Introduction to International Politics

U25 PolSci 103
University College Division
Washington University

Department of Political Science
Fully Online via Blackboard
Summer Session 3, 2015 6/8/15 – 7/31/15

Instructor Information

Dr. Edythe E. Weeks, Esq.
Adjunct Faculty

Office Hours: Schedule arrangements for virtual or face to face meetings via text at (636) 279-4317
Turnaround time for calls/emails within 36 hours
Mobile Phone: (636) 279-4317 For quick response: text me
Email: Please use our Blackboard Online Classroom Email Tool
General WUSTL Email: eweeks@artsci.wustl.edu

Ph.D., Politics & International Affairs, Northern Arizona University, 2006
Juris Doctors, University of Missouri-Columbia, emphasis in International Law, 1987
Bachelors in Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1984

I began teaching in person at Washington University in 2009 and have taught a variety of courses including Introduction to International Politics, International Politics, Politics of International Law, and The New Space Rush. My primary research examines the intersection between international law and international politics as it applies to international space law and policy and political exercises of power related the territory known as outer space. This is an international region – a commons area. Focusing on this issue area has allowed me to develop deep insights regarding what the field of international relations and its explanatory frameworks have to offer. In 2014 I was placed on the Fulbright specialist roster by the US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. My work has been published in a wide variety of international scholarly journals including Acta Astronautica, Revue de Droit International de Sciences Diplomatiques et Politiques, and the Colloquium Proceedings of the International Institute of Space Law. To learn more about my work: https://sites.google.com/site/edytheweeks

My teaching style has been developed in order to assist students in reaching their full potential as scholars and academics. This course seeks to develop several essential skills such as critical reading, critical thinking, and effective writing.
Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the study of international politics, with an emphasis on the many factors and processes which tend to produce cooperation and conflict within the international arena. You will become familiar with and learn about the various contributions from key experts in the field of study called international politics. These contributions are generally understood and categorized as mainstream theories such as realism, neoliberal institutionalism, or as the lesser known theories such as globalism, constructivism and critical theory. This exposure will provide you with an opportunity for a wide range of understanding from diverse perspectives. This will enable you to evolve into your own understanding of how international politics works – how it really works. You will also develop an understanding of how international law is impacted by power and international politics. You will ultimately apply all of these insights to a real life topic which interests you. This exercise will be achieved by writing a research paper.

Course Materials

Readings: There is no textbook. Below is our list of readings. In addition, students will be directed for each Assignment, Discussion or Paper on which materials to read or review or how to research and gather current scholarly published works on topics of international politics, in addition to the below readings. Note: In addition to these readings, you are being asked to view videos and to perform research and to review various other informative works and pieces of information to enhance your learning experience.

- Byers, Michael (2005) Forward and Introduction in *War Law: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict*

Activities and Course Structure

The class will be online. Students will be required to write 4 Assignments, a Research Paper and 10 Discussion posts. The Research Paper required involves first submitting it as an Initial draft. The instructor will provide tutoring comments and detailed suggestions on how to expand, revise and further develop the document into the Final Research Paper. The students will continue working on the document and applying various suggestions contained in the tutoring documents and then resubmit it as the Final Research Paper. Students are also required to post 10 Discussions. Late papers should be avoided. At the instructor's discretion, points may be taken off for late papers. Specific instructions will be passed out in a timely manner before each paper and each assignment is due. If the grade received is disagreeable, students can contact and discuss a revision. Please do so within two weeks of receiving the grade.

Students will read and review information each week, outlined on the Syllabus, post Discussions each week via Blackboard and write papers which will involve student’s demonstrating their understanding of the course readings, materials and their own ability to perform research and to report of issues related to international politics/international relations/world politics. The readings the PowerPoint lectures will introduce and explain key concepts, ideas, and arguments. Discussions will address critical questions, problems, and issues highlighted in the readings each week.

All students are expected to be active participants in class discussions, and to contribute meaningfully to the explanation, evaluation, and applications of the concepts and issues covered throughout the course. Therefore, it is
imperative that students read the assigned material, and post their Discussions and engage with the others in the class via Blackboard.

Students will be required to write four (4) short papers (“assignments”): a longer paper, which will be submitted first as the Initial Research Paper, which will be reviewed, commented on and graded by the instructor. The students will make the necessary revisions and re-submit the revised version of the paper as the Final Research Paper. The instructor will “tutor” each student to make sure they are able to accomplish these tasks and similar tasks in other courses. Students are also required to post 10 Discussions. Late papers should be avoided. At the instructor's discretion, points may be taken off for late papers. Each student will complete a research paper based on a topic that you will select and then relate to the course material. Narrow your paper topic to a question. You will not be penalized if your paper is longer than 7 pages. Please do not submit papers shorter than 7 pages.

