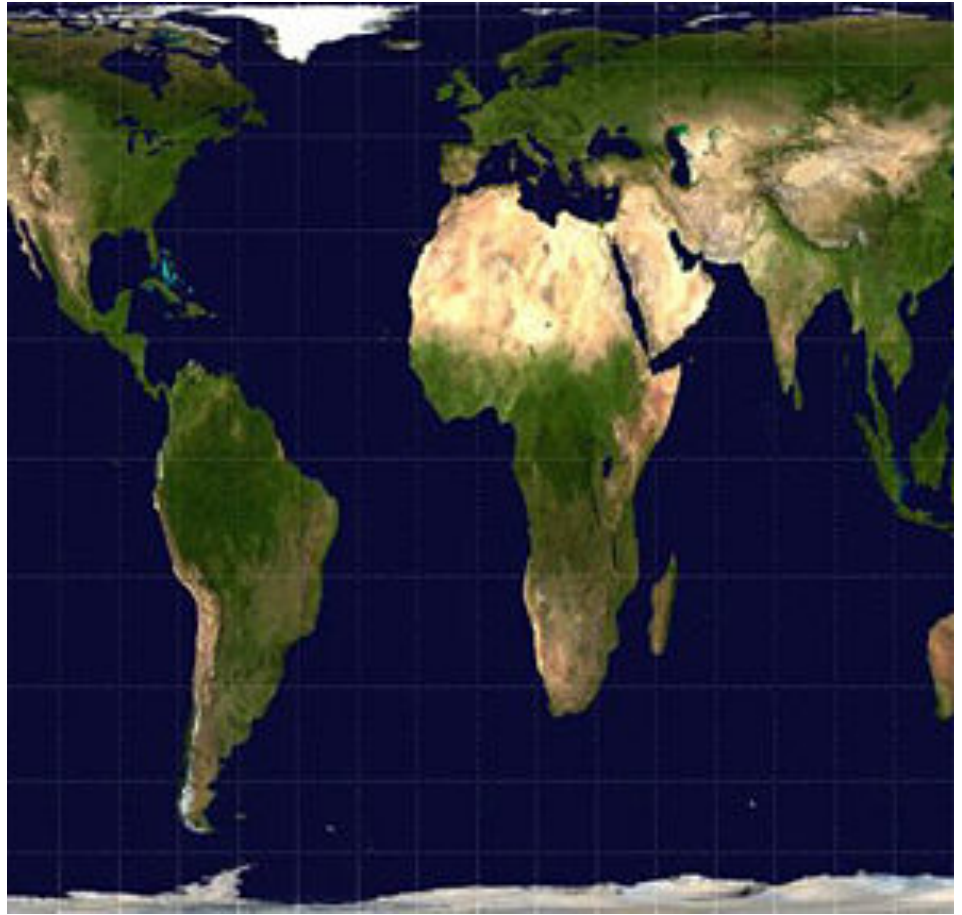


POLS 360

INTRODUCTION
TO
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS

ES-328

MW: 3:45 - 5:05



COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers an introduction to the theories, actors and substantive issues that make up and animate world politics.

Its primary purpose is to challenge students' assumptions about the nature of the world political system and their place within it.

This exercise will sensitize you to the implications of competing political claims and the complexities of political phenomena.

A second overarching goal is to polish your critical thinking and communication skills. You will therefore be required to read original texts, think about the arguments they present,

and write an argumentative essay.

It is my hope that these exercises will instill a foundation for understanding, tolerance, and compassion. It is also my hope that you will develop a deep and lifelong commitment to active participation in public life.

Instructor

Prof. Dallas Blaney

MAC B329

Office Hours: MW 1-3pm

or by appointment

Email: blaneyd@uwgb.edu

Millennium Development Goals



2015

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the [United Nations Millennium Declaration](#), committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015 - that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals. Ending poverty is one of these.

