



South Portland, Maine 04106

Title: Introduction to International Relations

Catalog Number: POLS 110-D1

Credit Hours: 3

Total Contact Hours: 45

Instructor: Julie Mueller

Office : 102 Harborview

Office Hours:

Email :

Course Syllabus – Asynchronous class
FALL 2021

Course Description

Introduction to International Relations examines the process of political and power relationships among the nations of the world. The course introduces and analyzes current world issues including the impact of the Cold War on global relations, the war on terror, international environmental issues, globalization, monetary systems, international health concerns, militarism and the foreign policies of countries towards these complex issues. The important role that cultural perceptions play in global relations is emphasized. Through assigned readings and class discussion, students gain an understanding of the many different actors in international relations and how they affect today's global society. (Pre-reqs: ENGL 050 and ENGL 075)

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and identify important relations and issues between nations, international organizations and multinational corporations.
2. Compare and contrast diverse cultures and their relationships with each other.
3. Explain relationships between undeveloped, developing and developed nations.
4. Interpret world statistical data and demonstrate analytical and critical research skills.
5. Explain the implications of globalization for the United States, Maine, and your own lives.
6. Evaluate how components of foreign policy - such as trade, defense, and diplomacy - are interrelated.

General Education Learning Outcome Competencies

Communications:

SMCC students effectively communicate through writing, speaking and listening.

- Show ability to communicate ideas clearly, with a specific purpose and to a specific audience, utilizing appropriate strategies for varying contexts and logical organization methods.
- When necessary, utilize information literacy skills, including evaluation of information from a variety of media and proper MLA and/or APA documentation.
- Use critical thinking and listening skills in written and oral communication as a tool for learning.

Critical Thinking:

SMCC students learn to critically evaluate information using reason, experience, education, and training.

- Read and demonstrate an understanding of complex ideas by identifying key concepts in the field.
- Apply theory to practice using problem solving techniques and data analysis.
- Analyze and evaluate research data to produce a well-reasoned argument or position on an issue.
- Synthesize data from multiple sources to create and support a position.

Social and Cultural Knowledge:

SMCC students utilize social and cultural knowledge to demonstrate knowledge of cultural differences.

- Explain how social interactions and behavior are shaped and constrained by social structures, institutions, and/or the interplay of local, regional, national and/or global cultures.
- Articulate cultural and individual differences that underlie the complexities of human behavior and social interactions.
- Explain historical and/or political developments affecting societies and nations.

Course Readings

There is no textbook to purchase for this course, only the case studies listed below. All of the other course readings will be available on our class Brightspace page.

Case Studies (available online & at the [bookstore](#)):

<https://isd-georgetown-university.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage>

Clancy, Michael. Pew Case Study # 264, "Sweating the Swoosh: Nike, the Globalization of Sneakers, and the Question of Sweatshop Labor," Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Washington, DC, 2000.

Paul Sondrol. Pew Case Study #258, "The 'English' Patient: General Augusto Pinochet and International Law." Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Washington, DC, 2000. ISBN: 1-56927-230-1

Mandby, Bronwen. Pew Case Study # 267, "Shell in Nigeria: Corporate Social Responsibility and the Ogoni Crisis," Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Washington, DC, 2000.

Find a **reliable news source** – see recommendations under News Sources in Brightspace

I recommend that you purchase a wall-sized world political map, which can be found at

<http://www.ngmapstore.com> or at most book stores.

Grading

Your final grade will be divided among the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Assignments/Discussions (lowest 2 dropped)	30
Quizzes (lowest 2 dropped)	20
Case Study 1	10
Case Study 2	10
Case Study 3	10
Final Project	20

Please note that Brightspace will automatically drop your 2 lowest grades in the Assignments and Quiz categories throughout the semester, which is reflected in the Final Calculated Grade column.

Assignments/Discussions: Assignments vary from week to week, but may include discussions, writing assignments or group projects. For discussions, you will need to post your own original response to the discussion question by 11:59 PM **Wednesday**, and then respond to two of your classmates' posts and to comments on your own post by 11:59 PM **Friday**. All other assignments will be due on **Fridays** at 11:59 PM. Your *two lowest grades* in this category will be dropped when calculating your final grade.

