



# MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

School of Arts and Sciences

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>Course Number</b> POL 102	<b>Course Title</b> International Relations		
<b>Fall Semester</b> x	<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>Year</b> 2013-2014
<b>Name of Instructor</b> Chad Rector			
<b>Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Tuesday, Friday 12:30 p.m. - 01:45 p.m., Rowley G209			
<b>Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Friday, December 13, 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Rowley G209			
<b>Office Hours, Location, Phone</b> Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:45 and 11:45, Ireton Hall G108. See below for other times.			
<b>E-mail</b> crector@marymount.edu   worldpolitics.marymount.edu/102			

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

### Academic Integrity

By accepting this syllabus, you pledge to uphold the principles of Academic Integrity expressed by the Marymount University Community. You agree to observe these principles yourself and to defend them against abuse by others.

### Special Needs and Accommodations

Please advise the instructor of any special problems or needs at the beginning of the semester. If you seek accommodation based on disabilities, you should provide a Faculty Contact Sheet obtained through the Office of Student Access Services, located in Rowley Hall.

### Access to Student Work

Copies of your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will be submitted anonymously.

### Student Copyright Authorization

For the benefit of current and future students, work in this course may be used for educational critique, demonstrations, samples, presentations, and verification. Outside of these uses, work shall not be sold, copied, broadcast, or distributed for profit without student consent.

### University Policy on Snow Closings

Snow closings are generally announced on area radio stations. For bulletins concerning Marymount snow or weather closings, call (703) 526-6888. Unless otherwise advised by radio announcement or by official bulletins on the number listed above, students are expected to report for class as near normal time as possible on days when weather conditions are adverse. Decisions as to snow closing or delayed opening are not generally made before 5:00 AM of the working day. Students are expected to attend class if the University is not officially closed.

## 1. BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE

An introduction to relations between countries and an examination of the main conceptual approaches to understanding international conflict and cooperation. Liberal Arts Core/University Requirements Designation: GP, SS-1. (3)

## 2. COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course-specific objectives. After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain key recurring patterns in international politics,
2. Interpret new or ongoing political events in light of general theories of world politics, and
3. Research and write competently in preparation for upper-division coursework.

Introductory social science (SS1) objectives. After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain broad social science phenomenon including bargaining and conflict resolution, collective action and cooperation, and the use and limits of power,
2. Apply analytic concepts and broad theories to specific social phenomena, and
3. Critically engage competing explanations for change in the international system in preparation for upper-division coursework.

Global perspective (GP) objectives. In this course, students will:

1. Develop an understanding of the logic of the workings of international institutions outside of the United States,
2. Complete a series of short papers that together constitute a "global perspectives project" that demonstrates, through a combination of critical engagement with social science concepts and original research, an understanding of how societies relate to each other through international political conflict and cooperation.

## 3. TEACHING METHOD

Classes are a combination of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to read and discuss among themselves the assigned readings for the course, attend class and participate in discussions, and complete four written assignments and two exams.

I am available to meet with students Tuesdays and Fridays, with no appointment necessary, in my office in Ireton Hall G108, between 9:45 and 11:45. Or, make an appointment to meet with me during my rotating office hours, in which I am available at least four hours a week on different days. Make an appointment by choosing one of the open slots [on this calendar](#), linked to QR code on right. You must be logged in to gmail or Marymount email. Scroll to the right to see future weeks.



#### 4. GRADING POLICY

Final course grades will be determined on a fixed scale, not on a curve. Each assignment is worth a fixed number of points, listed below; these add up to 100. Each assignment will be returned with a numerical score. Course grades will be based on the total number of points out the 100 possible, with 90-100 an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and 59 and below an F.

Course grades will be based on a weighted average of the following:

- Three exams. 15% each, 45% total. October 11, November 15, and December 13. Each exam consists of two parts: 5 short-answer identification questions worth 2% each (choose 5 out of 8) and 1 short essay question worth 5% (choose 1 out of 2). Students who miss exams will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process.
- Four short papers due September 15, October 6, November 6, and December 4. 10 each. Each student's highest-scoring paper will count for double. 50% total. The specific assignments will be posted online three weeks before each due date. Papers will be at least 2 pages long, double-spaced, with standard font and margins. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. Papers are due at midnight the evening of the due date, and will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. These four papers together constitute a "global perspectives project" and must be completed with an average grade of C- (a total of 35 out of a possible 50 total points) to pass the course.
- Class participation. 5%. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings and apply them to contemporary issues. You may also earn extra credit for sustained contributions to discussion.

