

Seton Hall University

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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2024

DIPL 1711 Introduction to International Relations

Brandon Valeriano Ph.D.

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Seton Hall University

School of Diplomacy

Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2024

DIPL 1711 AA – 30013 // T – 11-1:30pm

DIPL 1711 AC – 31150 // T – 2-4:30pm

DIPL 1711 AB – 31149 // R – 11-1:30pm

Location (all sections): Muscarelle Hall (SH) 207

Contact

Professor: Brandon Valeriano, PhD

Contact: valeribr@shu.edu

Office Hours: Cafeteria (usually by coffee area) T 1:30-2pm and R 1:30-2:30pm

Office: T 4:30-5pm and by Request via Teams nearly any day

Office: McQuaid Hall - 135

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of International Relations (IR). It is designed to help the student uncover how scholars and practitioners understand international relations by putting the major theories and issue areas within the discipline in a historical and “active” perspective. The course leverages classic, primary, and novel online source materials to present key concepts in International Relations.

Course Goals

By the end of the course the student will have a general understanding of the history and development of international affairs, international relations, and global studies. The student will be able to grasp and articulate the main issue areas and core theories of International Relations. After this course, the student will be prepared to undertake advanced studies in international relations and diplomacy. The student will also be able to engage in and articulate constructive analysis of current international affairs and issues. Thinking critically about the world, global issues, and diplomacy are core demands of an engaged global citizen.

Learning Objectives:

- Plan research into key contemporary international issues
- Integrate material from course readings and lectures with real-world research
- Appraise the prospects for international conflict and cooperation on key issues
- Present research findings in a cogent and professional fashion

Course Text:

Recommended (*not Required – Most readings are online):

Snyder, Mingst, and McKibben; *Essential Readings in World Politics*; 8th Edition, 2022, W.W. Norton and Company.

Course Requirements

Current Events

We will start each class session reviewing current events and global news. Anything that is relevant to International Relations is fair game and the students are encouraged to bring new items to discuss and dissect. Key sources include the New York Times, Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and the BBC.

Class Readings

Students are expected to come to class having read all the required readings. Frequently through Canvas I will push out new and interesting news stories and analysis. The students should do their best to maintain an active vigilance on the course readings, suggested readings, and key topics of conversation.

Participation and Attendance

Students who miss more than five classes will be dropped from the course. Students can also miss two class sessions with no consequence. After three missed class meetings there will be an active impact on the participation grade. Participation is also measured by active participation in classroom discussions and activities. There will be a sign in sheet for each class.

Grading

No Exams! The focus is on short writing assignments cumulating in one longer assignment. You are encouraged to use provided sources, suggested sources, found sources, and generative AI to help produce your written assignments. As always, all text used in your assignments must be original or attributed to a source.

More information on each assignment will be provided on Canvas.

Debate Piece (Due Dec ??th, can be turned in at any time)

Everyone is required to participate in one debate (denoted by ** on syllabus). More information will follow but the basic goal is to select one position and write a 1-2k word support document (white paper) for your argument.

Nuclear War and Deterrence (Mid Term – Due October ??th)

More information will follow but you will be tasked with watching both Dr. Strangelove and Godzilla Minus One, reacting to the main positions of each movie as it relates to nuclear warfare, deterrence, and international peace. <3,000 words

Key Theme Analysis (Final Paper, December ?th)

More information to follow, but you will be given a series of prompts relating to a core theme of the course (such as Deterrence) and react to the accuracy of the information, identify superior sources, explain the argument, and relate it to a recent issue in international affairs. This assignment brings all tasks and activities from this course into focus. >3,000 words

Rubic

Participation: 10%

Think Piece: 25%

Nuclear War Short Paper: 30%

Final Theme Analysis: 35%

Grading Scale

A: 93+

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: 63-66

F: 0-62

Course Policies:**Computer Use:**

You are adults, just do not disturb your neighbors and the rest of the class. Respect the course and your own time, do not show up if you intend to be on social media the entire time.

Attendance:

Attendance is covered under participation. Attendance is not mandatory but there will be an impact on your participation grade and ultimate grades since attendance correlates with higher marks. If you need help, support, or want to engage with the course outside of the classroom, do come to office hours or arrange meetings for lunch or breakfast with me and fellow classmates.

Disability Services Statement

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 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.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

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:

<https://www.shu.edu/documents/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

and <https://www.shu.edu/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

Resources for academic integrity are on the course Blackboard [or Canvas] page.

Citation Formats

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.

CAPS:

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis

Course Schedule

Week 1 (August 27/29)

Introductions and Themes

Interactive Component:

Key Current Events for the Course

Reading:

None

Week 2 (Sept 3/5)

International and Global Studies

What is International Relations?