Specific instructions will be passed out in a timely manner before each paper and each assignment is due. If the grade received is disagreeable, students can contact and discuss a revision. Please do so within two weeks of receiving the grade.

Learning Objectives

In this course, students are expected to be able to:
1. Access, compile, and analyze academic resources for the study of topics in IR
2. Identify and define the key theories, concepts, and key actors in the field of international politics/international relations
3. Determine key actors and sites for the exercise of power
4. Analyze a key international issue using one or more IR perspectives
5. Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective
6. Write a research paper, providing a research question, hypothesis and supporting data, and to follow a citation method of choice to cite academic scholarly resources
7. Identify and explain different types of research methods and techniques

Schedule of Due Dates

**Written Assignments** – 4 @ 25 points each 100 points 25%
#1 due Thursday of Week 2 (6/18/15) by 11:59 pm Missouri time
#2 due Thursday of Week 3 (6/25/15) by 11:59 pm Missouri time
#3 due Thursday of Week 4 (7/02/15) by 11:59 pm Missouri time
#4 due Thursday of Week 5 (7/09/15) by 11:59 pm Missouri time

**The Research Paper** – 2 drafts @ 100 points each 200 points 50%
Initial Research Paper due Thursday of Week 6 (7/16/15) by 11:59 pm Missouri time
Final Research Paper due Thursday of Week 8 (7/30/15) by 11:59 pm Missouri time

**Discussions-Class Participation** 100 points 25%
This includes Discussion posts and responses to class Discussions of other students. There are no set due dates, at this time. So long as everyone posts discussions on a regular basis, this will remain the case. If I feel the need to post due dates on Discussions because of slow or lack of class participation, this may happen.
*Discussions-Class Participation - 10 (100 points possible) (Instructions directing your posts are provided inside of our Blackboard online classroom environment.)*

Each Discussion post is worth 10 points for a total of 100 points. You are required to actively participate online for this course and this will be a critical component of your final grade. Everyone is expected to participate and to respond to the Discussion posts of the other students in the class and/or for making meaningful well thought out contributions during course discussions. I expect students to bring to the course a wide variety of philosophies and views, and to express them openly, but with respect and tact. This way we can learn from each other.

*Assignments - 4 (100 points possible): (Instructions and readings are provided inside of our Blackboard online classroom environment.)*
The course requires that each student submit four (4) assignments.

The purpose of these assignments is to check your understanding of the key topics of this course as we progress.

The instructions for each will be available in Blackboard.

Your response should be based on your understanding of the weekly assigned readings. The instructions will set forth the readings that are relevant for that particular assignment.

Use Microsoft Word. Papers should approximately three (3) pages in length (longer papers always work for me), double spaced with a 12 point font.

Be sure to provide references when referring to points made by authors other than yourself, including the books, dissertations, documentaries, articles, websites and other materials.

Please remember to type your name, the topic, and the assignment number (i.e. Assignment #1, #2, #3, #4) as part of the document/file name for the paper.

The Research Paper - Initial Research Paper (100) and Final Research Paper (100) (for a total of 200 points possible on each Research Paper). See “Instructions for Initial and Final Research Papers” below.

Policy on Late Work
Please submit your work by the due date. I will accept and grade work submitted after the due date, so long as it is submitted before the last day of our course.

Incomplete Policy
I will not be entering any grades as an “I” for incomplete. You will need to submit your Assignments, Discussions and Research Paper (initial and final draft) by the end of the semester.

Grading
Coursework and participation assessment will be graded by the instructor, or designated agent, based upon the point scale contained in this syllabus. Grades will be based on how well the student demonstrates their understanding of the course materials, lectures and discussions on issues posed. Students should focus on demonstrating that they have read the materials, attended class and thought independently about issues and questions presented.

Feedback Schedule
- My goal is to help you learn. I am open to providing opportunities for students to redo their class assignments if your work does not meet minimum requirements.
- The instructor will provide timely feedback on assignments, papers, and presentations. I will do my best to grade your submitted work within 5 days. Feel free to text me if you would like a more immediate response to something submitted at 636 279-4317.

Grade Components (%)

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Assessment Tool  (++ = key tool; + = secondary tool, X = not used)

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Optional: Extra Credit Discussion worth 20 points

Class Final Grading Scale
A+  More than 400
A   361-400
A-  360-380
B+  348-359
B   332-344
B-  320-331
C+  308-319
C   292-307
D   260-291
F   259-0

Note: It goes without saying, if a student fails to submit assignments and other work the student will receive a "0" grade on those missing assignments, papers and other work.

