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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

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Fall 2024

## **DIPL 1711 Introduction to International Relations**

Brendan J. Balestrieri Ph.D.

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**DIPL 1711: Introduction to International Relations**  
**School of Diplomacy & International Relations, Seton Hall University**  
**Thursdays, 2:00-4:30pm, Muscarelle 207**

**Professor:** Brendan J. Balestrieri

**Email:** [brendan.balestrieri@shu.edu](mailto:brendan.balestrieri@shu.edu)

**Student Hours:** Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:30p, McQuaid 105 & Wednesday, 1:00-3:30p

**Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:**

This course aims to familiarize students with the foundational literature and theoretical frameworks that underpin the field of International Relations. We will integrate these elements by examining contemporary issues and significant historical events through the perspective of IR theory. The course starts with a basic historical review of International Relations study, progressing to the practical use of these theories to understand and interpret major occurrences in global politics.

By the end of this course, you will have:

- Obtained a working knowledge of the “big three” theoretical approaches to international relations and their constituent theories as well as the ability to properly utilize said theories to analyze and explain major issues/events in world politics.
- Be able to identify and articulate the main sources of peace and conflict between nations in world politics.
- Discuss the emerging importance of international organizations, non-state actors, terrorist groups and multinational corporations in a global perspective.
- Become immersed in and become able to discuss contemporary events throughout the world from a theoretically-informed standpoint.
- Become familiar with and be able to properly investigate the various subfields within the discipline.
- Gained a deeper understanding of world events.

**Required Readings**

- Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder and Heather Elko McKibben eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 8th edition (New York: Norton, 2022). Henceforth abbreviated throughout this syllabus as “MMS.”

Additional assigned readings, online articles are available on Canvas site and links are embedded in the Syllabus.

**Grading Point System:**

Participation / Attendance	20%
Reaction Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	30%

Final Exam 30%

**Grading Scale:**

A $\geq$ 94	A- $\geq$ 90	B+ $\geq$ 87	B $\geq$ 84	B- $\geq$ 80	C+ $\geq$ 77
C $\geq$ 74	C- $\geq$ 70	D+ $\geq$ 67	D $\geq$ 64	D- $\geq$ 60	F $\leq$ 59

**Overall Requirements**

**Attendance:**

Attendance and participation are directly related to successful performance both in school and in the workplace. You must attend class (attendance is taken, and participation noted at each class session). Be prepared to contribute to discussions (in class and online) and complete assignments. Aside from regular academic performance, each unexcused absence drops your participation grade a ½ grade (i.e.: The B grade of a participating student becomes a B- with one unexcused absence, a C+ with two, etc.). After four unexcused absences you can receive a failing grade. Lateness will also seriously impact your grade. Every two unexcused “late” equals one absence. This is NOT a question of rushing to class and creating an unsafe situation, it is a matter of planning for the classes you registered for.

**Class Assignments:**

All class assignments will require you to demonstrate an understanding of international conflict and security concepts and to use those to analyze case studies or current security issues. Readings will be assessed through your class participation and strategic understanding – as evidenced in the quality of your assignments and in-class/online comments. Readings and discussion of those readings are vital to your understanding of the subject area and, hence, to your grade.

**Midterm Exam: CFR Simulation – Korean War in 1950 (NSC)**

This midterm is two parts:

1. All students need to thoroughly review the CFR simulation and submit in Canvas by 06 November the position memo. The position memo needs to address your position prior to the class meeting on 07 November to host a mock NSC meeting in which YOU will have to argue your position in front of the class.
2. Come prepared on 07 November to argue your position.

Your grade is based on the quality (and timely submission) of your position memo and how well you articulate your position in class.

CFR Education simulations use a variety of pedagogical tools to create an effective, meaningful, and memorable learning experience for students that builds their global literacy. Students will develop crucial skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will complete authentic assessments that feel relevant: instead of five-paragraph essays and book reports, students will write policy memos and participate in a role-play of a meeting of a foreign policy-making body. There are no right or wrong answers in

actual policy deliberations, and there are none here, either; students will walk away from this experience with an appreciation for the complexity of policy questions.

In this simulation, students will learn about the National Security Council, as well as meeting these learning outcomes specific to this simulation:

- Students will understand the factors that led to the Korean War as well as the broader context of the Cold War policy of containment.
- Students will consider the complexities of the U.S. decision-making process during the Korean War.
- Students will evaluate the potential benefits and drawbacks of pursuing Korean unification through military action.

### **Reaction Paper:**

You have the option of watching either [Judgment at Nuremberg](#) or [Conspiracy](#) and writing a 800-1200 word reaction paper that explains how at least one reading from class ties into the major theme of the film. I highly recommend watching both films, but please only select one when writing your paper.

The position paper is due electronically via Canvas by **01 October** (submit as Word Document, **Not PDF**). Late assignments are docked 10% for each 24 hours following the deadline. Assignments more than one week late will be given a 0.

