of a Bipolar World" in WGS (p. 98-105)
 Deutsch and Singer, "Multipolar Power Systems and International Stability" in WGS (p. 106-108)
 Kaplan, "Rules for the Balance of Power System" in WGS (p. 109-114)
 Claude, "Collective Security as an Approach to Peace" in WGS (p. 289-302)

*****Movie – Dr. Strangelove: date, time and location to be announced**

Monday, October 10: Wars of the 20th Century and the Logics of Deterrence and Containment

Read: Gaddis, “The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System” in WGS (p. 506-521)
 Wohlforth, “Realism and the End of the Cold War.” *International Security*. 19:3 (Winter 1994/1995), p. 91-129.

Wednesday, October 12: Nuclear Weapons

Read: Brodie, “Nuclear Weapons and Strategy” in WGS (p. 420-424)
 Wohlstetter, “The Delicate Balance of Terror” in WGS (p. 424-428)
 Dror, “Crazy States” in WGS (p. 429-436)
 MR, chapter 3, “Weapons of Mass Destruction: The New Challenge” (p. 74-96)

Monday, October 17: Midterm Exam

Part IV: Views on Cooperation

Wednesday, October 19: International Institutions: Roles in Managing Conflicts

Read: Keohane, “Cooperation and International Regimes” in WGS (p. 320-330)
 Simmons, “Learning to Live with NGOs” in MR (p. 208-214)
 Economist, “NGOs: Sins of the Secular Missionaries” in MR (p. 214-220)
 Barnett and Finnemore, “The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations” in WGS (p. 221-244)
 Keck and Sikkink, “Advocacy Networks in International Politics” in WGS (p. 244-249)

Monday, October 24: The UN System: Hopes and Challenges in the Provision of Order

Read: Weiss, Forsythe, and Coate, “The United Nations and Changing World Politics” in MR (p. 167-176)
 IISS, “The Future of the UN Security Council” in MR (p. 176-180)
 Economist, “The UN’s Missions Impossible” in MR (p. 180-184)

Wednesday, October 26: International Law and the Regulation of Conflict

Read: Coplin, “International Law and Assumptions about the State System” in WGS (p. 302-320)
 Slaughter, “Courting the World” in MR (p. 247-249)
 Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction” in MR (p. 249-253)
 Economist, “For Us or Against Us?” in MR (p. 253-255)

Monday, October 31: Integration and Regionalism: New Forms of Political Organization?

Read: Puchala, "The Integration Theorists and the Study of International Relations" in WGS (p. 336-351)
 Economist, "My Continent, Right or Wrong" in MR (p. 191-194)
 Steinberger, "Eastward, Whoa: The European Union if Getting Too Big for Its Britches" in MR (p. 194-196)

Part V: Current Issues in International Politics: New Challenges to Understanding Security?

Wednesday, November 2: American Hegemony and the Use of Force

Read: Brooks and Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective" in WGS (p. 700-707)
 Nye, "Limits of American Power" in WGS (p. 707-716)
 Hoffmann, "The Debate About Intervention" in WGS (p. 667-675)
 Bunn, "Preemptive Action: When, How, and To What Effect?" in WGS (p. 675-692)
 Mearsheimer and Walt, "An Unnecessary War" in WGS (p. 693-699)

Monday, November 7: Terrorism and New Uses of Force

Read: MR, Chapter 2, "Out of Control? The Rise of Postmodern War and Terrorism" (p. 32-69)
 Hoffman, "Terrorism Today and Tomorrow" in WGS (p. 632-642)
 Keohane, "The Globalization of Informal Violence" in WGS (p. 643-647)
 Arquilla and Ronfeldt, "The Sharpening Fight for the Future" in WGS (p. 648-652)
 Homer-Dixon, "The Rise of Complex Terrorism" in WGS (p. 653-660)

Wednesday, November 9: Democratization and International Security

Read: MR, Chapter 4, "Democracy: A Global Institution?" (p. 98-128)

Monday, November 14: Peoples, Cultures, States, and War

Wednesday, November 16

Read: Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in WGS (p. 581-600)
 Buruma, "Final Cut" in MR (p. 392-402)
 Economist, "A World of Exiles" in MR (p. 403-408)
 Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy" in WGS (p. 600-623)
 Sadowski, "The Myth of Global Chaos" in WGS (p. 624-632)
 MR, Chapter 5, "Failed States" (p. 129-165) except for Kaplan

Monday, November 21: The Idea of "Soft Security"

Read: MR, Chapter 9 "The Problem of Soft Security: Crime, Migration, and Disease" (p. 257-287)

Wednesday, November 23: Human Rights

Monday, November 28

Read: Franck, "Are Human Rights Universal?" in MR (p. 235-243)
 Economist, "Taming Leviathan" in MR (p. 243-246)
 Weiss, "No Daughters Need Apply" in MR (p. 424-425)
 Hinrichsen, "Ladies, You Have No Choice" in MR (p. 430-434)
 Economist, "Is It Crime or Culture?" in MR (p. 434-436)

Wednesday, November 30: Environment

Assignment Due: Term Paper

Read: MR, Chapter 12, "Environmental Issues and the Global Commons"
 (p. 340-374)

Monday, December 5: Conclusion: Globalization and the future of the international system

Wednesday, December 7

Read: Mathews, "Power Shift" in MR (p. 199-207)
 Foer, "Soccer v. McWorld" in MR (p. 461-464)
 Davidson, "Loves Microsoft, Hates America" in MR (p. 464-468)
 Barnett, "The Pentagon's New Map" in WGS (p. 538-547)
 Held and McGrew, Goldblatt and Perraton, "The Globalization Debate"
 in WGS (p. 547-570)
 Rosenau, "Governance in a Fragmeegrative Space" in WGS (p. 571-580)

Final Exam: Thursday, December 15, 5:45 – 7:45 pm