LEARNING MODULES: SCHEDULE OF COURSEWORK

Week 1 and Week 2

Module 1: Orientation Module: Introduction - This module introduces students to the theories, concepts and analytical frameworks for the field of inquiry call international relations, international politics, world politics or international affairs. Students will be exposed to various contributions made by critical analysts and theorists in the field of international relations so that they will understand when such approaches are useful in conducting research. These contributions are generally understood and categorized as mainstream theories such as realism, neoliberal institutionalism, or as the lesser known theories such as globalism, constructivism and critical theory. This exposure will provide students with an opportunity for a wide range of understanding from diverse perspectives. Our world of state governments, regimes, individuals, groups, regional economic and political partnerships, institutions, organizations, intergovernmental organizations and corporations is diverse and very complex. Some of these explanations focus on history, political science, ideology, economics, psychology, social psychology, anthropology, law and various other fields. Many authors, scholars and theorists have attempted to use IR theory and concepts to explain social, behavioral and political phenomena happening in our world.

1.1 – International Relations, International Politics, International Affairs, World Politics
1.1.1 Definitions
  What is “politics”?
  What is “power”?
1.1.2 Theories and Analytical Frameworks
  What is a theory? What does a theory do?
  Realism
    Nicolo Machiavelli: The Prince
Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s Stag Hunt Allegory

Pluralism
Neoliberal Institutionalism
Interdependence

Globalism
Marxism
World systems theory
Dependency theory

Go online the research the following theories:
Modernization Theory
Postcolonial Theory
Constructivism
Poststructuralism
Cultural Hegemony
Feminism

1.1.3 Concepts
Key Actors
National Security
Anarchy
Rational Calculation
Balance of Power
Race
Underdevelopment
War
Peace
Cooperation
Conflict

1.2 – Critical Analysis: Highlighting Hidden Exercises of Power
1.2.1 Ignoring History: Written, Represented or Documented by the Latest Conquerors
1.2.2 Accounting for all the Nations of Our World
1.2.3 Developed Nations
1.2.4 Developing Nations
1.2.5 Underdeveloped Nations
1.2.6 The First World
1.2.7 The Third World
1.2.8 The Second World
1.2.9 The Fourth World
1.2.10 Stated Causes of War v. Actual Causes
1.2.11 Link to A List of Scholarly Publications [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_relations_journals]

1.3 – World Wars
1.3.1 John G. Stoessinger’s *Why Nations Go to War* Thesis: People and Their Personalities
1.3.2 Realist Assumptions of National Security and Rationality
1.3.3 Inverse Relationship between Conflict and Perceptions of Inequality
1.3.4 Balance of Power and Other Myths
1.3.5 How Many Wars Have Occurred v. Number of Acts of Peaceful Cooperation: How Many?

Assignment 1 is due Thursday of Week 2 by 11:59 pm Missouri time.
Discussions 1 and 2 should be posted by the end of Week 1 and Week 2 respectively.

1.4 – Implications
1.5 - Summary

Readings


Students should plan to spend about 4 hours reading and 1 hour preparing the Discussion post in Week 1. Students should plan on spending about 3 hours reviewing the internet, YouTube, Yahoo, PBS, etc. to think about what’s happening in our world of International Politics today.

**Discussion 1:** Introduce yourself by posting a comment inside of our Blackboard online classroom Discussions area. Tell the class a little about yourself, your major, what you would like to do in life and how this relates to your interest in International Politics.

**Learning Outcome 5:** Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective

**Assignment 1:** Write a 2 page, double spaced paper discussing insights gained from studying Viotti & Kauppi. Read and analyze the reading by Viotti & Kauppi. Figure out and write out the key assumptions, key thinkers and other information that you believe is relevant for understanding the IR theories outlined in this chapter reading.

**Learning Outcome #2:** Identify and define the key theories, concepts, and key actors in the field of international politics/international relations

**Learning Outcome #3:** Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective

**Discussion 2:** Post a discussion based your understanding of the theories and concepts of for studying international relations, as explained by Viotti & Kauppi. You can refer to your Assignment 1 to help you express this knowledge.

**Learning Outcome #2:** Identify and define the key theories, concepts, and key actors in the field of international politics/international relations

**Learning Outcome #5:** Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective

Students should plan to spend about 4 hours reading and reviewing materials and 3 hours analyzing the material, preparing and writing Assignment 1 and Discussion 2 in Week 2.

**Week 3 and Week 4**

**Module 2: Historical Factors** – This module allows us to explore several recent historical events. Students will discover how researching history can enhance their understanding of international politics and past patterns and exercises of power. The purpose of the video/transcript series is “to promote a better understanding of globalization, world trade and economic development, including the forces, values, events and ideas that have shaped our present global economic system”. See [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/index.html) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commanding_Heights:_The_Battle_for_the_World_Economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commanding_Heights:_The_Battle_for_the_World_Economy)