Strategy

To achieve these goals, this class adopts two strategies. First, it exposes students to the dominant theoretical perspectives on international relations. As these works are highly complex, class time will, to a large extent, revolve around discussions of the assigned readings. Second, the class requires students to apply this theoretical knowledge to several pressing contemporary issues, including nature, conflict, and technology. Writing assignments and exams will hone active reading and critical thinking skills and provide a means for assessing students' understanding of the course material.

Student Expectations

It is expected that you will complete all assignments on time and actively participate in classroom conversations. You are also expected to be courteous to your neighbors. In other words, you should turn off any noise-making electronic devices, like cell-phones, etc. You may use a computer to take notes; however, this right will be forfeit if your computer use is a distraction.

Class time will typically revolve around conversations of the assigned material. With so much weight resting on classroom conversations, it is essential that these conversations be civilized and respectful to everyone in the class and relevant to the topic under consideration. The most educational conversations are the products of attentive listening. As the Chinese Proverb reminds us, "to listen well is as powerful a means of influence as to talk well, and is essential to all true conversation." When you are disrespectful towards others you only ensure that they will stop listening and therefore that you will stop learning.

You are also expected to stay up to date on international news. Good news sources include the Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times, The BBC, Al Jazeera, and UN Dispatch.

Clickers, Attendance and Oops!

Attendance is mandatory. You can miss up to three classes without penalty but beyond this you will lose five percentage points from your final grade for each class you miss. There are no exceptions to this policy.

This class uses Turner Clicker technology to track attendance and to encourage in-class discussions. You are responsible for registering your Clicker and bringing it with you to class. You can obtain a clicker at the circulation desk on the 3rd floor of Cofrin Library. Because everyone makes mistakes, you will also receive one Oops! per semester. That is, you can forget your Clicker once per semester without penalty. To receive your Oops! simply contact your instructor either immediately before or after class. You can only receive an Oops! of the day of the infraction.

Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities

Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2841 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

Course Requirements

Exams (20 points each)

There are two exams: a mid-term and final. Exams consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and the final is not cumulative. If you miss an exam you will automatically receive an F for the semester. You may use one 3x5 index card as a reference during the exam.

Quizzes (5 points each)

You are required to complete four quizzes on the assigned texts. For each quiz you will have ten minutes to answer ten multiple-choice questions. In addition, you are also required to take four quizzes on the assigned geography text (details are forthcoming). Reading quizzes will be available on D2L; geography quizzes will be administered in class. A word of caution: once you begin a quiz on D2L there is no turning back, so only start the quiz when you are prepared to take it. To learn more about the quiz deadlines please consult the course calendar in D2L.

Essay (20 points: 2.5% for stages one and two, 15% for stage three)

You are required to write a ten page argumentative essay about poverty. Your assignment is to answer the following question, "which theory of international relations offers the best insight to the global problem of poverty?" You must therefore examine this issue through the lenses of two or three competing theoretical perspectives, using this topic as a means of comparing and contrasting these theories, all the while making an argument about which of these theories is most satisfactory. To complete this assignment you will first have to learn more about poverty and the efforts underway to solve it. I have provided a list of important sources to get you started, but you will have to take the initiative on this project and get moving on it right away.

To help get you started and keep you on track, this essay assignment develops in three stages. The first stage simply requires you to write a brief thesis statement. To reach this point you should do some initial research, make a preliminary decision about the theories you want to use, and begin sketching out your argumentative strategy. The second stage requires you to submit a detailed outline and brief bibliography (8 sources). At this stage you should accumulate a wealth of information, organized this information into a coherent framework, and develop a coherent sense of how you plan to weave this data into your theoretical analysis. The final stage simply consists of handing in your final draft. Essay instructions are available on D2L.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
AB	87-92
B	83-86
BC	77-82
C	73-76
CD	67-72
D	60-66
F	0-59

Required Texts

Burchill, Scott, et al. 2009. Theories of International Relations, 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 0230219233 (hereafter TIR)

Hammond Compact Peters World Atlas: The Earth in Its True Proportions. (2002). Longman. ISBN 0843718323

Weston, Anthony. 2008. A Rulebook for Arguments, 4th edition. Hackett Publishing. ISBN 0872209547

