POLS 5341: Seminar in International Relations

Spring 2013, Tuesdays, 6-8:40 p.m.
Dr. Rachel Bzostek

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Phone: 566-7410
Email: rbzostek@uttyler.edu
(pREFERRED method of contact)

Office Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9-10:30
Wednesdays: 1-3
or by appointment

I check my email frequently during in-person office hours, though if I am with a student responses to email may be delayed during this time period. For any email sent outside of office hours, you should expect a response within 48 hours (excepting Sundays).

Email policy: per university request, I will only communicate with students through your Patriot email accounts. The university has had several problems reaching students with vital questions or information because they do not check their Patriot email, and they have asked faculty to require that students use their Patriot email accounts. All responses to student email will be sent only to your Patriot email account (even if you send the email from some other account). After January 24th (the census date), email sent from any non-Patriot email account will not be answered. Furthermore, please be aware that email sent from non-Patriot email accounts may be blocked by the university’s spam filters.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This is a graduate seminar focusing on the core theoretical perspectives of international relations. Understanding fundamental foundations of international relations will prepare students to pursue extended research or additional study in the field.

After completing this course, students will be familiar with:

- The primary theories of international relations
- The development/progression of IR theory over time
- How IR theories help answer research questions concerning international issues

Readings

The following textbooks are required:

ISBN: 978-0-691-14783-3


NOTE: Listed as DKS on Syllabus


You should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. This course is a seminar, and, as such, is intended to be more of a directed discussion among the class rather than an instructor-driven lecture. Completing the readings before class is a crucial component for not only a good in-class discussion, but also for getting as much as possible out of the course. If you have questions about the readings, please ask!! Class time is our opportunity to explore the information addressed in the
information, and your questions or concerns about the readings can provide excellent starting points for our discussions.

Occasionally we may not cover all of the topics or information for a given section on the syllabus. With respect to what may be covered on the course exams, however, you are also responsible for all of the assigned material, even if it is not discussed in class. Additionally, material may be covered during class that is not in the reading but will be on the exams. If you have to miss class, it is strongly recommended that you get a copy of the notes from a classmate.

A Note on the Readings
Since we are only meeting once a week, it is very easy to fall behind on the readings. While there may not be an overwhelming amount of reading for any one week, it can pile up quite rapidly if you fall behind. Additionally, the emphasis for this course will be on making sure that you have read and understand the material assigned, rather than assigning a very large amount of reading and hoping that you remember most of it. In other words, the emphasis is on quality, not quantity. However, this model does require that you complete all the readings before our class discussions.

If you are having problems with the readings or the course material, please come and talk to me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at a different time. Communication is key to any successful relationship, and the classroom environment is no different. We can work on strategies to help you with the information, but it is up to you to take the first step.

Assignments
There will be two exams in this course: a midterm exam on March 5 and a final exam on May 7. The exams are not multiple choice and it is important that you read and study the course material very carefully so that you can answer the exam questions that are actually asked. In other words, to pass the class (or to get the grade that you may want), you must make sure that you actually answer the questions that are asked on the exams. Answers that may be correct with respect to content, but fail to answer the question that was asked, will not be given credit.

Periodic quizzes covering the course material may also be given. There will be no make-ups given for exams or quizzes except for absences due to extreme and documented emergencies. Make-up exams or quizzes may differ in both form and content than the scheduled exams. Additionally, any requests for make-up exams or quizzes must be made as quickly as possible, but no later than 2 class sessions after the exam or quiz. Requests to make up the final must be made within 24 hours of the exam. In other words, if an emergency arises and you cannot take an exam or quiz, you need to let me know ASAP.

There will also be a writing assignment for the course. A 20-25 page research paper is due no later than 6 pm on April 30. For this paper, you will need to conduct independent research to answer a specific research question in the field of international relations. A brief paper proposal (including your research question and a brief discussion of your proposed methodology to answer the question) is due at 6 pm February 19, 2013. You are encouraged to look through the assigned readings for the semester for ideas about avenues for research.

You are encouraged to come and discuss paper topics with the professor before this deadline. However, once the proposals are submitted, you will not be able to change your topic. Additional information on the writing assignment will be given before the proposal due date. No extensions will be given for this assignment except for extreme and documented emergencies. All papers must be submitted to SafeAssign in Blackboard prior to the beginning of class on the due date. No additional submission is necessary. Papers that are not uploaded into SafeAssign in Blackboard will not be graded.
Students will also be asked to complete 6 short papers (no more than 5 pages) discussing the course reading. The papers will be due into Blackboard at 5 pm on the day we discuss the set of readings that you cover in your paper. More information on the short papers will be given in class at the beginning of the semester and will be posted in Blackboard.

Since the course is a seminar, attendance is mandatory and will be taken every week. Additionally, as a seminar, participation by the whole class is a key element. In this respect, you will also be given a participation grade each week.

**Blackboard**

This class will be utilizing Blackboard. Course readings (other than the assigned text books) will be posted in Blackboard, and all assignments must be submitted via SafeAssign in Blackboard. If you experience any problems logging into Blackboard, you should seek help from Campus Computing. Their office is located in BUS 101, and they can be reached by email at itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu. Please include your full name, student ID number and date of birth in any communications you send to them.

You will not be able to successfully complete this course without reliable access to Blackboard. If you are experiencing problems with Blackboard, please contact Campus Computing as soon as possible to get the issues resolved. A Blackboard Wiki is also available that may help you resolve some problems with Blackboard.

**Grading**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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The research paper, midterm exam, and final exam are fundamental elements of the course. You cannot pass the class if you do not complete each of these assignments.