**2.1 – PBS: Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy**

2.1.1 The Battle of Ideas

  - The Old Order Fails
  - Research: Keynes and Hayek
  - The First Era of Globalization
  - World War and Revolution
  - Keynes foresees disaster
  - Communism
  - Lenin
  - Stalin
Capitalism Collapses?
- German hyperinflation
- American boom and bust
- Fascism takes hold in Europe
- Can Keynes save capitalism?
- Roosevelt
- Churchill
- Labor nationalizes the heights
- Communism's rapid gains
- Milton Friedman
- Democracy and free markets
- Germany's Bold Move
- The ruins of postwar Germany
- Price controls vs. inflation
- India
- Nehru and Gandhi
- A socialist model for development
- Stagflation besets America
- Nixon becomes a Keynesian
- U.S. wage and price controls
- Thatcher and Hayek
- Deregulation Takes Off
- Reagan, tax cuts, deregulation, deficits
- War in the South Atlantic
- Can Keynes save capitalism?
- How is the battle over ideas decided?

2.1.2 Episode Two: The Agony of Reform
2.1.3 Episode Three: The New Rules of the Game

2.2 Political Decisions during Post World War II Conferences: The US Appointed as the World Leader
2.1.1 Bretton Woods Conference
2.1.2 Potsdam Conference
2.1.3 Yalta Conference
2.1.4 Tehran Conference
2.1.5 The fall of the U.S.S.R. in 1989-1991
- Bipolar Balance of Power
- Unipolarity/Unipower
- Research these terms and come to an understanding of the political decisions which were made during these conferences and how this impacted US power on the international stage

Readings (Read the online transcripts connected to the links below):
- Episode One: The Battle of Ideas
- Episode Two: The Agony of Reform
  [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/ch_menu_03.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/ch_menu_03.html)

Assignment 2: Write a 2 page, double spaced paper discussing historical insights and information learned from the Commanding Heights: Battle for the World Economy transcripts or videos.

Discussion 3: Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of the contents from the PBS Commanding Heights series (videos or transcripts). Discuss something that you learned after viewing the videos. What stands out most in your mind? Who were some of the key actors (key figures, people who made phenomena happen)? What things did they make happen? What did they do? These are exercises of power. Also, try to make your Discussion relate to the prior Discussions posted by your classmates. If your Discussion is the first one, you will not have to make it relate to other posts. If your post is last, you will have a more challenging job ahead of you.

Learning Outcome #3: Determine key actors and sites for the exercise of power
Students should plan to spend about 4 hours reading and reviewing materials and 3 hours preparing Assignment 2 and Discussion 3 in Week 3.

**Assignment #3** Write a 2 page paper, double spaced, discussing your understanding of the terms “bipolar balance of power”, “unipower”, “unipolarity”, “Bretton Woods Conference”, “Posdam Conference”, “Tehran Conference” and “Yalta Conference”. Understand the political decisions which were made during these conferences and how this impacted the US power on the international stage. Did these conferences lead to the US status as a unipolar power?

**Learning Outcome #3:** Determine key actors and sites for the exercise of power
**Learning Outcome #4:** Analyze a key international issue using one or more IR perspectives
**Learning Outcome #5:** Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective

**Discussion 4:** Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of how Bretton Woods, Posdam, Tehran Conference and Yalta Conferences shaped US power, after World War II.

**Learning Outcome #4:** Analyze a key international issue using one or more IR perspectives

Students should plan to spend about 4 hours reading and reviewing materials and 3 hours preparing Assignment 3 and Discussion 4 in Week 4.

Assignments 2 & 3 due Thursday of Week 3 and Week 4, respectively by 11:59 pm Missouri time. Discussions 3 and 4 should be posted by the end of Week 3 and Week 4 respectively.

2.3 - Implications
2.4 - Summary

**Week 5 and Week 6**

**Module 3: Methodology for Studying International Relations** - This module allows for the development of a basic understanding of various research methods and perspectives for understanding international relations. This will enhance student’s ability to analyze the complexities and processes involved in international relations, world politics and international affairs. Students will gain knowledge of how to evolve into their own understanding of how international relations works – how it really works. The ultimate goal is to enable students to gain the capacity to develop themselves into scholars and academics, should they choose to pursue this path. Another ultimate goal is to teach students how to imagine practical applications for their enhanced research skills. Towards the end of the course, students are expected to be able to apply various methods, theories and approaches towards providing an answer to the question: Why do nations go to war? This exercise will be achieved by writing a research paper.

3.1 – Studying Recent Phenomena
The arctic is melting, so who owns the resources underneath the vanishing ice? Does the Law of the Sea apply? Asteroid mining companies have formed. Who gets to extract outer space resources? What’s happening regarding Syria? Are reports regarding acts of international piracy on the high seas a recent phenomenon? Is international terrorism a recent phenomenon? Does the international aspect of an act of piracy or terrorism cause it to be perceived and responded to in a specific way? Is China now more powerful than the US? Can there be peace in the Middle East? Palestine and Israel

3.2 – A Variety of Methods
Levels of Analysis
The Agent v. Structure Problem in IR
Unit of Analysis
Quantitative Methods for Studying IR
Qualitative Methods for Studying IR
Epistemology
Positivism
Case Studies
Assignment 4 is due Thursday of Week 5 by 11:59 pm Missouri time.
Initial Research Paper is due Thursday of Week 6 by 11:59 Missouri time.
Discussions 5, 6 & 7 should be posted upon completion of this module.

