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School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2018

DIPL 2120 International Conflict and Security

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International Conflict and Security (DIPL 2120)
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University (Fall 2018)
Location: Stafford Hall, Room 207
Time: Thurs. 2pm to 4:30pm

Instructor: Zainab Alam
Email: Zainab.Alam@shu.edu
Office: McQuaid Hall, Room 101-C
Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 P.M. (or by appointment)

I: Course Description:

This course focuses on the international politics of security in which conflict and cooperation dynamics are center-stage. International security is a field that looks at the threat and uses of force by state and non-state actors for political ends. We will discuss the origins of major power wars, the nuclear revolution, strategies of peace and violence, and asymmetric conflicts from a perspective that is not US-centric. Some of the questions we will address are: Why do states go to war? Under what circumstances have peaceful dispute resolutions taken place? Does humanitarian intervention exist? What are the current trends pertaining to political violence?

Course Objectives:

In this course, we will identify various concepts pertaining to war and peace, analyze different frameworks to study why states go to war, understand security strategies, study interstate war and look at defense policies. In doing so, we will be examining theories, making arguments and learning to synthesize complex insights into more easily digestible ideas about peace and conflict.

II Course Requirements:

- **Required Texts:**
 - *Conflict After the Cold War*
Author: Richard Betts
5th Ed., 4/11/17 – Routledge ISBN: 978-1-1382-9069-3
 - *Understanding Global Conflict & Cooperation*
Author: Joseph S. Nye & David A. Welch
10th Ed., 1/22/16 – Longman ISBN: 978-0-1344-0316-8
- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. There are no

unexcused absences. After two absences, your final grade will drop by half a letter for each absence.

- **Participation (15 points):** You are expected to read the required materials specified for each session prior to class - otherwise, following the lectures, understanding points of departure, taking good notes and contributing to class discussion would be very difficult, if not impossible. Class lectures are designed to be complementary to the required readings and will summarize, criticize, and analyze the reading materials. If you are noticeably absent from participating in class discussions, I will call on you and ask you to participate. There are also in-class assignments throughout the semester which count towards this grade.
- **Peace Treaty Analyses (20 points):** Twice during the course of the semester, once before the midterm and once after the midterm, you will be required to submit an analysis of a peace treaty (or other peace process approved by me in advance) in MS Word format. Each of these two analyses should be at least 1200 words (not including notes), and should both summarize the historical background of the conflict, and describe the peace treaty process and the current conflict situation.
- **Interstate Conflict Presentations (15 points):** At the beginning of the semester, each student will be asked to pick a country on which they would like to focus. Throughout the semester, you will get together as a group to discuss conflict-related events of relevance to your particular country. Towards the end of the semester, you will be expected to make a **10-minute presentation**, in which you provide an overview of an interstate conflict in your country, and submit a 1250 word written overview to me to supplement this presentation. Additional details will be posted on Blackboard as the semester progresses.
- **Exams (50 points):** There will be a midterm worth 25 points (October 18) and a final exam worth 25 points (50 points in total). Except in serious cases of emergency, no make-up exam will be granted (see below).
- **Absences and Late Work:** Absences from either the midterm or final will result in a **zero** point for that examination unless you have a *written, legitimate excuse* (doctors note etc. for that absence) explaining the reasons for your absence on that particular day. If you have a last-minute emergency it is your responsibility to let me know and properly document your emergency as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours). In case of approved emergency, a makeup exam will be administered at a time suitable to the student and instructor, and will most likely differ from the first exam. Late papers will also not be accepted, except in cases of legitimate emergency. Should the instructor decide to accept such lateness, points will be deducted corresponding to the number of days the assignment is handed in after the due-date.

- **Assignments Weighting and Grading:** There are a total of 100 possible points for this course. The relative weight of each assignment is as follows:

Participation	15 points
Peace Treaty Analysis	20 points
Interstate Conflict Presentations	15 points
Midterm exam	25 points
Final exam	25 points

Grading Scale

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 63-66, D- 60-62, D+ 67-69, F 59 and below

III. Submissions, Electronic Devices and Other Communications

- Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.
- The use of cell phones is prohibited in the classroom. Cellular devices need to be turned off or on silent and out-of-sight. Laptops and tablets can also be immensely distracting, and it is expected that they will be used for class-related purposes only. If you are caught on your phone, or on social media or doing non-class related activities on these other devices, it will count negatively towards your participation grade.
- Email is the best way of communicating with me. When emailing, be sure to be professional and make sure your let me know what class you are in. I will respond in a timely manner.

IV. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here:
<<http://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>>
<<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>>

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services

(DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at [\(973\) 313-6003](tel:9733136003) or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

Policy on Incompletes:

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

V. Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation for disabilities must have their disability on file with the appropriate office at Seton Hall University before they can be accommodated. Please let me know at the earliest should you need any prescribed attention.

VI. Class Calendar and Reading Schedule*

Week 1: August 30

Subject: Introduction

Readings: N&W Chapter 2-3

Week 2: September 6

Subject: Visions of War and Peace

Sign up for countries

Readings: RB Part I, N&W Chapter 4

Week 3: September 13

Subject: International Realism: Anarchy and Power

Readings: RB Part II

Week 4: September 20

Subject: International Liberalism: Institutions and Cooperation

Reading: RB Part III

Week 5: September 27

Subject: Psychology: The Human Mind and International Conflict

Readings: RB Part IV

Week 6: October 4

Subject: Culture: Customs, Norms and Learning

Readings: RB Part V

Week 7: October 11 (No Class, Fall Break)

Week 8: October 18

Midterm exam

Week 9: October 25

Subject: Economics: Interests and Interdependence

Reading: RB Part VI, N&W Chapter 8

Week 10: November 1

Subject: Politics: Ideology and Identity

Reading: RB Part VII, N&W Chapter 9

Week 11: November 8

Subject: Military Technology, Strategy and Stability

Reading: RB Part VIII

Week 12: November 15

Subject: Revolution, Unconventional Warfare and Terrorism

Reading: RB Part IX, N&W Chapter 9

Week 13: November 22 (No class, Thanksgiving)

Week 14: November 29

Subject: New Threats

Reading: RB Part X, N&W Chapter 10

Week 15: December 6 (Last day of class)

Subject: Wrap up and Presentations

Final Exam: TBA

*Changes may be made to the class reading schedule as the semester progresses.