Political Science 103:  
Introduction to International Relations  
Fall 2011

Dr. Jeff Carter  
226 Deupree Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-5:00

Class Time: T, TH: 1:00-2:15  
Class Location: 323 Shoemaker Hall  
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Course Description
This course introduces students to some of the most important issues in world politics and the analytical tools scholars use to make sense of the increasingly complex international system. We will discuss issues both past and present, but this is neither a history nor a current events course. Instead, this course focuses on explaining why the various actors in the international system (e.g., states, terrorist groups, international institutions) behave as they do. Focusing on the logic underlying international interactions provides students with a set of skills that will allow them to analyze world politics on their own and prepare them for more advanced political science courses.

Learning Objectives
After completing this course you should

- be knowledgeable about the most important issues in international relations.
- be able to identify the key actors in contemporary world politics.
- possess the tools necessary to analyze current international relations on your own.
- be prepared for more advanced courses on international relations.

Required Book
There is one required book for this course. Regardless of where you get it from, do so quickly.

Class Policies

Make-Up Exams In general, there will be no make-up exams. The only exception to this policy is in the case of an emergency. If it is not an emergency, the exam dates are listed on the syllabus. This gives you plenty of time to make sure you have nothing else planned during class when an exam is scheduled. It is completely up to the instructor’s discretion if you will be allowed to make up the exam and the validity of the emergency will be determined by the instructor. Under these circumstances, you need to contact me as soon as physically possible to schedule a make-up exam. You will also have to provide appropriate proof of said emergency. If you miss an exam for an acceptable reason, you should take the make-up within seven days of the regularly scheduled exam. Make-up exams will not be given before the regularly scheduled exam.

Academic Integrity From *The M Book*: “The university is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the university are regarded as particularly serious offenses ... In the College of Liberal Arts and in the schools of Accountancy, Business Administration, and Education, faculty members handle cases of academic dishonesty in their classes by recommending an appropriate sanction after discussion with the student. Possible sanctions include failure on the work in question, retake of an examination, extra work, grade reduction or failure in the course, disciplinary probation, or suspension or expulsion from the university.” (pg. 4). Of the various acts of academic dishonesty, plagiarism deserves special mention. At a very basic level, if you present someone else’s work (e.g., words, thoughts, answers, etc.) as your own, you have committed plagiarism. Please review *The M Book* for more details on plagiarism.

Put simply, don’t cheat. If it is determined you’ve violated the standard of academic integrity set forth by the University of Mississippi, you will be subject to the consequences.

Disabilities Per the the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) website: “The University of Mississippi is committed to ensuring equal access to a quality education for qualified students with disabilities through the provision of reasonable academic accommodations which support University standards and academic integrity” [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/).

If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for all students with disabilities, but it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor early in the term. Do not wait until just before telling me that you have a learning disability because accommodations must be arranged in advance. I am a reasonable person and will work with you if help is needed for any reason.

Cell Phones Shut your cell phones off before coming to class. Or at least turn the sound off. And no text messaging or e-mailing. Additionally, leave the newspaper, cross-word puzzles,
and any other non-Pol 103 work in your backpack.

**Laptops** Students are not allowed to use laptops in class. I recognize that some people like to take notes using their laptop. I also recognize that others enjoy checking e-mail, Facebook, Ole Miss recruiting web sites, and doing other things not related to the class. Such people aren’t paying attention and are a distraction to others. To make sure this doesn’t occur, you are not allowed to use a laptop in this class.

**Grading**

Grades for the class will be based on attendance, participation, and three exams. The grading scale, description of each of the factors that go into the final grade and the due dates of the various class assignments are presented below. Please note that I will be using the new “plus/minus” grading scale.

**Table 1: Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89.5 - 92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.5 - 89.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5 - 86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>79.5 - 82.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76.5 - 79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5 - 76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69.5 - 72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59.5 - 69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Assignments and Due Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Every Class Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Every Class Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>September 29th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>December 8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 100%
Class Attendance Students are expected to attend all classes. If you are absent, you are responsible for what you missed in class that day. It will be very hard to do well in this class if you do not attend regularly. If coming to class will be too much for you, please give serious thought to dropping this course.

I will be taking attendance in order to comply with the Freshman Attendance-Based Initiative. Since I will be taking attendance, you will be graded on attendance. Except for instances of excessive absences, your attendance grade is worth 10% of your final grade. Despite what you may have heard, coming to class is a good thing. If nothing else you will find it much easier to get a good grade in the course if you actually attend classes than if you skip them. While I would like everyone to attend every class, I realize that things come up and that people will occasionally need to miss classes. With this in mind, after Thursday, August 25th, you will be able to miss three classes without any negative consequences. Starting with the fourth absence, I will deduct two points from your attendance grade for each additional absence for up to eight absences. So, if you miss four classes the highest grade you can get in this course (without extra credit) would be a 98%, the highest grade you could receive with five absences would be 96%, etc. After your eighth absence, each additional absence will result in your final grade being reduced by 10 percentage points.

If you come to class, you are expected to show up on time and stay for the entire period. It is distracting to everyone to have people coming and going throughout class. If you need to leave early please sit near an exit and leave as discreetly as possible.

Participation. Participation is worth 10% of your final grade. Your participation grade is primarily determined by your involvement in class discussions. Participation is not simply about quantity or quality. In other words, you will need to participate on a regular basis in a meaningful way to get a good participation grade. However, your participation grade also takes into account how well you follow the class policies outlined above. For example, if I see you texting or have to repeatedly tell you not to use your laptop it will impact your grade.