3.3 - Implications
3.4 - Summary

Readings


Discussions 5: Post a summary of 3 different research methods as your Discussions posts 5. The purpose of this is to have your teach your classmates about 3 IR methods, of your choice.
Learning Objective #7: Identify and explain different types of research methods and techniques

Discussions 6: Post a discussion regarding what you have learned regarding the melting arctic and mining of outer space resources. arctic and outer space territories.

Discussions 7: Post a discussion regarding what you have learned regarding international pirates and international terrorism.
Learning Objective #5: Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective

Students should plan to spend about 4 hours reading and reviewing materials and 3 hours preparing Assignment 4 and Discussion 5, 6, & 7 in Week 5.

Initial Research Paper: Write a short research paper (5-7 pages, initial draft) on the following question:
Research Question: Why did the U.S. go to war with Iraq in 2003? (See the more detailed instructions below. I will also be online tutoring you through the research paper process so that it is a fun experience, rather than a fearful one. 

Learning Outcome #1: Access, compile, and analyze academic resources for the study of topics in IR
Learning Outcome #2: Identify and define the key theories, concepts, and key actors in the field of international politics/international relations
Learning Outcome #3: Determine key actors and sites for the exercise of power
Learning Outcome #4: Analyze a key international issue using one or more IR perspectives
Learning Outcome #5: Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective.
Learning Outcome #6: Write a research paper, providing a research question, hypothesis and supporting data, and to follow a citation method of choice to cite academic scholarly resources.

Students should plan to spend about 4 hours reading and reviewing materials and 7 hours preparing the Initial Research Paper draft in Week 6.
Week 7 and Week 8

**Module 4: Writing the Research Paper** - This module allows students to develop research skills and deepen their understanding of various perspectives, approaches, methodological issues, and bibliographic resources, related to international relations.

4.1 **Conducting Research**
4.1.1 Beginning the Research Process
4.1.2 Topic, Research Question and Hypothesis
4.1.3 Working Thesis
4.1.4 Summary
4.1.5 Writing the Paragraphs
4.1.6 Organizing Your Data, Findings and Support of Your Thesis

4.2 **Evaluating Sources and Taking Notes**
4.2.1 Evaluating the Usefulness and Potential Credibility of Sources
4.2.2 Reading and Interpreting Resources
4.2.3 Evaluating Articles
4.2.4 Evaluating Web Sources
4.2.5 Quoting and Paraphrasing v. Plagiarizing
4.2.6 Summarizing the Published Works of Authors and Scholars

4.3 **Submitting Abstracts for Conferences**
4.3.1 Locating Conferences
4.3.1 How to Know What to Write
4.3.1 How to Write It

4.4 **– Submitting Abstracts and Your Paper for Publication**
4.4.1 Locating Possible Journals to Publish Your Work
4.4.2 How to Know What to Write
4.4.3 What to Say
4.4.4 The Editing Process and Following Up Until It Is Actually Published and in Print

*Final Research Paper is due by 11:59 pm Week 8.
Discussions 8, 9 and 10 should be posted upon completion of this module.*

4.5 - Implications
4.6 - Summary & Course Completion

**Readings**

- Byers, Michael (2005) Forward and Introduction in *War Law: Understanding International Law and Armed Conflict*

Learn about Citation Styles by searching “citation styles for international relations research papers” and “how to create a bibliography”. Also see:

- MLA Citation Style
- Chicago Style
- Online citation styles
**Discussion 8**: Post a discussion which demonstrates your knowledge of the readings by Stoessinger and Byers.

**Discussion 9**: Post a discussion to share your answer to the Research Question: Why did the U.S. go to war in Iraq in 2003?

**Discussion 10**: Post a discussion to enable the students to understand the process you went through to write and revise your Research Paper (initial and final drafts).

**Final Research Paper**: This will be the revised, expanded final draft, after working with Professor Weeks to better understand the research paper writing process. Research Question: Why did the U.S. go to war in Iraq in 2003?

**Learning Outcome #1**: Access, compile, and analyze academic resources for the study of topics in IR.
**Learning Outcome #2**: Identify and define the key theories, concepts, and key actors in the field of international politics/international relations.
**Learning Outcome #3**: Determine key actors and sites for the exercise of power.
**Learning Outcome #4**: Analyze a key international issue using one or more IR perspectives.
**Learning Outcome #5**: Become acquainted with key fundamental theoretical frameworks used by scholars, who study international politics, and some of the dominant issues within international relations in both the current era and in historical perspective.
**Learning Outcome #6**: Write a research paper, providing a research question, hypothesis and supporting data, and to follow a citation method of choice to cite academic scholarly resources.

