POS 273-International Relations

Instructor: Rob Glover
Office Hours: In person by appointment in N. Stevens 113B or in FirstClass “Virtual Office Hours” from 12-2 on Wednesday.
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"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts." - Bertrand Russell

"The world must learn to work together, or finally it will not work at all." - Dwight D. Eisenhower

Overview of the Course: This is an exciting and uncertain time to be studying international relations. Our world has grown increasingly connected through technology and increased international interaction. Yet recent events remind us that interconnectedness brings both positives and negatives. The global community continues to confront a number of enduring challenges: climate change, global poverty and inequality, terrorism, threat of nuclear proliferation, failed states, refugee crises, and threats to global public health to name only a few.

This class is an introductory undergraduate course in international relations—the study of political events, phenomena, and processes that occur beyond the territorial boundaries of a single country or “state,” as we call them in international relations. You will gain the analytical tools needed to understand the behavior of states and other actors in contemporary world politics. Living in one of the world’s foremost economic, political, and military powers, you have a significant role to play in shaping our global future. This course provides you with the intellectual foundations necessary to rise to this task.

Grading & Class Requirements (see pg. 4 for details)

- Participation on Class Discussion Board 15%
- Midterm Examination 25%
- ICONS Simulation 35% (total)
  - Pre-Negotiation Planning Report (5%)
  - Participation in Simulation (10%)
  - Mid-Point Report (10%)
  - Reflection Paper (10%)
- Final Examination 25%

Note: Examinations will be conducted via Blackboard—follow the link from FirstClass site. Grades can be accessed at any time via the Blackboard “Grade Center” as well.
Required Readings (Available from Campus Bookstore or Online)

- Other readings and resources available electronically via FirstClass and ICONS simulation website.

Learning Objectives
At the close of this course, you should...

- have gained an understanding of contemporary social, political, economic, and environmental events and challenges occurring at the international level.
- be able to utilize different theoretical frameworks to understand, explain, and predict events and actions in international politics.
- gain a greater sense of your responsibility as an actor in international affairs, and understand how each of us individually impacts outcomes at the international level.

Learning Outcomes
At the close of this course, you will be expected to ...

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the modern “international system”—its historical origins and the institutional and structural factors which have led to its contemporary condition.
- know the major tenets of the key theoretical frameworks that we use to understand and predict behavior of important actors in international relations.
- demonstrate factual knowledge of the major topics and questions that shape international relations today—their origins, factual information related to these topics, and the structural factors that may facilitate or complicate the international community’s ability to address them.
- have demonstrated competency working both individually and collaboratively in an international relations “simulation” where you take on the roles of international actors engaged in negotiation over an issue or dispute.

Technological Requirements: This online course will require you to utilize both FirstClass and Blackboard for course content delivery and assignments. You should be familiar with and have access to each. In addition, you will need to use Adobe Acrobat (or the free Adobe Reader software), Microsoft Word (or a Word-compatible alternative such as OpenOffice or GoogleDocs), and Apple’s Quicktime. Links to the sites for this software can be found in the “Weblinks” folder on FirstClass. If you have any technical questions regarding any of these aspects of the course, please contact Continuing and Distance Education (CED) via email at cedtechhelp@umit.maine.edu or by phone at 1-877-947-HELP (4357) or 581-4591 locally.
Class Conduct
This class is designed to expose you to material that may be completely alien to you. At times, you will be confused, perhaps even feel a little overwhelmed. This is OK. I expect this. With that said, I expect you to do the readings, contact me with questions about material or concepts that are unclear to you. Furthermore, while this course is conducted online, I construct it in such a way as to invite discussion and raise provocative questions. You should be prepared to engage in these discussions and explorations.

In the course of our interactions, it is imperative that you engage *respectfully* with your fellow students. We will be discussing contentious and controversial issues to which there are no easy answers. It’s important that you understand that everyone comes to the class with different experiences which shape their belief-systems and different levels of prior exposure to the ideas and events discussed in this class. I expect, and will not condone anything short of, an attitude of collegial and scholarly respect.