Quizzes: Each week there will be a short quiz on the assigned readings and videos for the week. You will only have one attempt for each quiz and the quizzes are timed. Be sure to complete the readings/videos prior to beginning the quiz and take notes! Quizzes must be completed by **11:59 Friday** in each content week. Your *two lowest grades* in this category will be dropped when calculating your final grade.

Case Studies: Case studies introduce students to a specific historical event in IR and help them apply what they have been learning. Case studies will include a writing assignment with some basic questions about the case study and an online discussion. Your grade on the case study will be divided between the writing assignment (40%) and the discussion (60%). More information on this will be posted on Brightspace.

Final Project: The final project will be due the last week of the semester. You will have a choice of types of projects to pick from. The Final Project grade will include various assignments, like a topic and outline. More details will be posted on Brightspace.

Extra Credit: You may do **one** extra credit assignment during the semester. For this assignment, you may see a speaker or film on campus or in the community this semester (check with me if you're unsure) and write an analysis paper (3-5 pages). Some online lectures may also be used. Links will be posted on Blackboard. Papers should include a **brief summary** of the lecture and then your **critical analysis** of it, including **connections to the class material**. You will receive a total possible 5 points added to your final class grade for this assignment. All extra credit must be received by the second to last week of class.

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69
A- = 90-92	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	F = 62 and below

Class Communications

Your "job" this semester is to be a student. A key part of this job is effective communication with the instructor. **Class announcements** will be posted on Brightspace – be sure to check these daily and to set your notifications for announcements. **E-mail** is also a great way for me to stay in touch with the whole class, to let you know about changes in the schedule, to answer general questions, or to send you a personal message. Therefore, it is imperative that you check your SMCC e-mail account daily. When you send me an e-mail, it should come from your SMCC account, should include your name, class and section, and should address me as Professor Mueller. Think of this communication in the same way you would communicate with a work colleague. I will do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours, except on weekends, and I expect the same from you.

Attendance & Due Dates

This is an asynchronous class, which means there are no scheduled weekly meetings. The course is completed online through Brightspace. However, this course does have strict weekly deadlines. Having an active presence in the online course is necessary for attendance and will be the key to success. Students are considered to have attended each week if they complete a graded assignment. Students who do not complete any graded assignments for two weeks in a row, and do not contact me, are in danger of receiving an AF grade. If you do not complete any classwork during the week, you must contact me to indicate that you plan to continue in the class. **Assignments must be completed by the due date noted in Brightspace. All late assignments will receive a 0, except in the most extraordinary circumstances and with the prior approval of Prof. Mueller.**

Students who receive special accommodations for a disability should communicate privately with me about their needs as soon as possible. All materials in Brightspace should be ADA compliant, but please contact me if you find that's not the case.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Materials on Brightspace may differ from this list – when there is a difference, the correct assignments are on Brightspace. All the readings are either case studies or on Brightspace.

Please see Brightspace for specific due dates for graded assignments. No late assignments will be accepted, except in extraordinary circumstances and with the prior approval of Prof. Mueller.

Follow me on [Twitter](#) for news updates
@drjuliemueller

Week 1 – Introduction & Critical Thinking

August 30 – September 3

Reading: [The Human Cost of Burkina Faso's Refugee Crisis](#)

Videos: [Welcome Video](#)

[Alex Edmans on Critical Thinking](#)

[Working with Scholarly Articles](#)

[Lecture on Introduction to the Field of IR](#)

Contribute to Class Discussion Rules

Week 1A Assignment: Accept Online Discussion Guidelines

Week 1B Assignment: Week 1 Quiz

Week 1C Assignment: Class Introductions Discussion

Week 2 – The Historical Context of IR

September 4-10 **Drop/Add period ends September 7, 5 p.m.**

Reading: [E.H. Carr, Twenty-Years' Crisis, Chapters 1, 3 & 5](#)

[How Hegemony Ends](#)

Videos: [Lecture on International Relations in Modern History](#)

[Wilson's 14 Points](#)