Extra Credit Discussion: Post a mini lecture on International Politics for the class. For a possible additional 20 points (optional).

Students should plan to spend about 7 hours reading and reviewing materials and 6 hours preparing the Final Research Paper in Week 8.

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**Additional Course Information**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR INITIAL AND FINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

1. Paper layout:
   - Papers must have your name, your topic and page numbers
   - 5-7 pages in length, double spaced, 12 point font
   - Bibliography is a must and any citation style is acceptable (APA etc.).
   - Here is a helpful website http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citation.htm
   - If this one disappears, there are many others. Just do a web search using the key word search of “bibliographies”, or “how to write a bibliography”.

2. Your Initial Research Paper (100 points), which is due by Thursday of Week 6

Your Initial Research Paper will not be perfect. Interpret these instructions however you see fit and create an initial draft. To encourage you, grading will be very lenient on the initial draft.

If you have questions, feel free to ask me regarding these instructions. I suggest that when writing your Initial Research Paper that you take the following steps. They can be taken in any order that you feel is best. I would suggest that you complete the following activities which should ultimately result in the completion of your Initial and Final Research Papers. These steps are:

First, select an international politics topic that interests you. Then, ask the question regarding the key actors and how power has been, or is being exercised or how power has been exercise in a situation involving the topic selected. Write it out at the beginning of your paper. (5 points).
Second, go online, or to any library, or to Washington University’s library website with journals and e-Books and resources to locate references and resources (books, articles, web resources, White House documents, UN documents, speeches, policy statements, movies. Films, documentaries, news information, dissertations, theses, etc.) to help you provide and support an answer to the research question: Why did the US go to war in Iraq in 2003? The resources that you will locate resources will provide you with data, research, information, arguments and rationales explaining key actors and how power was exercised in the topic scenario that you have decided to study. Write out summaries of these published works from about 20 authors/writers/scholars. (10 points).

Third, use the Viotti & Kauppi chapter for concepts and theories of international relations that you can use to explain the phenomenon that you have decided to research (10 points).

Fourth, review the articles in our Blackboard classroom, listed on the syllabus to provide further information regarding IR theoretical approaches and perspective that you feel help explain the phenomenon that you have decided to research (10 points).

Fifth, write out the research question in your introduction and refer to it in several paragraphs as you write paragraphs that support and create an answer to the question. Research the term “how to create a research hypothesis”, and state what your research hypothesis is, in your Introduction. (5 points). I will help you achieve this.

Sixth, create an introduction (1-2 pages) which contains an overview and explanation of the research question, hypothesis and the information and data that you have collected, what you believe it demonstrates, how you gathered than data and the IR method that you used. Explain why you believe the information that you gathered will convince readers that you have answered the research question. (5 points).

Seventh, create a body (about 3 pages of paragraphs, discussing the data and information that you have collected from published information (books, articles, news, films, movies, documentaries, web resources, White House documents, UN reports, etc.) and a conclusion (1 page)(5 points).

3. Your Final Research Paper is due towards the end of the semester. It will be a revised and expanded version of your Initial Research Paper (100 points).

Wisdom Tips

Tip: Remember To Add Insights from Your Readings
Your readings – from your research and the course materials (articles and web resources) have a lot of useful information, so remember to take notes so that you can refer to them.

Tip: Don’t be Afraid to Start Training Your Mind as a Research Scholar
You will be asked to also do research to located additional academic resources - books, academic journals, magazines and newspapers from academic and scholars who have researched and thought deeply on this topics/issues/concepts that you are attempting to understand. Apply pieces of knowledge, things that you read from reading the work of other scholars, and use them in your own paper, without plagiarizing. I will demonstrate how you mention contributions, thoughts and ideas taken from books, articles and other sources.

Tip: How to Locate On-Line Articles
We will discuss this in class. Also, visit, email and/or call Washington University’s library (on various occasions) and ask someone (reference librarian) to help you become aware of print and online journals, eBooks, databases, laws, policies, films, articles, policies, treaties, websites, scholarly and academic resources, and other resources. Tell them you are getting prepared to write a research paper for your course. Also visit the website for Washington University Library and explore the many resources and references available to you as a student of Wash U.

For example, check for “Academic Search Premier” or EBSCO Host, when you click on it you will later see a box with the word “Find:”

You will be given many articles from various academic journals, magazines, newspapers and book sources.
Read through or scan all of these titles. See which one seems to suit your purposes. Most of them are right there, available at the click of a button for you to read, print and to use in order to deep your understanding of the various key issues relevant to your position and the positions of the other actors, on all sides of this issue.