On Late Assignments
Please note that deadlines for assignments are “hard” deadlines. If you do not meet a deadline or perform a task listed in the syllabus by the established time, you will lose points. However, I do understand that there may be emergencies which arise and cause you to miss a deadline, and that these cannot be helped. The *only* acceptable justifications for not completing an assignment on time are *a*) a death in your immediate family, or *b*) a severe personal accident or medical emergency. In both of these instances, I would ask that you notify me personally of your situation and also produce written documentation.

However, please note that unexcused late assignments will face the following point deductions.

- after the established time on due date (-5)  
- one calendar day late (-10)  
- two calendar days late (-20)

**YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED MORE THAN TWO CALENDAR DAYS LATE WITHOUT A VALID AND PROPERLY DOCUMENTED EXCUSE.**

**Academic Honesty**
Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

**Support for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.
Sexual Discrimination Reporting
The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

• If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:
  o For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.
  o For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.

• Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:
  o For support services on campus: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/
Course Assignments

Class Participation (15%)
The topics we examine in this course are meant to be discussed and reflected upon. Though this is an online course, participation is a vital part of the class and constitutes 15% to your overall grade. For each week in the course schedule, there will be a discussion thread. I will generally post an opening question (sometimes with a link to a short clip or news story). These will relate to what we have been discussing in that component of the course. You may respond to my question or you may respond to the contributions of your classmates. Of course, remember to be civil and respectful in all of your online discourse.

I expect you contribute at least substantive one weekly post to the class discussion board. A “substantive” post means an original contribution in which you are making an argument/offering your perspective with reference to evidence and facts. These should be approximately 300-500 words in length.

You will be graded on your ability to respond thoughtfully and clearly to my question, as well as your ability to integrate ideas from the texts and lecture into your response. These responses must be posted by the 8 pm on Saturday of that week. Discussion posts posted after that time will not count towards your overall discussion average for the course and this will negatively impact your grade. Note that there will be no discussion responses due in Weeks 4 and 5 when we are conducting our online simulation.

Midterm Examination (25%) and Final Examination (25%)
These two exams fall roughly at the middle and the end of this online course. The midterm exam will primarily focus on the conceptual and foundational material we cover in the initial weeks of the course. The final examination will focus on the more topically based investigation we undertake in the second half of the semester. The exams will have three sections—a matching section, a multiple choice section, and an essay. You will receive a detailed study guide in advance of the exam that lays out specifically what will be covered on each section. And I am happy to answer any questions you might have in my online office hours.

These exams will be administered on the course Blackboard site. On the day of the exam you will have a window from 12:00 am to 11:59 pm in which you can take the exam. However once you open the exam and begin working, you will have limited timeframe in which to complete it (75 minutes for the mid term, 120 minutes for the final exam). If you exceed that time limit, you will not be kicked out of the exam, but I will be notified that you have exceeded the allotted time and deduct points accordingly.

ICONS Simulation (35% total)
Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this course is the ICONs simulation. For our purposes, a “simulation” is a roleplaying exercise in which you will be playing the part of key global actors trying to represent their interests in international negotiations. Specifically, our simulation allows you to take on the role of country representatives to the United Nations Security Council. This is the major global body charged with maintaining peace and international security. Below is a quick primer on the simulation. The expectations for the simulation will be laid out in more detail in the ICONs Simulation Guide, available in the “Assignments” FirstClass folder.

Your performance and grade on the ICONs simulation is comprised of following four components:

- “Pre-Negotiation Planning Report”— This is designed to get you “up to speed” on the country that you are representing and get a sense of how they might view world affairs. You will be provided with a general worksheet on your country and will be expecting to conduct a bit of research (utilizing ICONs resources and additional sources if necessary) to get a better sense of your country’s interests, its concerns close to home and abroad, and how your country behaves in the international community. It will count for 5% of your final grade.
• “Participation in Simulation”—Once you complete your background work, the simulation will begin and last through weeks 4 and 5. You will be negotiating with other country representatives, privately messaging with other countries to try to determine their goals and seeking support for yours, and preparing for the final voting phase of the simulation. You will receive full credit for being an active, engaged participant in the negotiations. This will count for 10% of your final grade.