### **Final Exam:**

The final will take place **17 December 2024 / Period 1: 8:00am to 10:00am.**

### **Use of Electronic Devices:**

The use of computers for class-related issues is permissible in class, particularly in a high-flex environment. The use of computers for other purposes such as checking e-mail or surfing the internet is not permissible. Inappropriate computer use is not only disruptive to fellow students who are trying to concentrate on class discussion, but it also tends to lead to lower grades for students engaged in non-class activity. Students who choose not to abide by this policy will be asked to leave class. The presence and use of cell phones detract seriously from the atmosphere of unmediated speaking, listening, and discussion that lies at the heart of this course.

### **Ethics/Conduct:**

SHU represents a community of scholars composed of faculty, students and staff who hold the pursuit of learning in the highest regard. Adherence to the goal of unquestionable integrity and honesty in the discharge of teaching and learning is paramount. This class abides by SHU's academic standards. See University and School standards for academic conduct here:

<https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

## **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](mailto: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 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.

## **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

Students may use AI tools as a learning support, or as a resource (e.g., to generate ideas from the literature, brainstorm, prepare a draft outline), but may not use AI tools to generate a final product. If you use AI tools, you are required to also include a report on what/how AI was used. This is in addition to citing any AI generated content.

You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you

include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor).

Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, all assignments submitted must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else- including AI tools, must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used. Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation. Any plagiarism or other form of cheating will be dealt with severely under relevant Seton Hall policies.

**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 Canvas 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 counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week #	Week(s) of:	Assigned Reading Text & Readings:	Assignments, Participation Opportunities/Discussions: Course Requirement(s) w/ Due Dates:
1	08/29	<b>Introductions and Course Overview</b>  - Matthew Kroenig, <a href="#">“International Relations Theory Suggests Great-Power War is Coming.”</a> Foreign Policy, August 27, 2022.	
2	09/05	<b>Overview of IR and varied approaches</b>  MMS - Snyder, “One World Rival Theories” MMS – Hobbes, Leviathan MMS – Kant, Perpetual Peace	

		Stephen Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories”	
<b>3</b>	<b>09/12</b>	<b>Realism</b>  MMS – Morgenthau, “A realist Theory of International Politics” MMS – Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power”	
<b>4</b>	<b>09/19</b>	<b>Liberalism</b>  MMS – Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics MMS – Keohane, “From after Hegemony” MMS – Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Relations” MMS – Ikenberry, Liberal Leviathan	
<b>5</b>	<b>09/26</b>	<b>Constructivism</b>  MMS – Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of it” MMS – Tickner, “Man, the State and War”	<b>Reaction Paper Due by 01 October in Canvas</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>10/03</b>	<b>War and Peace</b>  MMS – Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy” MMS – “The Diplomacy of Violence”	
<b>7</b>	<b>10/10</b>	<b>Levels of Analysis – Systems</b>  MMS – Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power” MMS – Christensen, “The China Challenge” Watch – <a href="#">Conversations with History: Kenneth Waltz</a>	
<b>8</b>	<b>10/17</b>	<b>Levels of Analysis – The State</b>  MMS – Krasner, “Sharing Sovereignty” Huntington – “The Clash of Civilizations?” MMS – Krasner, “State Power and the Structure of International Trade”	

		- John J. Mearsheimer, <a href="#">“The Inevitable Rivalry: America, China, and the Tragedy of Great-Power Politics,”</a> <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , November/December 2021 (15 pages)	
9	10/24	<b>Individuals</b>  MMS – Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception” MMS – Yarhi-Milo, “In the Eye of the Beholder”	
10	10/31	<b>War, Peace and the Pursuit of Cooperation - Explanations</b>  MMS – Jervis, “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma” MMS – Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War”	
11	11/07	<b>Midterm</b>  <b>Korean War in 1950 (NSC)</b> <a href="#">Council on Foreign Relations Scenario</a>	<b>Position memo due NLT midnight on 06 November in Canvas</b>
12	11/14	<b>Nuclear Weapons</b>  MMS – Waltz, “Why Iran Should get the Bomb”  Michael Mazzar, “Understanding Deterrence,” RAND Corporation Report, 2018	
13	11/21	<b>Unconventional Forces: Terrorism</b>  MMS – Kydd and Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism” MMS – Fortna, “Do Terrorists Win?”	
14	11/28	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday Break – No Class</b>	
15	12/05	<b>The Return of Great Power Rivalry</b>  - Francis Gavin, <a href="#">“Asking the right questions about the past and future of world order,”</a> <i>War on the Rocks</i> , January 2020.	

		<p>- G. John Ikenberry, "<a href="#">The end of liberal international order?</a>" <i>International Affairs</i>, Vol. 94, Issue 1 , (Jan. 2018), pp. 7-23. (16 pages) and "<a href="#">Why American Power Endures: The U.S.-Led Order Isn't in Decline.</a>" <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, November/December 2022</p> <p>- <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. "<a href="#">Should the United States Pledge to Defend Taiwan? Foreign Affairs Asks the Experts.</a>" <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. November 2022.</p>	
<b>16</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>Final – Period 1: 8:00am to 10:00am</b>	