**Tip: Research Major Websites**
I usually start a search by going to yahoo.com typing in the key word and exploring various links to see how my topic of interest is being discussed by people. Then, I do the same on youtube.com and wikipedia.com for key words relating to the issue that your are writing about. You never know what you might find. Videos, news clips, reports. These data ports are not considered scholarly or academic, so please do not cite yahoo.com, wikipedia.com or youtube.com. Instead, use these resources to develop your understanding of key issues and topics related to your topic of interest, in order to locate more resources and references (scholarly/academic ones) to use in your research paper.

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**APPENDIX**

**Notice on Java Updates and Supported Browsers**

- Blackboard works best in Mozilla Firefox. Some Blackboard features will not work well in Chrome or Internet Explorer. You can visit [https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_14/Instructor/015_Browser_Support](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_14/Instructor/015_Browser_Support) and click on “Browser Support” for more detailed information on which browser works best for Blackboard, based upon your computer’s operating system.
- Be sure you have downloaded the most recent version Java. This free software program helps you to be able to access Blackboard. You can check which version of Java you currently have and update it (if necessary) by visiting [www.java.com](http://www.java.com). Keep Java updated for best results.

**Technical Support**
This is a fully online, technology-based course. Because computers are not perfect, plan on having technical issues **at least once** during the term. While this can cause some incredibly frustrating moments, the overall benefits of the technology do outweigh any issues that may arise. Just be ready to contact technical support in the event of difficulties. Send an email to [blackboardhelp@wustl.edu](mailto:blackboardhelp@wustl.edu) with any questions/problems concerning Blackboard. (This is technical support for any problems you experience within the Blackboard classroom only, not other external software). For additional Blackboard resources and assistance, visit the [Blackboard Answers & Support page](https://www.blackboard.com) on the University College Website.

**“Netiquette” Statement on Internet Communication.**

- Remember your audience. If you would not say it in a face-to-face classroom, do not include it in the online discussions either. Consider what you write, as it is a permanent record and can be retrieved easily. Use courtesy and common sense in all your electronic communications.
- Write in complete sentences and check spelling before you post anything in class.
- DON’T TYPE IN ALL CAPS. This is hard to read and is considered "shouting."
- Respect the opinions of others and be sensitive to the diverse nature of people in the class. Keep in mind that although you cannot "see" your classmates, you can show respect for individual differences. Diversity issues may include the following and others: race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, marital status, urban vs. rural dwellers, etc.
- No profanity will be allowed. This includes writing in punctuation. For example, ##%$#! is considered profanity and is not permitted. Also, language expressed in inappropriate acronyms is not acceptable.

**Expectations for Student Attendance** (Bb log-ins, response to emails, discussions, hours per week students should expect to devote to the class, etc.)

You are expected to have an active presence within Blackboard (our online classroom) and that is one of the ways in which I will monitor your attendance in the course. I am able see when last you logged into Blackboard and how much time you’ve spent in various areas of the classroom. The class is not self-paced because we have specific due dates for all assignments, but you will work on the course at your own convenience within those parameters. Lack of participation in discussions or not answering email messages sent to you will be considered lack of attendance and will result in a loss of points.

**Statement Regarding Academic Honesty:**
Students are bound by the University College policy on academic integrity in all aspects of this course. All references to ideas and texts other than the students’ own must be so indicated through appropriate footnotes, whether the source is a book, an online site, the professor, etc. All students are responsible for following the rules outlined in the document regarding the university academic integrity policy:
http://ucollege.wustl.edu/faculty/academic_integrity
All students are expected to abide by the citation and attribution techniques explained here:
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/

Washington University strives to be a center of academic excellence. As part of our Statement of Ethics, the University strives to preserve academic honor and integrity by repudiating all forms of academic and intellectual dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty. Students at Washington University are expected to practice academic honesty. A determination that a student has violated this policy could result in the student receiving a failing grade for the course, or a “0” on the specific assignment, paper or other work. You have committed plagiarism if:

- You intentionally submitted any written or oral work done by someone else and represented that work as your own
- Any portion of your work does not have proper citation
- You asked someone else to write your paper
- You should not copy whole portions of text from another source as a major component of your papers or projects.
- When you quote an author you need to put it in quotation marks and provide full citation (name of author, name of book or article, place of publication, publisher, and year of publication, page number, and web page address).
- You can paraphrase someone else’s ideas and writings but you still need to cite the original source. You need to use footnotes or endnotes, and a full bibliographic reference. See style manual for proper citation.

Academic Support:

All University College students are encouraged to take advantage of the following Academic Support services on campus:

- **Cornerstone**: Cornerstone provides access to academic peer mentoring, assists students with essential study and test-taking skills, and offers disability resources to students in need. In addition, Cornerstone connects first-generation college students to leadership programs and offers academic, research and career opportunities. Visit [http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/](http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/) for more information.

