

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLS 4360-001)

PROFESSOR A.B. BAYRAM

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E-mail is the best way to reach me.

Faculty Profile: <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/view/id/10606/category/1>.

Time and Place of Class Meetings: M 4-6:50 PM UH 01

The Syllabus:

It is essential that you carefully read and understand all parts of the syllabus. The syllabus should be regarded as a contract between us. Please consider understanding the course policies and requirements explained in the syllabus as your homework for the first week.

Description of Course Content:

This course examines the major theories and issues in the field of International Relations (IR). In IR, we often use paradigms to organize our thinking and the scholarly study of world politics. These paradigms will serve as our organizing principle in this course. We will examine and critique the major paradigms in the field. We will start by discussing the role of theory, levels of analysis, and what the field of IR tries to accomplish. We will then focus on the main approaches and questions in the study of international relations. This course combines theory with empirics. We will work on applying theories of IR to contemporary issues and devising practical solutions to pressing political problems.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of the major theoretical perspectives and cutting-edge theoretical debates in the field of IR. Students will also acquire an understanding of the scientific method used in Political Science. Students will develop the ability to engage in critical debates and deliver research findings to an audience. They will further acquire the knowledge and skills to apply theories and address problems of global politics.

Course Format:

This course uses a mixed format that combines lectures with class discussions and student-centered learning activities. Students should come to class prepared to participate in seminar discussions having already done the assigned readings. I will make introductory remarks to provide a sense of the big picture; however, I will not lecture the entire time.

It is absolutely alright if you do not understand everything in the readings before class. This is our collective learning experience, and I am here to help. We will use the classroom environment to make sense of the course material. We will learn and laugh together. However, you should not treat this class as a “take-notes-and-leave” type of course. I expect you to be fully engaged in the course.

Readings:

*Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi. International Relations Theory. 2012. Fifth Edition. Person. (Hereafter V&K) Available for purchase at the bookstore.

*Robert Art and Robert Jervis. 2012. International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues. 11th Edition. Pearson. (Hereafter A&J) On reserve at the library. Also available for purchase online.

*Journal articles as listed under the schedule of sessions. All of the journal articles are available online.

All readings are required. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes on the readings.

Description of Major Assignments & Examinations: (More info will be provided in writing)

Participation: 16%

Application Exercises (Documentary & Movie Reports): 22%

Paper Proposal: 16%

Paper Presentation: 16%

Paper: 30%

Extra credit work: 5 points max attainable

Attendance:

At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I expect you to attend all sessions and will take attendance. Class attendance and active participation in class discussions are critical to succeed in this course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from your classmates. I do not provide lecture notes. Powerpoint slides on Blackboard will remain accessible until the end of the semester. Missing class due to illness, family emergency or similar extraordinary situations will not negatively affect your grade.

Participation:

I expect you to do the readings before class, be prepared to discuss them, and ask/answer questions based on the course material. I may sometimes call on you. It is your responsibility to be prepared. Please note that merely coming to class but participating will impede your learning.

Participation is an important component of your grade and plays a critical role in learning. Participation includes, among others, asking and answering questions, commenting on the readings or other students' points, being engaged in class discussions and class activities as well as taking ownership of your own learning by asking for my help if you need assistance.

I understand that some individuals may be shy, but I still emphasize class participation because a) participation greatly contributes to learning, b) the classroom offers a friendly environment to practice communication skills, and c) our university stresses active learning. If you struggle with participation and

public speaking, please seek my assistance. I will work with you and devise a step-by-step plan to help improve your skills.

Our classroom is a free and open forum. We are a community of learners who value and respect all individuals and opinions and appreciate diversity. We are committed to cordial intellectual conversations and constructive feedback. We strive to advance each other's learning.

Class Facebook Group: I have set up a closed and secret Facebook (FB) group for our class. The purpose of this group is to continue our conversation about Theories of IR in the digital realm and engage pressing global policy issues. A closed group is an invitation-only group. A secret group is a one those outside of the group cannot see/find/access. Thus, this group is only for students who are enrolled in this class and choose to become members. Participation in the FB group is entirely voluntary and optional, and not part of your grade. You are most welcome to opt out at no cost. If you do not have a FB account, you are under no obligation to create one. I will never post essential information about the course on FB. For essential information, I will use Blackboard or email. Interested students are encouraged to share news articles and commentary relevant to the course. Students are also welcome to post questions about the course materials to seek help from other group members and/or brainstorm on class projects. Syllabus policies and general norms of respectful interaction apply to our FB conversations.

Peer Groups Research Paper Workshop

We will draw numbers on the first day of class to determine research peer groups. Groups will consists of 4-5 students (depending on the number of enrolled students). On the peer groups workshop day, students in a group provide feedback to each other on their research papers. While group discussions are continuing, I will I will visit with each group and offer individualized comments on your work.

The peer group workshop serves two main functions. First, each of you will get feedback from group members and offer feedback to them. Peer group feedback is a low-pressure high-effectiveness way of getting comments on your research papers. This will be an invaluable opportunity to improve your work before you submit it to me. Second, peer evaluation is a critical life skill routinely used in managerial, academic, and policy positions. This assignment will facilitate the improvement of this skill.

