

POLS/INST 184 (18795, 18796)  
Summer 2014 (Session 1)  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Ryan Maness  
BSB 1171  
MTRF 9am-12pm

### **Introduction to International Relations**

This course provides an introduction and overview of the concepts and approaches used to analyze world politics. Emphasis will be placed on systematic investigations of the concepts and the skills required to debate current issues in world affairs from a multi-country framework. Various international topics and issues will be discussed and debated. We will cover the major theories of international relations, the evolution of global politics, making foreign policy/diplomacy, international law and non-state actors, global security, military power, terrorism, human rights and human security, international political economy, poverty and development, and environmental issues. All students should be aware of current international events and prepared to discuss them in the classroom setting and beyond. Furthermore, we will be utilizing the role of film to explain and discuss important topics in international politics. Film provides a window to the world and this course will explore how various aspects of international politics have been covered and dramatized by movies and television. Emphasis will be placed on international conflict, but topics such as diplomacy, civil-military relations, nationalism, international interventions, clash of civilizations, and espionage will be covered. Film will be used to explain theories, events, and history. This is not a film course, but a politics course, so filmmaking nuance and subtext will not be analyzed. To goal is to grasp the complex nuances of international affairs through this medium.

### **Course Goals**

*By the end of this semester, each student should be able to:*

1. Understand morality and justice from the international perspective
2. Be aware of diverse international concerns and perspectives
3. Be able to critically analyze United States' actions in a global context
4. Understand the concepts and causes of international community and discord

### **Required Books**

Lamy, Steven L. John S. Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (2013). *Introduction to Global Politics*, Brief 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780199991211. (**Hereafter Lamy**)

Additional Readings will be posted on Blackboard.

## Course Requirements

Midterm (30%)

Final (30%)

Film Paper (30%)

Attendance and Participation (10%)

## Office Hours

Office: 1122C BSB

Office Hours: 12-1pm MTRF (every day after class)

Email: [rmaness@uic.edu](mailto:rmaness@uic.edu), [ryan.maness75@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.maness75@gmail.com)

Webpage: [drryanmaness.wix.com/irprof](http://drryanmaness.wix.com/irprof)

Phone: 773-655-4885

## The Course

The course is divided into three main sections. The first section will deal with the foundations of global politics, where we look at a brief history of international relations and go over the major theories of the field, realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism.

The second section will deal with the various global actors involved in international politics. We will look at foreign policy and diplomacy decisions and international law and non-state actors. Why do states and non-state actors make the decisions that they do?

The third section will deal with a variety of global issues. We will begin with global security, including war and its causes, nuclear deterrence, cyber conflict, and terrorism. We will then look at the issues of human rights and human security, then issues of international political economy, poverty and development, and will wrap up the course with environmental issues. All of these topics will be supplemented with a film to get a better understanding of the concepts.

We will start each day by talking about current events. ***Each student is required to keep up with the international news and be able to participate in class discussion.*** Next we will move to a short lecture on the concepts to be discussed for the day. There is a mandatory attendance policy, and missing class will adversely affect your participation grade. Missing an excessive amount of class is grounds for failure automatically. It will be difficult to finish any exam if you do not have notes for the class from each day, simply reading the book and avoiding class is the surest path to failure.

## The Paper

Your paper assignment for this term will be to find a movie and discuss its relevance to International Politics. You can choose any movie (including the ones shown in class); you just need to connect it back to international relations and the course in general (use your readings or the textbook as a guideline for topics). The paper should outline the movie briefly, discuss the concept you think is most relevant, and how the movie relates to that concept. You should do some background research on both the movie and concept you choose to discuss. The paper should be at least 7 pages in length. **War movies are poor choices for this assignment! THE PAPER IS DUE MONDAY, JUNE 9 IN CLASS!**

## **Participation**

Participation is simply showing up and contributing to class. Either asking questions, bringing up news articles, following up on lecture points, or private conversations with the professor/teaching assistant (if you are more comfortable with that) all count towards your participation grade. I do take attendance and missing class will be reflected on your final grade.

## **Exam**

There will be a midterm and a final. Each test will have a multiple choice as well as a short answer section that will ask questions pertaining to the material covered in the readings and lectures. There will also be an essay section where a choice of questions about the films covered in class will be asked. The exams are non-cumulative.

## **Academic Integrity**

The university expects students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Any of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own and according to university and class rules. Any attempt to gain an advantage not given to all students is considered dishonest whether or not it is successful. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, included but are not limited to failing this course. For additional information, see the Student Code of Conduct at: [http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/dean\\_of\\_students/Links/UIC+Discipline+Code.htm#3](http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/dean_of_students/Links/UIC+Discipline+Code.htm#3)

## **Special Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

## **Schedule**

Monday, May 19

Introduction to Global Politics, Read: Lamy Chapter 1

The Evolution of Global Politics, Read: Lamy Chapter 2

**Film:** *Thirteen Days*

Tuesday, May 20

Theories of Global Politics, Read: Lamy Chapter 3

**Film:** *Lord of the Flies*

Thursday, May 22

Making Foreign Policy, Read: Lamy Chapter 4

**Film:** *Wag the Dog*

Friday, May 23

International Law and Non-state Actors, Read: Lamy Chapter 5

**Film:** *Hotel Rwanda*

Monday, May 26

**No Class, Memorial Day**

Tuesday, May 27

Global Security, Military Power, and Terrorism, Read: Lamy Chapter 6

The Steps to War, Read: **On Blackboard**, Vasquez, Steps to War in Europe, 1933-1941

**Film:** *Why We Fight*

Thursday, May 29

Deterrence, Read: Herman Kahn's "Doomsday Machine"

<http://tracearchive.ntu.ac.uk/frame2/articles/borg/kahn.html>.

Cyber Conflict, Read: **On Blackboard**,

Valeriano and Maness (2014) The Dynamics of Cyber Conflict between Rival Antagonists, 2001-2011, *Journal of Peace Research* 51 (3):

**Film:** *Dr. Strangelove*

Friday, May 30

**Midterm:** First Part of Class

**Film:** *Zero Dark Thirty*

Monday, June 2

Terrorism and Counterterrorism, Read: **On Blackboard**,

David Lake. 2002. Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty First Century. *International Organization* 56 (1): 15-29.

Posen, Barry R. 2001/02. The Struggle Against Terrorism: Grand Strategy, Security, and Tactics, *International Security*, Winter, pp. 39-55.

Civil War and Ethnic Conflict, Read: **On Blackboard**,

Fearon and Laitin (2003) Ethnicity, Insurgency, and War, *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.

**Film:** *The Battle of Algiers*

Tuesday, June 3

Human Rights and Human Security, Read: Lamy Chapter 7

**Film:** *Judgment at Nuremberg*

Thursday, June 5

Global Economics and Trade, Read: Lamy Chapter 8

**Film:** *Syriana*

Friday, June 6

Global Economics and Trade, Cont., Read: **On Blackboard**,  
Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. Trade and Variety of Democratic Institutions. *International  
Organization* 41 (2): 203-223.

**Film:** *Too Big to Fail*

Monday, June 9

Poverty, Development, and Hunger, Read: Lamy Chapter 9

**Film:** *The End of Poverty*

**PAPERS DUE!!!**

Tuesday, June 10

Environmental Issues, Read: Lamy Chapter 10

**Film:** *An Inconvenient Truth*

Thursday, June 12

**Film:** *Independence Day*

Catch up, Final Review

Friday, June 13

**Final Exam in Class! Have a Great Summer!!!**