Extra credit:

- Extra credit games. We will play several games in class over the semester. Students who are in class will receive extra credit points which can significantly improve final course grade, depending on how they do in the game. Games will not be announced ahead of time, cannot be made up, and will not be held on recognized religious holidays.
- DC event. 5% for a first event and 3% for a second. Attend an event in the DC area on any subject related to world politics, broadly defined, and write a blog post summarizing your experience. Specific instructions about attending and reporting on events are [here](#). Posts must be well-written to receive credit; I will send back poorly-written posts for revisions before they are accepted. You will receive 5 extra credit points for one event and post, and 3 points for a second. All events must be completed by Friday December 6 and blog posts submitted for final approval by Sunday December 8. Blog posts are kept private by default, but we may make selected posts public by mutual agreement.

## Ungraded but mandatory course requirements:

- Assignments for study group and one-on-one meetings. You must meet with me in my office at least once one-on-one during the semester and at least twice as part of a study group. I will provide ample opportunity for students to set times for these meetings. At these meetings, you must bring a completed assignment. I will post specifics for the assignments in advance. If the assignment is incomplete, you will need to meet with me again to complete it properly. Failure to complete any one of these assignments will result in automatic failure of the course.
  - One-on-one meeting: an outline of a short paper you plan to write for one of the paper assignments, including source references, a thesis statement, and a summary of each contributing fact and idea. You must schedule this one-on-one meeting with me prior to the due date for either of the first two paper assignments.
  - First group meeting: a complete outline of a chapter from the textbook. This must be prior to the first exam.
  - Second group meeting: a complete set of notes from one class session. This must be completed prior to the second exam.
- Class attendance. Any student who misses 7 or more class sessions will automatically fail the course. Students will not be penalized for missing a class for a recognized religious holiday.

Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. Students who miss an exam will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. Students will not be penalized for missing a class assignment for a recognized religious holiday. The exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

Friday, September 27, 2013, is the last day to withdraw from a class without academic record.

Friday, November 1, 2013, is the last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of W.

I may, at my discretion, check any written assignments for plagiarism at any time during or after the semester, using electronic or other means. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. By accepting this syllabus and enrolling in the course, students acknowledge that they have reviewed the University's standards of academic integrity.

## 5. CLASS SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed before the class session under which they are listed. "FLS" refers to chapters in the textbook. Other readings are on the course website.

### Part 1: Conflict

- Tuesday, August 27 - Conflict  
No reading assigned
- Friday, August 30 - The World Wars  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 1
- Tuesday, September 3 - Violence and Political Objectives  
Reading: Carl von Clausewitz, On War, Chapters 1-2 ([link](#))
- Friday, September 6 - Preferences  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 2
- Tuesday, September 10 - Private information and incentives to lie  
No reading assigned
- Friday, September 13 - Pre-emptive and preventive war  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 3

Paper #1 due Sunday, September 15

- Tuesday, September 17 - Nuclear weapons and the early Cold War  
Reading: George Kennan, The Sources of Soviet Conduct ([link](#))
- Friday, September 20 - Nuclear deterrence and arms control  
Reading: Louis Menard, Fat Man ([link](#)) and Jeremi Suri, The Nukes of October ([link](#))
- Tuesday, September 24 - Ideology, religion, and violence  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 4
- Friday, September 27 - Balancing behavior  
No reading assigned (start on FLS Chapter 5)
- Tuesday, October 1 - International Institutions and war  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 5
- Friday, October 4 - Terrorism  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 6

Paper #2 due Sunday, October 6

- Tuesday, October 8 - Discussion and review
- Friday, October 11 - Exam #1

## Part 2: Cooperation

- Friday, October 18 - Climate  
Reading: Garrett Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons ([link](#))
- Tuesday, October 22 - Environmental cooperation  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 13
- Friday, October 25 - Trade  
Reading: start FLS, Chapter 7
- Tuesday, October 29 - The World Trade Organization  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 7
- Friday, November 1 - Poverty  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 10
- Tuesday, November 5 - Ethical issues  
No reading assigned

Paper #3 due Wednesday, November 6

- Friday, November 8 - Ethical questions  
Reading: Peter Singer notes ([link](#) and [link](#))
- Tuesday, November 12 - Discussion and review
- Friday, November 15 - Exam #2

## Part 3: American Leadership

- Tuesday, November 19 - International law  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 11
- Friday, November 22 - Human rights  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 12
- Tuesday, November 26 - International structure  
Reading: FLS, Chapter 14
- Tuesday, December 3 - American foreign policy realism and idealism  
No reading assigned

Paper #4 due Wednesday, December 4

- Friday, December 6 - Discussion and review
- Friday, December 13, 12:00-2:30 - Exam #3

## 6. REQUIRED TEXTS

The required textbook is available for purchase at the bookstore or any online retailer.

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, Second Edition*. Norton Press. ISBN: 978-0-393-91238-8.

## 7. REQUIRED OR SUGGESTED READINGS OR AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Other required readings are posted on the course web site, [worldpolitics.marymount.edu/102](http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/102).