**Final Grades**

A: 90 - 100%
B: 80 – 89.9%
C: 70 – 79.9%
D: 60 – 69.9%
F: Below 59.9%

**Classroom Etiquette**

In order for everyone to get the most out of the semester, it is essential that we all follow some simple rules of classroom behavior. Students who repeatedly engage in disruptive behavior may be asked to leave the classroom.

1. Please be respectful of your fellow students. The classroom is an environment for everyone to explore new topics and ideas—and it is also an opportunity for everyone to share his or her thoughts about these topics. A vibrant discussion is one of the unique elements of the university environment, but it will only work if everyone is respectful of the thoughts and opinions of the others.
2. Please turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed. Texting during class is not only disrespectful, but if you are paying attention to your phone, you are not paying attention to class. If your phone or pager rings during an exam, you will have to turn in your exam at that time. **No questions asked, no exceptions.**
3. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications (including materials for other courses) in the classroom. Also, please do not play games, surf on the web, or IM when you use a laptop computer. Reading other materials, playing on your computer, and chatting with your friends...
online during class not only distracts those around you, but removes you from the active classroom environment.

4. Please refrain from having side conversations, eating, or other disruptive activity during class.

5. Please come to class on time and stay for the entire class. If you know that you are going to be late, or if you have to leave early, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your entrance/exit will be less disruptive. Leaving early without letting me know ahead of time may result in the forfeiture of points for course participation on that day.

6. Please make sure that come to class prepared to be an active participant in all classroom activities. This includes having paper and either a pen or pencil. There may be instances where we do activities in class that require you not to use your computer. If you do not have other means of communication with you at the time, you cannot complete the activity.

**Academic Integrity**

The UT Tyler community regards cheating as an extremely serious matter, and deals severely with those who violate the standards of academic integrity.

The following are some examples of academic dishonesty:

- **Plagiarism** is when you use the language, ideas, thoughts, or work of someone else as your own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
  - the use of direct quotations without quotation marks and without credit to the source;
  - paraphrasing or using direct quotations within quotation marks without credit to the source;
  - failure to provide adequate citations for material obtained through electronic or traditional research;
  - downloading and submitting work from electronic databases without citation;
  - submitting material created/written by someone else as your own, including purchased term/research papers;
  - allowing someone to copy or submit your work as his or her own;
  - participation in a group project which presents plagiarized materials;
  - submitting the same paper in more than one course without the knowledge and approval of all instructors involved;
  - assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing your work to be used in this fashion;
  - aiding and abetting another student’s dishonesty.

- **Cheating** is defined generally as copying from someone else’s exam, homework, laboratory work, or any other form or coursework (including online assignments and quizzes). Types of cheating include but are not limited to:
  - using notes or other materials during a quiz, test, or exam without authorization;
  - obtaining or providing unauthorized information during an examination or assignment through verbal, visual, or unauthorized use of books, notes, texts, or other materials;
  - obtaining or providing information concerning all or part of an examination or quiz prior to that examination or quiz;
  - taking an examination or quiz for another student or arranging for another person to take an exam or quiz in one’s place;
  - altering or changing test or quiz answers after submitting it for grading or after grades have been awarded;
  - releasing information about an examination or quiz to anyone who has yet to take the examination or quiz.

UT Tyler reserves the right to impose disciplinary action for a violation of university rules.
Additional information on Academic Integrity at UT Tyler can be found here: http://www.uttyler.edu/mainsite/conduct.html.

**University Policies**

**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.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html

**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.uttyler.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 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowrey Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu
**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 re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**Important Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>January 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census Date</td>
<td>January 21</td>
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<td>Last Day to Drop/Withdraw</td>
<td>March 25</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 11-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Study Days</td>
<td>May 3 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research proposal due</td>
<td>February 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>March 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper due</td>
<td>April 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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**Schedule of Readings:**

You should have the readings **completed** by the date listed on the syllabus. The schedule of readings is subject to change. You will be notified of any changes to the schedule of readings as soon as possible.

The syllabus is divided by specific topic. The readings will inform our discussions for each class. If you have questions concerning the readings, bring them with you to class and we will address them in class, but do not let your questions keep you from completing the readings.

**All readings that are not in the assigned course textbooks are available in Blackboard.**

**January 15: Course Introduction**

- No assigned reading

**January 22: Introduction to IR**

- DKS, Chapter 1
- Drezner, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* (complete book)
- Film: “Dawn of the Dead”

**January 29: Realism, part 1**

- DKS, Chapters 3 & 4

**February 5: Realism, part 2**
- Stiles, Chapters 3 & 5

**February 12: Liberalism, part 1**
- DKS, Chapters 5 & 6

**February 19: Liberalism, part 2**
- Stiles, Chapters 10 & 17

**February 26: Constructivism**
- DKS, Chapter 9
- Stiles, Chapter 7

**March 5: MIDTERM**

**March 19: 2 Topics**

1. **The English School**
   - DKS, Chapter 7
   - Stiles, Chapter 20

2. **Marxism & Critical Theory**
   - DKS, Chapter 8
   - Stiles, Chapter 2

**March 26: Dedicated Research Period, No Formal Class Session**

**April 2: 2 Topics**

**Topic 1: Feminism**
- DKS, Chapter 10
April 9: 2 Topics

**Topic 1: Poststructuralism**
- DKS, Chapter 11
- Stiles, Chapter 8

**Topic 2: Postcolonialism**
- DKS, Chapter 12
- Stiles, Chapters 16 & 18

April 16: Green Theory
- DKS: Chapter 13
- Stiles, Chapter 12

April 23: Globalization
- DKS, Chapter 14
- Stiles, Chapter 14

April 30: Wrap Up & Review
- Final Papers Due

May 7: Final Exam