Grading:

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below. I will not post every single grade on Blackboard. I expect you to have your own grade file to keep track of your grades.

I will occasionally send out e-mails encouraging students to see me during office hours so that we could figure out a strategy for success. I am committed to facilitating everyone's' learning. If you have concerns about anything, please do not hesitate visit with me.

There is one extra-credit work in this course. You will write an essay on a topic covered in class. Completion of the extra credit assignment is optional. More information on all writing assignments will be provided.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

F: 0-59, D: 60-69, C: 70-79, B: 80-89, A: 90-100

Make-up Exams/Assignments:

No make-up exams/assignments will be given except in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. There are no exceptions to this rule. Documentation must be submitted as required by the university and is subject to verification.

Work Submission Policy:

I do not accept late work unless in cases of documented medical or family emergency. Please do not even ask. All work must be submitted as indicated by the syllabus and/or by me in class.

Etiquette:

Cell phones and other gadgets should be turned off or switched to silent in the classroom. Computers should not be used for surfing the internet or for extra-curricular activities.

Student Feedback:

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. If you happen to experience difficulties with understanding the material, do not hesitate to see me during office hours. I am here to help you and love what I do.

E-mail Policy:

Please conform to proper e-mail etiquette and address me as your professor. Make sure to include your name and the course you are taking, and the proper salutation. It is important that your e-mail provides sufficient context. Please note that coming to my office hours may serve you better if you have a complex question.

When you e-mail me, please try to have a somewhat formal subject line so that I do not accidentally miss your e-mail. (For example: POLS Course Number: Your reason for e-mailing (E.g. POLS XXX: Question about the Paper)).

I will normally respond to e-mails within two business days. This means e-mailing me a few hours before class will not work. If you have an emergency, please inform the Department of Political Science Administrative Office.

Communication:

Students are responsible for regularly checking their university e-mail and Blackboard for announcements. When I send an e-mail to the class or post an announcement on Blackboard, I will assume that everyone got the message. I encourage you to participate in digital conversations via our Facebook group. However, you are not obligated to participate. Participation in digital conversations is not part of your grade.

Drop Policy:

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act:

I rely on the Office for Students with Disabilities for accommodations.

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX:

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity:

I rely on the Office of Student Conduct for addressing academic misconduct. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes academic misconduct and be aware of the university's honor code.

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

"I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code."

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Writing Center:

The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, Quick Hits (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing

projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at www.uta.edu/owl/. In my experience, students greatly benefit from using the services of the writing center. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Electronic Communication:

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week:

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures:

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381.

Disclaimer

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

Aug 31: Welcome and introduction to the course

- Explanation of course format and requirements
- Time to discuss student expectations
- Tips for success

Sept 7: No Class

- Labor day holiday

Sept 14: Understanding IR Theory

- V&K, Chp. 1
- Jack Snyder. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." Foreign Policy: Nov/Dec:52. ONLINE

Sept 21: Realism

- V&K, Chp. 2
- Morgenthau in A&J
- Thucydides in V&K

Sept 28: Realism cont.

- Waltz in A&J
- Robert Jervis. 1978. Cooperation under the Security Dilemma, World Politics 30(2): 167-214.ONLINE

Oct 5: Liberalism

- V&K, Chp. 3
- Doyle in A&J

-Documentary reports due today

-Submit your essay through the appropriate Blackboard link (no emails, pls)

Oct 12: Institutionalism

- Oye in A&J
- Special lecture on writing a research paper proposal and completing a research paper

Oct 19: Constructivism

- V&K, Chp. 6
- Wendt in A&J
- Hurd in A&J

-Paper proposals for all groups are due today

-Hard copies submitted to me in class (no emails, pls)

Oct 26: Economic Structuralism

- V&K, Chp. 4
- Wallerstein in V&K

Nov: 2 Peer Groups Research Paper Workshop

-Movie reports are due today

-Submit your essay through the appropriate Blackboard link (no emails, pls)

Nov 9: Psychological Approaches to IR

- James Goldgeier & Philip E. Tetlock (2001). "Psychology and international relations theory." Annual Review of Political Science, 4: 67-92. ONLINE
- Brian C. Rathbun (2009). "It takes all types: social psychology, trust, and the international relations paradigm in our minds." International Theory, 1:345-380 ONLINE
- Jonathan Mercer (2005). "Rationality and Psychology in International Relations." International Organization 59(1): 77-106. ONLINE

Nov 16: Student Presentations (Group I)

Nov 23: Student Presentations (Group II)

-Extra credit assignment due today

-Submit your extra credit work through the appropriate Blackboard link (no emails, pls)

Nov 30: Student Presentations (Group III)

-Papers for all groups are due today

-Hard copies submitted to me in class

Dec 7: From the classroom to the job market

- Discussion on translating what you learned into marketable skills sought by employers
- Review and wrap up