

Poli 380: Conflict, Security, and Peace in International Relations

Fall 2017 Semester Syllabus

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check D2L for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mert Kartal

Office: CCC 480

Office Hours: E-mail me 48 hours in advance to arrange an in-person meeting in my office

Virtual Office Hours: E-mail me 48 hours in advance to arrange an online meeting via the "Online Rooms (Ultra)" tab on the course homepage

Office Telephone: 715-346-4108

E-mail: mkartal@uwsp.edu (preferred contact)

Course Information

Course Description: Analysis of the existence and/or lack of conflict, security, and peace in international politics. Intended for students desiring a basic familiarity with theories of international security and how to apply them to real-world examples of conflict, security, and peace

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Expected Instructor Response Times

- I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please resend your email.
 - If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q&A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.
- I will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing.

- Online quizzes are graded automatically. You will receive your quiz grade immediately upon completion. Detailed feedback on your quiz performance (e.g., your answers, correct answers, where to locate the information for correct answers, class average, etc.) will become available on D2L under the "Quizzes" tab right after the deadline to complete the quiz passes.
- I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours, however longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

Should there be a change in any of the aforementioned response times, I will post an announcement on the course's homepage under "News."

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: The reading package for this course consists of academic journal articles, book chapters, and newspaper articles all of which are available online. To access, simply log on to the course homepage, and click on the "Content" tab. All assigned readings grouped by week.

Recommended Texts & Other Readings: Recommended readings will be distributed via e-mail as they become available.

Course Requirements

- Minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for online courses can be found [here](#).
- All the materials you need for success in the course (e.g., readings, slides, video explanations, assignments) are available on the course's D2L page.

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system D2L. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [D2L Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

In D2L, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-paced and group-paced activities using D2L. Activities will consist of discussion forums, email, and quizzes.

D2L Access

This course will be delivered fully online through a course management system called D2L.

To access this course on D2L you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, Safari). To ensure that you are using the recommended personal computer configurations, please refer to the [D2L settings link](#).

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with D2L you can:

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the [HELP Desk](#)

Links to Technology Policy Statements

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

- [Collaborate Ultra Terms of Use](#)
- [Collaborate Ultra Privacy Policy](#)
- [Collaborate Ultra Accessibility](#)

D2L Brightspace

- [D2L Brightspace Terms of Use](#)
- [D2L Brightspace Privacy Policy](#)
- [D2L Brightspace Accessibility](#)

Google

- [Google Accessibility](#)
- [Google Privacy Policy](#)

Kaltura

- [Kaltura Terms of Use](#)
- [Kaltura Privacy Policy](#)
- [Kaltura Accessibility](#)

Microsoft PowerPoint

- [MS PowerPoint Accessibility](#)

Turnitin

- [Turnitin Accessibility](#)
- [Turnitin Privacy Policy](#)

YouTube

- [YouTube Accessibility](#)
- [YouTube Privacy Policy](#)

Closed captioning or scripts are provided for all audio and video components created by the instructor.

You will need the following technical skills to succeed in this course: Using the D2L system; using email with attachments, creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats (e.g., MS Word); copying and pasting; using presentation programs (e.g., MS PowerPoint).

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. ... describe the basic facts (e.g., anarchy) and patterns (e.g., interstate cooperation and conflict) of international politics.
2. ... apply two major paradigms (i.e., realism and liberalism) in international relations to explain these patterns.
3. ... investigate the conditions under which states (fail to) cooperate on security-related issues (e.g., wars, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and peace).
4. ... build simple formal models to identify the conditions under which states (fail to) cooperate on aforementioned security-related issues.
5. ... communicate their own interpretation of security-related developments in international politics to their peer students clearly, concisely, and convincingly.
6. ... appraise their peers' interpretation of security-related developments in international politics.

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Complete assigned lecture and reading material in a timely manner.
- Participate in online discussions often and regularly.
- Do online quizzes on a weekly basis.
- Take two midterm exams and one final exam.

Topic Outline/Schedule

Important Note: Refer to the D2L course calendar for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module. Contact me if you have any questions.

Week	Topic	Readings	Activities	Due Date
1	Interests, Interactions, Institutions	Frieden <i>et al.</i> (2015), Ch2 AND Friedman (2003)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	September 7 @5PM September 10 @11:59PM
2	Theories of International Security	Frieden <i>et al.</i> (2015), Ch5; Mearsheimer (2006); Walt (2012)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	September 14 @5PM September 17 @11:59PM
3	Distribution of Power	Quackenbush (2015), Ch5 AND Larson and Shevchenko (2010)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	September 21 @5PM September 24 @11:59PM
4	Rational Choice Theory	Quackenbush (2015), Ch3	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	September 28 @5PM October 1 @11:59PM
5	Rationalist Explanations for War	Frieden <i>et al.</i> (2015), Ch3	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	October 5 @5PM October 8 @11:59PM
6	First Midterm	None	Complete Exam via D2L	October 15 @11:59PM
7	Why do states build nuclear weapons? (I)	Sagan (1996) AND Ahmed (1999)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	October 19 @5PM October 22 @11:59PM

