



MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

School of Arts and Sciences

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number POL 220 A	Course Title International Relations		
Fall Semester 2012	Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Year 2012-2013
Name of Instructor Chad Rector			
Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:30-1:45, Rowley Hall G208			
Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number Friday, December 14, noon to 2:30, Rowley Hall G208			
Office Hours, Location, Phone Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:45-11:45, Ireton Hall G112			
E-mail crector@marymount.edu worldpolitics.marymount.edu/220			

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 historical survey of the relations between states and an examination of the main conceptual approaches, both past and present, that influence the way policymakers attempt to order their nation's relations with foreign countries.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of 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.

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 G112, between 9:45 and 11:45. To meet with me at other times, please contact me by email for an appointment.

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 and a letter grade equivalent. 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.

- Midterm exam on Friday, October 5, in class. 20% of final course grade. The midterm has two parts:
 1. Short answer questions; choose 5 of 8.
 2. Essay; choose 1 out of 2.
- Final exam on Friday, December 14, from noon to 2:30 p.m. 30%. The final exam has three parts:
 1. Short answer questions covering material from after the midterm; choose 5 of 8.
 2. Essay covering material from after the midterm; choose 1 out of 2.
 3. Essay question covering the whole course.

- Four short writing assignments due September 11, September 28, November 20, and December 4. 10% each. The specific assignments will be distributed in class and posted online one week before each due date. Papers will be between 1 and 3 pages long, double-spaced, with standard font and margins. Students turning in papers containing plagiarism will fail the course.
- Participation. 10%. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and class material and be ready to debate historical examples or current events. Quality of participation, rather than quantity, counts. Participation grades will be assigned at three intervals throughout the semester.
August 28 - October 5: 3%.
October 12 - November 2: 3%.
Nov 6 - Dec 7: 4%.

In addition, there are two sources of extra credit points.

- Extra credit games. We will play several games in class over the semester. Students who are in class will receive up to 1 point of extra credit (equivalent to 1% of the 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.
- International relations events in DC. Students may choose to attend an event in the DC area and write a blog post summarizing their experience. The course web page (worldpolitics.marymount.edu/220) has a list of suggested events and instructions for writing a post. Posts must be well-written to receive credit; I will send back poorly-written posts for revisions before they are accepted. Students will receive 5 extra credit points for one event and post, and 3 for a second. All events must be completed by Tuesday December 4 and blog posts submitted for final approval by Friday December 7.

Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. Students who miss the midterm or final exams 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 midterm and final exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

Any student who misses 7 or more class sessions for any reason will automatically fail the course.

The deadline to drop a course without academic record is Friday, September 28, for the Fall 2012 semester. Friday, October 26, 2012, is the last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of W.

Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process.

5. CLASS SCHEDULE

Reading assignments should be completed before the class session under which they are listed. "FLS" refers to chapters in the textbook by Frieden, Lake, and Schultz. Other readings are linked from the course website. All class meetings are in Rowley Hall room G208, from 12:30 to 1:45.

Part 1: Conflict

- Tuesday, Aug 28 - Conflict
No reading assigned
- Friday, August 31 - Violence and Political Objectives
Reading: Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Chapters 1-2 ([link](#))
- Tuesday, September 4 - Preferences
Reading: FLS, Chapter 2
- Friday, September 7 - The World Wars
Reading: FLS, Chapter 1
- Tuesday, September 11 - Private information and incentives to lie
No reading assigned
Paper #1 due
- Friday, September 14 - Pre-emptive and preventive war
Reading: FLS, Chapter 3
- Tuesday, September 18 - Nuclear weapons and the early Cold War
Reading: George Kennan, *The Sources of Soviet Conduct* ([link](#))
- Friday, September 21 - Nuclear deterrence and arms control
Reading: Louis Menard, *Fat Man* ([link](#))
- Tuesday, September 25 - The manipulation of risk
Reading: Jeremi Suri, *The Nukes of October* ([link](#))
- Friday, September 28 - National leaders and war
No reading assigned
Paper #2 due
- Tuesday, October 2 - Ideology, religion, and violence
Reading: FLS, Chapter 4

Midterm Exam: Friday, October 5

Part 2: Cooperation

- Friday, October 12 - Climate
No reading assigned
- Tuesday, October 16 - Externalities
Reading: Garrett Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons ([link](#))
- Friday, October 19 - Environmental institutions
Reading: FLS, Chapter 12
- Tuesday, October 23 - Trade
Reading: start FLS, Chapter 6
- Friday, October 26 - The World Trade Organization
Reading: finish FLS, Chapter 6
- Tuesday, October 30 - Arab-Israeli relations
Reading: CFR Crisis Guide, The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict ([link](#))
- Friday, November 2 - Terrorism and counterterrorism
Reading: FLS, Chapter 10
- Tuesday, November 6 - Global economic inequality
Reading: FLS, Chapter 9
- Friday, November 9 - Development institutions
Reading: New York Times Topics: World Bank ([link](#))
- Tuesday, November 13 - Human rights
Reading: FLS, Chapter 11
- Friday, November 16 - Nuclear proliferation
Reading: New York Times Topics: North Korea's Nuclear Program ([link](#))
- Tuesday, November 20 - The European Union
No reading assigned
Paper #3 due

Part 3: World order

- Tuesday, November 27 - Balancing
Reading: Thucydides, Book 1 ([link](#))
- Friday, November 30 - The United Nations
Reading: FLS, Chapter 5
- Tuesday, December 4 - Realism and Idealism in American foreign policy
No reading assigned
Paper #4 due
- Friday, December 7 - Discussion and review
No reading assigned

Final Exam: Friday, December 14, noon to 2:30

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. 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Norton Press. ISBN: 978-0-393-92709-2.

7. REQUIRED OR SUGGESTED READINGS OR AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Other required readings are posted on the course web site, worldpolitics.marymount.edu/220.