Interactive Component:

Assign Position Topics and Dates

Movies/Video Games and IR discussion

Required Reading:

Valeriano, Gomez, and Jensen. "What is Global Studies?" (Canvas)

Recommended:

Valeriano, Brandon. "[Teaching introduction to international politics with film](#)." *Journal of Political Science Education* 9.1 (2013): 52-72.

Valeriano, Brandon, and Philip Habel. "[Who are the enemies? The visual framing of enemies in digital games](#)." *International Studies Review* 18.3 (2016): 462-486.

Week 3 (Sept 10/Sept 12)

Roots of International Relations

Exercise:

Is Human Nature Evil?

(Melian Dialogue/Community Debate)

Readings:

Thucydides: [Melian Dialogue](#)

Hobbes: [From Leviathan](#) (full book)

Kant: [Perpetual Peace](#)

Huntington: [Clash of Civilizations](#)

Week 4 (Sept 17/Sept 19)

International Organizations and Deterrence

Exercise:

UN Visit ([please do so on your own or in groups](#))

Readings:

Power: [Bystanders to Genocide](#)

Sen: [Human Rights and Capabilities](#)

Barnett and Finnemore: [The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations](#)

Week 5 (Sept 24/Sept 26) NO CLASS

Nuclear Weapons

Exercise:

Watch Dr. Strangelove and Godzilla Minus One

Readings:

Waltz: [Why Iran Should Get the Bomb](#)

Jervis: [Hypotheses on Misperception](#)

Talmadge: [Would China go Nuclear?](#)

Week 6 (Oct 1-3)

Realism

Exercise:

The Butter Battle War and the Security Dilemma [YouTube](#)

Readings

Morgenthau: A Realist Theory of International Politics

Mearsheimer: [Anarchy and the Struggle for Power](#)

Snyder: [One World, Rival Theories](#) (Not in the book)

Week 7 (Oct 8/Oct 10)

Liberalism

Exercise:

[Pop Up Case: Soft Power](#)

Readings:

Keohane: [After Hegemony](#)

Doyle: [Liberalism in World Politics](#)

Wilson: [The Fourteen Points](#) ([Audio clip](#))

Week 8 (Oct 15/18) **

Fall Break Week – No Class

Week 9 (Oct 22/Oct 24) **

Constructivism/Critical/Gender

Exercise:

Read and react to [Sex and Death in a Rational World](#) (Carol Cohn)

Position – Will AI kill us all?

Readings:

Cohen: [Explaining Rape during Civil War](#)

Hopf: [The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory](#)

Wendt: [Anarchy is What States Make of It?](#)

Nuclear Weapons Writing Assignment Due

Week 10 (Oct 29/31) **

Power and the Balance of Power

Exercise:

Between Two Superpowers: Indonesia's position in the U.S. China Rivalry ([video](#))

Position: Should (insert state – Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Mexico) balance or bandwagon with China and/or the United States

Readings:

Morgenthau: [The Balance of Power](#) (Politics Among Nations)

Barnett and Duvall: [Power in International Relations](#) (not in textbook)

Week 11 (Nov 12/14) **

War and Peace

Exercise:

CFR Model Diplomacy [Pop Up Case: Defending Ukraine](#)

Readings:

Clausewitz: [War as an Instrument of Policy](#) (On War)

Fearon: [Rationalism Explanations for War](#)

Bremer: Who Fights Whom (No in textbook)

Week 12 (Nov 19/Nov 21)

Terrorism and Non-State Actors

Exercise:

CFR Model Diplomacy [Pop Up Case: Defining Acceptable Outcomes in Ukraine](#)

Support Document

Readings:

Posen: [The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict](#)

Fortna: [Do Terrorists Win?](#)

Week 13 (Nov 19/21)

Diplomacy and Domestic Politics

Exercise:

Guest Lecture on Diplomacy (will occur once on Zoom)

Weiss and Wallace: [Domestic Politics, China's Rise, and the Future of the Liberal Order](#)

Putnam: [Diplomacy and Domestic Politics](#)

Week 14 (Nov 26/28) Thanksgiving Week

No Class

International Political Economy

Exercise:

[CFR Pop Up Case: Sanctions](#)

Readings:

Gilpin: [Nature of the Political Economy](#) (Chapter 2)

Rodrik: [Why Does Globalization Fuel Populism?](#)

Farrell and Newman: [Will the Coronavirus End Globalization as We Know It?](#)

Week 15 (Dec 3/Dec 5)

Technology and the Future of International Relations

Exercise:

Wargame: Gloves Are Off (Cyber Wargame)

Readings:

Valeriano: What Do We Know about Cyber Conflict? (to be provided)

Borghard and Lonergan: [The Logic of Coercion in Cyberspace](#)

Lonergan and Valeriano: Space/Cyber (to be provided)