• “Mid-Point Report”—For this assignment, you will assess your country’s participation in informal negotiations thus far and reflect on how your strategy for negotiations has been working through the first week of the simulation. This will count for 10% of your final grade.

• “Reflection Paper”—After the experience is over, you will be asked to reflect upon your experience in the simulation in a short 4-5 page paper. The assignment asks you to reflect on the simulation in relation to topics and ideas we examined in class. It asks you to think about what aspects of the simulation seemed to adequately capture, in your opinion, the reality of international politics. It also asks you to think about what aspects seemed unrealistic or inadequate representations of contemporary international relations. This will count for 10% of your final grade.

A Final Point About The ICONS Simulation
The ICONS simulation typically costs $13 per student. Thanks to some generous support from the University of Maine, it will be free to everyone who enrolls in this class. I will provide you with a code that will enable you to access the simulation and all of the related materials at no cost. See details in the ICONS Simulation Guide.
**Class Schedule**

**NOTE:** Before starting in on the material for this class, please watch the short “course tutorial” on the main page of the FirstClass site for this course. It provides important information about the “basics” of this class as well as where to find content and how to access it. Please note that you will need to contact me at robert.glover@maine.edu from the email address that you check regularly within the first week of the class.

**WEEK 1 (Jul. 6-Jul. 12)**

**Module 1:** What is International Relations? Why should you care?
- **Read:** Lamy et al.—Ch. 1 (1-29).
- **Watch:** Lecture Video # 1 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 2:** The Emergence of the Modern International System
- **Read:** Lamy et al. –Ch. 2 (31-66).
- **Watch:** Lecture Video # 2 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 3:** The Role of Theory in Understanding International Relations
- **Watch:** Lecture Video # 3 (available on FirstClass).

**WEEK 2 (Jul. 13-Jul. 19)**

**NOTE:** At the start of Week 2, you should download the “ICONS simulation guide” from the FirstClass “Assignments” folder watch the “ICONS simulation tutorial” that lays out the ICONS simulation we will be working on weeks 3-5. You should access the ICONS site utilizing the information in your email and begin to learn a bit more about your country and the simulation.

**Module 4:** Theoretical Perspectives: Realism & Liberalism
- **Read:** Lamy et al.—Ch. 3 (67-89)
- **Watch:** Lecture Video # 4 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 5:** Theoretical Perspectives: Marxism & Constructivism
- **Read:** Lamy et al. – Ch. 3 (91-99).
- **Watch:** Lecture Video # 5 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 6:** Theoretical Perspectives: Feminism & Making Sense of Competing Perspectives
- **Read:** Lamy et al. – Ch. 3 (99-105).
- **Watch:** Lecture Video # 6 (available on FirstClass).
**WEEK 3 (Jul. 20-Jul. 26)**

**NOTE:** Utilize Week 3 to prepare for the exam and begin to think about the ICONS simulation. Your “Pre-Negotiation Planning Report” will be due in the appropriate folder of “Assignment Drop Box” by Sunday, July 26th at 8 pm.

**Module 7:** Foreign Policy  
*Read:* Lamy et al.— Ch. 4 (108-144)  
*Watch:* Lecture Video # 7 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 8:** International Organizations & Law  
*Read:* Lamy et al. – Ch. 5 (145-174)  
*Watch:* Lecture Video # 8 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 9:** Non-Governmental Organizations  
*Read:* Lamy et. al—Ch. 5 (174-188).  
*Watch:* Lecture Video # 9 (available on FirstClass).