Week 2A Assignment: Week 2 Reading/Video Questions

Week 3 – Realism

September 11-17

Reading: [One World, Rival Theories](#)

[The Melian Dialog](#)

[Structural Realism After the Cold War](#)

Videos: [Lecture on Realist Theory](#)

[Mearsheimer on Structural Realism](#)

Week 3A Assignment: Week 3 Quiz

Week 3B Assignment: Module 3 Realism Discussion

Week 4 – Liberalism

September 18-24

Reading: [Liberalism and World Politics](#)

Videos: [Lecture on Liberal Theory](#)

[Theory in Action: Liberalism](#)

[Lecture on the Prisoner's Dilemma](#)

[Joseph Nye on Soft Power](#)

Week 4A Assignment: Week 4 Quiz

Week 4B Assignment: Liberal Internationalism Assignment

Week 5 – Critical Theories

September 25 – October 1

Reading: Operationalizing a Feminist Foreign Policy

Videos: Lecture on Critical Theories
Lecture on Constructivism
Feminism and International Relations
Lecture on Dependency Theory

Week 5A Assignment: Week 5 Quiz

Week 5B Assignment: Operationalizing a Feminist Foreign Policy Discussion

Week 6 – Levels of Analysis

October 2-8

Reading: The Levels of Analysis Problem in IR

Videos: Lecture on Levels of Analysis
The Two-Level Game

Week 6A Assignment: Week 6 Quiz

Week 6B Assignment: Levels of Analysis Rohingya Assignment

Week 7 – Case Study 1

October 9-15

Holiday – October 11

Reading: Case Study #264, “Sweating the Swoosh

Case Study 1 Writing Assignment

Case Study 1 Discussion

Week 8 – United Nations

October 16-22

Reading: The Responsibility to Protect

Videos: Lecture on the UN
Lecture on R2P

Week 8A Assignment: Week 8 Quiz

Week 8B Assignment: UN & R2P Discussion

Week 9 – State Security

October 23-29

Reading: Crossing Borders: International Migration and National Security

Videos: Lecture on State Security
How the Taliban Weakened America

Week 9A Assignment: Week 9 Quiz

Week 9B Assignment: Migration and National Security Group Assignment

Week 10 – Case Study 2

October 30 – November 5

Reading: Case Study #258 The English Patient

Case Study 2 Writing Assignment

Case Study 2 Discussion

Week 11 – International Law and Human Rights

November 6-12 **Holiday November 11**

Reading: Bystanders to Genocide

China's Global Threat to Human Rights

Videos: Lecture on International Law

Lecture on Human Rights

Week 11A Assignment: Week 11 Quiz

Week 11B Assignment: Human Rights and International Law

Week 11C Assignment: Topic for Final Project

Week 12 – International Political Economy

November 13-19

Readings: Gilpin, The Political Economy, Chapters 1 & 2

Videos: Lecture on IPE Theories

Lecture on IPE Topics & Institutions

Lecture on Development

Why is Africa Still in Poverty?

Dambisa Moyo on Why Aid to Africa Has Been a Disaster

Week 12A Assignment: Week 12 Quiz

Week 12B Assignment: IPE Assignment

Week 13 – Globalization & Human Security

November 20-23 **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW: November 22, 5:00 P.M.**

Thanksgiving Holiday November 24-27

Reading: Five Wars of Globalization

Does Climate Change Cause Wars?

Videos: Lecture on Globalization

TED Talk on Human Security

Week 13A Assignment: Week 13 Quiz

Week 13B Assignment: Trade Simulation – Domestic Discussion

Week 13C Assignment: Outline for Final Project

Week 14 – International Cooperation

November 28 – December 3

Reading: Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation

Videos: Lecture on International Cooperation

Week 14A Assignment: Week 14 Quiz

Week 14B Assignment: Trade Simulation – International Negotiations & Summary

Week 15 – **Case Study 3**

December 4-10

Reading: Case Study #267, Shell in Nigeria

Case Study 3 Writing Assignment

Case Study 3 Discussion

Week 16 – FINAL PROJECT

December 11-17

FINAL PROJECT