- **Writing Center**: The Writing Center staff members are writers helping writers through the process of revision. They are undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty members who love to write and to help others clarify their thoughts and ideas. The Writing Center and The Speaking Studio at Washington University in St. Louis provide free, one-on-one tutoring to all WUSTL students for any writing or public speaking project. Students interested in using the Writing Center should call in advance to make an appointment. Visit [http://writingcenter.wustl.edu/](http://writingcenter.wustl.edu/) for more information.

- **Arts & Sciences Computing**: Arts & Sciences Computing operates two labs that are open to students, faculty, and staff. Visit [http://computing.artsci.wustl.edu/labs](http://computing.artsci.wustl.edu/labs) for more information.

- **Library**: Washington University Libraries boast an impressive array of services, including course reserves, interlibrary loan, reserved study spaces, the Arc Computing Lab, and so much more. Visit [http://library.wustl.edu/](http://library.wustl.edu/) for more information.

Student Accommodations

Washington University is committed to providing equal opportunity for students with disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) assists students with disabilities by providing services and arranging for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access and equal academic opportunities. Students wishing to request services or accommodations must register and provide appropriate documentation to the DRC at [cornerstone.wustl.edu](http://cornerstone.wustl.edu). The DRC serves as a resource and advisor to students with disabilities and welcomes opportunities to consult with students, families, faculty, and staff. This online course has been designed with accessibility in mind. Be sure to visit Blackboard’s accessibility statement at: [http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/resources/accessibility.aspx](http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/resources/accessibility.aspx)
Course Evaluations
Please be sure to comply with the request to submit your course evaluation, towards the end of the semester. Your feedback is very critical.

General Tips for Success in the Online Classroom:
Welcome to our online course! The following is a list of helpful information that represents habits of students who have succeeded in online courses. These tips should help each of you to have a positive experience as well.

1. GET STARTED: Remember that this online course begins on day one of the semester. Log in early during the first week to print the syllabus, become oriented to the online classroom, and get to know your professor and classmates. Waiting until the end of the first week to get started may derail your efforts to succeed before you know it. LOG IN 3-5 times each week. Review our Syllabus and review the instructions and reading for Assignment 1. Post Discussion 1.

2. STAY ORGANIZED. Bookmark our course websites (Blackboard, Online Dictionary, other websites indicated by professor etc.) Create a special binder or folder to organize any printed materials. Study time will be easier and more fruitful if you are organized and up to date.

3. INTERACT WITH YOUR CLASSMATES. Students who study in small groups or pairs tend to be more successful. You can help each other to understand difficult points in the unit simply by participating regularly in the Discussion Forums.

4. SHOW UP & ASK QUESTIONS. Text or phone me occasionally for extra discussion as needed. Make an appointment and we can talk in real time via Skype or phone. You can also email me any questions that arise or post them in the “Questions?” discussion forum.

5. DO THE READING. The assigned reading is a valuable part of the course. Students who consistently stay up to date on the reading tend to receive higher grades than those who do not. In this class, the reading will consist of…. which will prepare you to participate in the classroom discussion forums.

6. STUDY “OFFLINE” SOMETIMES. Although this is an online course, you need not do all of your studying online. Spend time studying away from the computer by taking notes on the readings.

7. DON’T PROCRASTINATE. Procrastination will ruin your experience in the class in several ways. Not only does it prevent you from learning what you are here to learn, but it will also cause you to lose a lot of points. Refer to the list of assignment due dates in this syllabus and follow the steps outlined in the study guide in order to better understand how to pace yourself appropriately.

8. HANG IN THERE!! If this is your first online class, the experience may challenge you at first, but as long as you keep up with the reading and follow your professor’s instructions, you will develop an understanding of the rhythm of the course after the first unit. See me for help as needed, I am your resource and I want to see you succeed and enjoy this course!

Guidelines for Discussion Forum Participation
1. Be sure to write in the subject line to whom your message is addressed. Changing the subject line is the number one way to make sure your post is noticed by the intended recipient.
2. Be sure to sign your name at the bottom of your messages. Writing your name at the end of each message helps to clarify the author and helps your classmates remember who you are.
3. Before responding to a particular discussion topic, be sure to complete the reading assignment of the corresponding unit. Remember that the discussion topics are specifically tied to the readings. Be sure to take your time and write meaningful discussion forum postings. Your ideas and content are important, and issues such as grammar, spelling, accents, vocabulary, and sentence structure count as well. Be sure your posts are well edited before you submit them, since unedited posts do not receive full points.
4. Participate in each discussion over several days within the lesson and avoid waiting until the due date to get started. Each discussion requires several posts from you, including replies to classmates. Waiting until the last day to participate minimizes the opportunity to interact your classmates and me and makes discussion participation much less meaningful for you. It will also result in a loss of points.
5. Finally, the discussion forums are meant to be fun! Check in often to communicate with your classmates and me.