Course Description and Objectives: This course introduces students to the broad contours of the field of international politics, and to major theories and issues within it. The course is divided into three parts: 1) Concepts and Paradigms; 2) International Security; and 3) International Political Economy.

The course aims to introduce students to the field of international relations; to help students develop analytical skills necessary for thinking critically and creatively about international politics (skills that will empower them in any intellectual enterprise); and to teach students how to express those analytic arguments clearly and convincingly in written and verbal communication. To achieve these goals, this course features a mix of lectures, a writing exercise, and in-class discussion.

Requirements: This class will use the assigned X-hour period for office hours, discussion sections, and any make-up classes. Students must have this X-hour timeslot available.

Students are required to attend class. In order to encourage attendance and the timely completion of the reading, an unspecified number of short pop quizzes based on the readings will be given at the start of class. There are no make-up quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz score, so if you were sick one day and missed a quiz, that will be the one dropped. You may earn full credit for a missed quiz by attending an IR-related talk on campus (Dickey, Rockefeller, etc) and writing up a 1-page summary/reaction.

Your grade will be based on four components: reading quizzes (10%); Exam #1 (30%); Exam #2 (30%); and a 5-page, take-home final exam (30%). The two in-class exams are closed book/notes, bluebook format. Your take-home exam should be submitted electronically via Canvas, by 5pm on the due date. Questions will be handed out in late February.

Regular and active course participation is encouraged and will greatly enrich your learning experience. Course participation will be used to help me decide whether or not to “bump up” your grade if you are on the borderline of two grades. Course participation is broadly defined: you may participate not only through regular, thoughtful comments in class, but also through submitting reading reflections (via Canvas), and in office hours. I am looking to see that you are attending class, doing the reading, and engaging intellectually with course material.
You will tremendously enhance your experience in this course if you read regularly about current events in international politics. The Dartmouth library gives you access to *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, and other major media outlets.

**Policies:** Please read the syllabus carefully or ask another student to answer any questions you may have before emailing me. If you cannot find an answer from the syllabus or a classmate, then by all means contact me.

The use of any electronic devices, including laptop computers, tablets, and phones, is not allowed in class. All cell phones must be turned off. Please use pen and paper to take notes. This policy advances both your interests (see articles [here](#) and [here](#)), and the interest of creating conditions for a focused and engaged class discussion.

The Academic Skills Center is running a study group for the class. I highly recommend you join this group or form study groups of your own to discuss the readings and to prepare for exams.

Special accommodations: my goal is to create a level playing field in which all students are positioned to succeed in this class. Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services should first contact the Student Accessibility Services office (Carson Hall, Suite 125, 646-9900). Once SAS has authorized services, students should meet with me privately, as early in the term as possible, and must bring the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead.

Office hours are Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30pm. I will occasionally need to reschedule. To confirm office hour times, and to sign up for a timeslot, please go to [this website](#).

If you have a scheduled event that repeatedly causes you to miss class or conflicts with an exam, you should not take this class. If you have a sudden illness before an exam, please email me and cc your class Dean to report the illness and to request special arrangements. Without these arrangements, makeup exams will not be given; papers turned in late will be marked down one letter grade for each day that they are late. Except in the event of an emergency, please do not ask for extensions.

All students are expected to abide by Dartmouth’s [Academic Honor Principle](#). Please review its rules [here](#). Plagiarism (misrepresenting other people’s work as your own) will not be tolerated and can result disciplinary measures including suspension or expulsion. Review policies [here](#).

**Readings:** Readings are drawn from books, academic journals, and the popular press. Readings are posted on the course website on Canvas, under “Modules.” If you have technical questions about using Canvas, please contact Canvas help, or ask another student.

Sometimes the syllabus will indicate “Google 10.” This means students should google the noted keywords (and search using additional key words), and read at least ten articles in respected media outlets on the topic indicated. We will discuss in class.
SECTION I: CONCEPTS AND PARADIGMS

Wed 1/3  Course Overview

Fri 1/5  International Relations as Social Science
• Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” Foreign Policy (10 pp).
• John Mearsheimer, “Introduction,” in The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (28pp)

Mon 1/8  The Structure of International Politics: the Pessimists
• Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” in Tragedy of Great Power Politics. (25pp)

Wed 1/10  Cooperation Under Anarchy: the Optimists
• Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” in Betts, ed., Conflict After the Cold War, pp. 121-127

Fri 1/12  The Power of Ideas: Should We Blame Anarchy or Ourselves?
• Joshua Goldstein, “Constructivism.”
• Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” from Betts, Conflict After the Cold War (8 pp).
• Margaret Mead, “Warfare is Only an Invention, Not a Biological Necessity” (4 pp).

