Seminar in International Relations ~ POLS 5341.001
The University of Texas at Tyler ~ Spring 2017

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Office Hours: 11a and 12:30p and 2p to 3:30p on Tuesdays & Thursdays, and, of course, by appointment.

Seminar in International Relations

This seminar provides an overview of the field and study of international relations. Each week, a different approach to explaining international relations will be examined. By surveying major concepts and theories in the field, the seminar will also assist graduate students in preparing for the comprehensive examination and further study in the department's more specialized offerings in international relations.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

(1) Identify and describe the various approaches to the study of international relations through direct engagement with trends in scholarship within the discipline of political science.

(2) Recognize and apply the specific approaches of the sub-discipline of international relations through research and reflection, written and oral communication, and both formal and informal modes of interpersonal interaction.

(3) Describe the primary and alternative theories of international relations and explain how IR theories help scholars answer research questions concerning global relations.

Course and Learning Format

The format of the seminar is hybrid, a blend of face-to-face seminar and online learning on Blackboard. Much of the course learning activity is online, making it possible for our class time to be spent in discussion of our work in issues related to our subject matter. Our face-to-face time will be student-driven presentation and discussion. Discussions and presentations are intended to develop your public voice to go with the voice trained and given expression in written work. In the course, you will be introduced to the practices of international relations. This course will utilize Blackboard. Course readings (other than the assigned text books) will be posted in Blackboard, and all assignments must be submitted in Blackboard.

Required Reading

We will be reading each of these complete books over the fifteen weeks of the semester.


Assessment and Course Requirements

Attendance & Participation = 10%
Module Reflection Notes (4) = 15%
Global Relations Paper = 25%
Midterm Examination = 25%
Final Examination = 25%

Attendance & Participation – 10%

You are expected to attend class, to participate in our class discussions, and complete the online weekly writing assignments. This is not a lecture class; it is a seminar. Bring your readings, your questions, your answers, and your insights to class and be ready to articulate and discuss them.

Module Reflection Notes – Reading, Discussion, and Lecture Summaries – 15%

For each module, you will post a short paper (about 800-1000 words) analytical summaries of that module’s reading and discussion. Your analytical summary should (1) identify the main argument(s) of the reading, (2) brief the major points the author is trying to make, and (3) indicate how he or she used those points and examples to make the argument. Your paper should not be a list of answers to the above questions or a set of statements from your notes or a list of any sort. Rather, it should be a well-conceived and readable description of the work that would communicate its meaning and significance to someone who has not read the work.

Global Relations Essay – 25%

This essay represents the "research dimension" of the course. Each student will prepare a paper using the reading, lectures, discussions, and scholarly journals to survey developments in topics and theory prevalent in a specific sub area of international relations. Your paper should demonstrate your understanding of the following: What questions are being asked in the sub-discipline and how are they being asked and researched? Essay is due and must be posted in Blackboard.

Exams will be essay format and must be complete online in Blackboard during none-face-to-face weeks.

Midterm Exam – 25 points ~ This will be an essay examination taken in Blackboard. This examination will cover the first two modules of the course.
Final Exam – 25 points ~ This will be an essay examination taken in Blackboard. This examination will cover the second two modules in the course.

Course Units and Outline:

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Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www.uttler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www.uttler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies: Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated.

Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy: Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).
Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services: In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services office in UC 3150, or call (903) 566-7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities: If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement: It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation: Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not reenter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University: All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kretekts, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.