Exams. There will be three exams in the class. The first and second exams are each worth 25% of your final grade while the final exam is worth 30%. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions. You will need to bring a blank blue book to class on exam day. While grammar, spelling and penmanship are not explicitly graded, if any of the three prevent me from understanding your response you will miss that portion of the question.

Grade Appeal. I will not discuss changes in grades on exams for 24 hours after an exam has been handed back. If you feel that your exam has been graded incorrectly, you may submit a one-page grade appeal to me outlining what I missed and why your grade should be changed. If you give me a grade appeal, I will re-grade the exam. However, I will re-grade your entire exam and not just the portion you think was graded incorrectly. As a result (and
Extra Credit. Everyone in the class will have an opportunity for earn extra credit. Throughout the semester, I will give a series of unannounced reading quizzes. The quizzes can occur at any point during class and will test your knowledge of the readings assigned for that day. The quizzes will be closed book and closed notes, but they will be easy if you did the reading. No make-ups for these quizzes will be administered. Further, this is the only chance anyone will have for extra credit.

“C” Minimum Policy. Per departmental requirements, final grades lower than a “C” in Political Science courses will not be counted toward the Political Science major or minor. Phrased differently, political science majors or minors must receive at least a “C” (a “C-” is not high enough) in order for Pol 103 to count towards their degrees.

Other Important Points
If you are struggling in the course for any reason let me know as soon as possible. Whatever the issue is, we will try to work on it to make sure you can do well in the class. Do not wait until a day or two before an exam to let me know you are having a problem.

If you did not attend the first day of class and/or added the class late, all class policies apply equally to you. It is your responsibility to find out any information gone over during the class periods you missed. Deadlines will not be adjusted because you weren’t in class.

I check my e-mail several times each day. Accordingly, it is the best way to get in touch with me. At the same time, I may not respond to e-mails immediately. Be patient and I will get back to you as soon as I have time. If you need to talk to me in person, I’m available during my office hours and most days immediately after class. If these times don’t work, e-mail me and we’ll schedule an appointment.

Two things are particularly important to your success in this class: 1) complete the readings before the class in which we will discuss them; and 2) participate. Not having completed the reading adversely affects your ability to participate in class and, subsequently, your grade. When you read, do so slowly and carefully. Take notes. Participating in class will not only help your final grade, but it will also give both you and your classmates a deeper understanding of the material.

Keep up with current international events. You won’t be quizzed on them, but you’ll be better informed and it will only help your grade in this class. A good place to start is the “World” section on the New York Times web site.

The last day you can withdraw from the course is Monday, October 3rd.
Finally, an important caveat to the class policies. I’m a reasonable person. As with all rules, exceptions to the class policies can be made. Speak to me in private if you feel your personal circumstances warrant an exception and we’ll see what can be worked out.

Course Outline

Tuesday, August 23rd. Class Overview.

Thursday, August 25th. History of World Politics - Part I.
• Chapter 1, 4-23.

Tuesday, August 30th. History of World Politics.
• Chapter 1, 23-37.

Thursday, September 1st. No Class.

Tuesday, September 6th. Interests, Interactions, and Institutions.
• Chapter 2, 39-62.

Thursday, September 8th. Interests, Interactions, and Institutions.
• Chapter 2, 62-79.

Tuesday, September 13th. International Conflict
• Chapter 3, 80-105.

Thursday, September 15th. International Conflict.
• Chapter 3, 105-125.

Tuesday, September 20th Domestic Politics and Interstate Conflict.

1Any changes to this schedule will be announced verbally in class. It is the student’s responsibility to note changes and adhere to the new schedule.
- Chapter 4, 126-143.

**Thursday, September 22nd.** Domestic Politics and Interstate Conflict.
- Chapter 4, 143-168.

**Tuesday, September 27th.** Review.
- Bring questions to class.

**Thursday, September 29th.** Exam 1.

**Tuesday, October 4th.** International Institutions.
- Chapter 5, 170-189.

**Thursday, October 6th.** International Institutions.
- Chapter 5, 189-213.

**Tuesday, October 11th.** International Trade.
- Chapter 6, 216-238.

**Thursday, October 13th.** No Class.

**Tuesday, October 18th.** International Trade.
- Chapter 6, 238-259.

**Thursday, October 20th.** International Finance.
- Chapter 7, 260-282.

**Tuesday, October 25th.** International Finance.
- Chapter 7, 282-294.

**Thursday, October 27th.** International Monetary Policy.
• Chapter 8, 296-310.

Tuesday, November 1st. International Monetary Policy and Review.
• Chapter 8, 310-329.
• Bring questions to class.

Thursday, November 5th. Exam 2.

Tuesday, November 8th. International Development.
• Chapter 9, 330-343.

Thursday, November 10th. International Development.
• Chapter 9, 343-362.

Tuesday, November 15th. The Global Environment.
• Chapter 12, 444-456.

• Chapter 12, 456-483.

Tuesday, November 22nd. Thanksgiving Break.

Thursday, November 24th. Thanksgiving Break.

Tuesday, November 29th. Transnational Networks.
• Chapter 10.

Thursday, December 1st. Human Rights and Review.
• Chapter 11.
• Bring questions to class.

Thursday, December 8th, 12:00-3:00. Final Exam.