8	Why do states build nuclear weapons? (II)	Jervis (1976), Ch3	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	October 26 @5PM October 29 @11:59PM
9	Are Nuclear Weapons Good or Bad? (I)	Sagan and Waltz (2003), Ch1 and Ch2	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	November 2 @5PM November 5 @11:59PM
10	Are Nuclear Weapons Good or Bad? (II)	Ganguly (2008) AND Kapur (2008)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	November 9 @5PM November 12 @11:59PM
11	Second Midterm	None	Complete Exam via D2L	November 19 @11:59PM
12	NO CLASS! (HAPPY TURKEY DAY!)			
13	Are terrorists rational?	Pape (2003) AND Trager & Zagorcheva (2005)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	November 30 @5PM December 3 @11:59PM
14	Strategies of Terrorism	Kydd & Walter (2006) AND Lemann (2001)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	December 7 @5PM December 10 @11:59PM
15	Democratic Peace	Layne (1994) AND Mansfield & Snyder (1995)	Discussion Forum Online Quiz	December 14 @5PM December 15 @11:59PM
16	Final Exam	None	Complete Exam via D2L	December 21 @11:59PM

Grading Policies

Graded Course Activities

Click the **Content** link in D2L to access course content.

Description	Percentage
Online Discussion	20%
Online Quizzes	10%
First Midterm Exam	20%
Second Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total Points Possible	100%

Online Discussion

You all are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar. In particular, regular participation in our online discussions is an important and required element of the course and will be critical to successfully learning the material.

A number of discussion questions will be posted on the online discussion board every week. You are expected to post your answers by Thursday, 5PM. Once you have submitted your answers, you will be given access to other students' posts, and you will have until Friday, 11:59PM to critique their responses. Overall, I expect all of you to use the online discussion board often and regularly (e.g., a few times per week), be prepared to answer questions that are posed, ask questions about concepts that are not clear, challenge viewpoints expressed in the reading or class discussion, and be involved in the conversations.

Online discussions provide the medium by which we all can collaborate, share ideas, and learn from each other's personal experiences and views. When you participate in an online discussion, you should attempt to immerse yourself in the discussion. Online discussions are analogous to interactions that occur in lectures and discussions in traditional brick and mortar classrooms. Online discussions depend on all participants actively engaging, providing their best input, sharing their ideas and thoughts, and interacting with each other.

Online Quizzes

In order to provide steady feedback on your progress, we will have 12 online quizzes during the course of the semester. Each weekly quiz will consist of 10 (or fewer) multiple choice questions on the reading material assigned for the week the quiz takes place. Questions will aim to reward the students who do the assigned readings in a timely manner. Each quiz will become available on D2L at the beginning of every week, and you will have until Sunday at 11:59PM to complete it. At the end of the semester, each student's two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Exams

There will be three open-book exams during the semester:

- The first midterm will become available on D2L on October 11 at 12:00AM, and you will have until October 15 at 11:59PM to submit your answers.
- The second midterm will become available on D2L on November 15 at 12:00AM, and you will have until November 19 at 11:59PM to submit your answers.
- The final exam will become available on D2L on December 18 at 12:00AM, and you will have until December 21 at 11:59PM to submit your answers.

Detailed information about the three exams is available on D2L under "Content."

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through D2L unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Late Work Policy

Please take note of all exam and assignment dates, and make plans around them. Except in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, make-up assignments will not be offered. Any requests for accommodations must be made at least one week in advance to be considered. I understand that emergencies happen. In a genuine emergency, I am very willing to work with you. I will, however, require documentation of emergencies (e.g., notes from doctors, emergency room personnel, etc.) in all instances.

Late submissions will be penalized 10 percentage points (from 90\% to 80\%) for each day or fraction of a day late (e.g., 5 minutes past the deadline).

Re-grading Policy

If you feel that any assignment has been graded incorrectly, you may request that it be regraded. However, you must wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. Following such "cooling-off" period, you must provide a 1-2-page double-spaced memo indicating the reason for your concern and why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work (i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students). Upon receiving your memo, I will regrade the entire assignment

in question within 72 hours. This means that the revised grade may be higher or lower than what you originally received. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes; this is not a risk-free process.

Viewing Grades in D2L

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the D2L Grade Book. Click on the Grades link to view your points.

I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 72 hours following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your D2L home page under the link to this course.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	0-59%

Course Policies

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Adapted from:

Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). *Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus*. Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 6(1). Retrieved from http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt_0310.htm

Shea, V. (1994). Netiquette. Albion.com. Retrieved from: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/>.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if the aforementioned emergency/special circumstances are documented. All incomplete course assignments must be completed by the end of the following semester.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Learning Resource Center and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu

Statement of Policy

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 LRC, or (715) 346-3365.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal

effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

(1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
- (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.