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION**  
*The Mid-Term Examination will be available through Blackboard from 12:00 am (midnight) to 11:59 pm on Friday, July 24th. You can choose to take it at any time within that window. However, once you open the exam you will have 75 minutes to complete it. The study guide can be accessed at any time in the “Assignments & Study Guides” folder on FirstClass.*

**WEEK 4 (Jul. 27-Aug. 2)**

**NOTE:** During Week 4, you will begin your online negotiations for the ICONS simulation. Your “Mid-Point Report” be due in the appropriate folder of “Assignment Drop Box” by Sunday, August 2nd at 8 pm.

Note that we are covering less in terms of course content in Weeks 4 and 5. This is to allow you ample time to engage in the ICONS simulation.

**Module 10:** International Security  
*Read:* Lamy et. al—Ch. 6 (188-205).  
*Watch:* Lecture Video # 10 (available on FirstClass).

**Module 11:** Terrorism  
*Read:* Lamy et. al—Ch. 6 (205-221)  
*Watch:* Lecture Video # 11 (available on FirstClass).
WEEK 5 (Aug. 3-Aug. 9)

NOTE: The formal Security Council Meeting for the ICONS simulation run for the entirety of Week 5 with voting on final proposals scheduled for the close of the week. You should regularly (once a day or multiple times a day) log into the ICONS simulation interface. In particular, on Friday, August 7th, plan to check in at multiple points throughout the day and vote on the final version of the Council resolutions no later than 10 pm.

Module 12: International Political Economy
Read: Lamy et. al—Ch. 8 (256-274)
Watch: Lecture Video # 12 (available on FirstClass).

Module 13: Global Trade & Finance
Read: Lamy et. al—Ch. 8 (274-284)
Watch: Lecture Video # 13 (available on FirstClass).

WEEK 6 (Aug. 10-Aug. 16)

NOTE: Utilize this week to reflect on the ICONS simulation and work on your individual reflection paper. The individual reflection paper will be due in the appropriate folder of “Assignment Drop Box” by Sunday, August 16th at 8 pm.

Module 14: Poverty and Economic Development
Read: Lamy et. al—Ch. 9 (285-312)

Watch: Lecture Video # 14 (available on FirstClass).

Module 15: The Global Environment
Read: Lamy et. al—Ch. 10 (313-332)
Watch: Lecture Video # 15 (available on FirstClass).

Module 16: Thinking About the Future of International Relations
Read: No reading for today. But watch (and think about) the Ted Talks by Joseph Nye, James Hansen, and Maajid Nawaz before watching today’s lecture.
Watch: Lecture Video # 16 (available on FirstClass).

FINAL EXAMINATION
The Final Examination will be available through Blackboard from 12:00 am (midnight) to 11:59 pm on Friday, August 14th. You can choose to take it at any time within that window. However, once you open the exam you will have 120 minutes to complete it. The study guide can be accessed at any time in the “Assignments & Study Guide” folder on FirstClass.

-- Final Grades should post to MaineStreet by August 22nd. Those of you who have questions about the breakdown of your final grade can contact me via email at robert.glover@maine.edu--

Enjoy the rest of your summer!!

*Note: In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.
Supplemental Internet Resources & Readings Related to In-Class Material:

Media/Journalism
The following sources offer extensive international reporting and coverage of world politics and the global economy. You should of course recognize that all news sources have “ideological biases”—certain viewpoints which shape reporting on complex political issues. In seeking information about controversial world issues, it can be problematic to rely upon a single resource. Those presented here represent a fairly wide range of political perspectives.

- Washington Post—World Coverage: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/world/
- BBC World News: http://news.bbc.co.uk/
- Financial Times: http://www.ft.com/home/us
- Guardian UK: http://www.guardian.co.uk/
- The Economist: http://www.economist.com/
- Die Welt (Germany): http://www.welt.de/english-news/
- Al-Jazeera World News: http://english.aljazeera.net/
- All-Africa News: http://allafrica.com/
- The Japan Times Online: http://www.japantimes.co.jp/
- Pravda (Russia): http://english.pravda.ru/

Issue-Specific Resources
For issue specific internet resources related to the chapters and topics that we cover in this course, consult the website for our textbook at http://www.oup.com/us/lamy