Mon 1/15  NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY

Tues 1/16  How to Make an Argument
X HOUR
• Barry Tarshis, How to Write Like A Pro (New York: NAL Books, 1982); read “Developing Reader Sensitivity” (pp. 16-38) and “Staging,” (pp. 63-92).

An optional writing exercise will be assigned in class. This exercise is highly recommended.

SECTION II: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Wed 1/17  Causes of War and Peace: System-level theories
• Robert Gilpin, “Hegemonic War and International Change” (10 pp)
Fri 1/19  Causes of War and Peace: State-level theories
• Bruce Russett, “Peace Among Democracies,” Scientific American (1 pg)
• Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay, “ Democracies of the World, Unite,” The American Interest (Jan/Feb 2007).

Mon 1/22  Causes of War and Peace: Ideas, Norms, and Culture
• Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” Foreign Affairs (28 pp)
• John Mueller, “The Obsolescence of Major War” in R. Art and K. Waltz, eds., The Use of Force (13 pp)

• Richard Rosecrance, “The Trading State: Then and Now,” (pp. 336-345)
• Mearsheimer, “Can China Rise Peacefully?” Ch. 10 from Tragedy of Great Power Politics (2014). Or watch one of his talks, such as here.

Fri 1/26  Internal War and Humanitarian Intervention
• Steven David, “The Primacy of Internal War,” (23 pp)
• Martha Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention” (15 pp)
• Gareth Evans and Mohamed Sahnoun, “The Responsibility to Protect,” Foreign Affairs (11 pp)
• Samantha Power, “Bystanders to Genocide,” Atlantic (24 pp)
• Google 10: Syria and intervention

Mon 1/29  REVIEW SESSION/GROUP OFFICE HOURS

Wed 1/31  EXAM #1

Fri 2/2  Nuclear Weapons / Introduction and Political Effects
• Recommended: a useful primer on WMD is Joseph Cirincione, Deadly Arsenals (on Canvas).

Mon 2/5  Nuclear Weapons / Deterrence and Proliferation

Wed 2/7  Discussion: North Korean nuclear weapons
• Google 10: articles on North Korean nuclear weapons, tests, missiles (etc)
• See recommended readings on Canvas.
Fri 2/9  Terrorism
• Juergensmeyer, “Terror in the Name of God,” Current History (5 pp).
• Robert Pape, “It’s the Occupation, Stupid,” Foreign Policy, October 8, 2010.
• Brian Jenkins, “Fifteen Years On, Where are We in the War on Terror?” RAND, September 2016.

SECTION III: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Mon 2/12  Globalization
• John Ravenhill, ed., Global Political Economy, 3rd ed.,
  o pp. 9-19 (Background on the history of the world economy)
  o pp. 96-101 (domestic sources of trade policy)
• Dani Rodrik, “Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate,” Foreign Policy (13 pp)

Wed 2/14  Globalization and its Discontents

Fri 2/16  International Finance
• Goldstein and Pevehouse, International Relations, Chapter 9: “Money and Business”
• James Fallows, “The $1.4 Trillion Question,” Atlantic, Jan/Feb 2008.

Mon 2/19  Development and Global Inequality
• Jeffrey Sachs, The End of Poverty, Ch. 1 (20pp)
• Ricardo Hausmann, “Prisoners of Geography,” (8 pp)
• Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, Why Nations Fail (Random House 2012), Chapter 3.
• Dani Rodrik, “Trading in Illusions” (7 pp)

Wed 2/21  The Environment: Are We Running Out of Stuff?
• Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (5 pp)
• Julian Simon, “The Infinite Supply of Natural Resources” (7 pp)
• Thomas Homer-Dixon, “Cornucopians and Neo-Malthusians” (3 pp).
• Paul Krugman, “Earth in the Balance Sheet.”

Fri 2/23  REVIEW SESSION/GROUP OFFICE HOURS FOR EXAM
Mon 2/26  EXAM #2

Wed 2/28  The Politics of Climate Change

Fri 3/2  International Order

Mon 3/5  Summing Up

Fri 3/9  Take-home final exam due at 5pm via Canvas.