Course Schedule

9/7 Course Introduction

9/12 Introductory Remarks

Read: TIR chapter 1

9/14 Realism and Power

Read: TIR pp. 31-36; Excerpts from Hans J. Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace. (D2L)

Recommended: Biographical information on [Morgenthau](http://www.bookrags.com/biography/hans-j-morgenthau/):
<http://www.bookrags.com/biography/hans-j-morgenthau/>

9/19 Structural Realism

Read: TIA pp. 36-42; and Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics. (D2L)

Recommended: Biographical information on [Waltz](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/pr/00/03/kennethWaltz.html):
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/pr/00/03/kennethWaltz.html>
a [political map](http://web.me.com/dsblaney/International_Relations/Course_Schedule_files/Cold_War_Map.png) of the Cold War era.

http://web.me.com/dsblaney/International_Relations/Course_Schedule_files/Cold_War_Map.png

Reading Quiz: Waltz

9/21 Contemporary Realism

Read: TIA pp. 49-56; Excerpts from John Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics. (D2L).

Geography Quiz: Europe

9/26 Classical Liberalism

Read: No new reading. Review your notes from previous readings and type three questions you have about the concepts or arguments these authors present. Your questions are due at the beginning of class.

9/28 Democratic Peace Theory

Read: Immanuel Kant, Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch. (D2L)

Recommended: Background on [Kant](http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/kant.htm):
<http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/kant.htm>

10/3 Contemporary Liberalism

Read: TIR 73-84; Robert Keohane, Interdependence in International Relations. (D2L)

Thesis Statement Due

10/5 TBA

10/10 Marx and Marxism

Read: TIR pp. 111-124; Karl Marx, On the Jewish Question. (D2L)

Recommended: Background on [Marx](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/marx/): <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/marx/>

Geography Quiz: The Americas

10/12 Marxism and IR Today

Read: TIR pp. 124-135; Robert Cox, Social Forces, States, and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory. (D2L)

Reading Quiz: Cox

10/17 Critical Theory

Read: TIR chapter 7

10/19 Post Structuralism

Read: TIR 184-190; Michael Foucault, Governmentality. (D2L)

10/26 **Exam 1**

10/31 Constructivism
Read: TIR chapter 9

11/2 Constructing International Politics
Read: Alexander Wendt, *Constructing International Politics* (D2L)

11/7 Feminism
Read: TIR Chapter 10
Reading Quiz: Weston

11/9 Making Feminist Sense of IR
Read: Excerpts from Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. (D2L)
Geography Quiz: Asia

11/14 Green Politics
Read: TIR chapter 11

11/16 Nature: Privileging Humans
Read: Excerpts from Wilfred Beckerman, *Through Green Colored Glasses: Environmentalism Reconsidered*. Chapters 1 and 11 (D2L)

11/21 Nature: Privileging Nature
Read: Holmes Rolston III, [Feeding People versus Saving Nature](http://www.ecospherics.net/pages/RolstonPeopleVSNature.html).
<http://www.ecospherics.net/pages/RolstonPeopleVSNature.html>
Reading Quiz: Rolston

11/23 Technology
Read: Thomas L. Friedman, *It's a Flat World After All*. (D2L)
Final Drafts Due

11/28 Technology
Read: Timothy Luke, *The Net Effects of E-Publicanism*. (D2L)

11/30 Conflict
P.W. Singer, [Robots and war: everything we're afraid to ask . . . afraid to ask . . . afraid to ask](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEIVjXemFp).
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEIVjXemFp>

0 **Geography Quiz: Africa**

12/1 Global Financial Crisis
Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission Report, Chapters 1, 4, and 21.
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fcic/fcic.pdf>

12/7 Global Financial Crisis
Paul Krugman, *The Return of Depression Economics*, Chapters 8 and 9 (D2L)

12/12 TBA

12/14 TBA

12/19 Final Exam - 3:30pm in our normal classroom.

* I reserve the right to change the terms of this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced in class and via D2L. It is your responsibility to keep up on these changes.