**Political Science/International Studies 105, Section 004**
**International Relations**
Fall 2024

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Newmann's home page: **(A New Link is Coming Here)** with links to other Newmann syllabi and other fun stuff.

**Quick Guide to the Structure of the Course** (all of the following is explained in detail below)

- This course is taught face-to-face in the classroom. 75% of the grade is based on three exams and a map quiz taken in class. The exams are mostly based on in-class lectures. In short, you will need to be in class to do well.
- The book for the class is online. James M. Scott, Ralph Carter, and A. Cooper Drury. *IR*, 4th edition. Sage Publications.
- The book has "Knowledge Checks" and "Chapter Quizzes" that you will take online. That accounts for 25% of the grade.
- There are some additional readings not in the online book. There are links to those readings in the course schedule below during the weeks you need to read them.
- To buy the textbook, and gain access to the materials for the course, you can do one of two things.

1.
    1. Use this link to get to the book and purchase it: **Link to Textbook (Scott, Carter, Drury)**.
        - This **link takes you to information on how to purchase the textbook and and Tech Support for the online textbook**
        - Important: You have **two weeks of free access** to the online textbook (before you'll lose access if you don't purchase the textbook)
    2. Buy the book through the VCU bookstore: **https://vcu.bncollege.com/.** Or if you're walking, the bookstore is at the corner of Broad St and Schaefer St.

**Introduction**

This course is intended to be an introduction to the concepts of international relations theory and the realities of world politics. Don't worry if you haven't taken any courses on international relations before. If you haven't this will get you up to speed on anything you might want to know about international politics. As a required course for the Political Science degree and a core course choice for the International Studies degree, this course is introductory by nature. If you have taken other international relations related courses, this won't be boring: I try to make the discussions we have as relevant to the present world situation as possible. So much has changed within world politics over the past decade that scholars are still trying to understand what it all means. We'll join that discussion over the current state of world politics and the future of the international system.

The premise of this course is that we are living at a momentous time in world history. Scholars often break up human history into broad eras that may last hundreds or thousands of years. In high school or in other university classes you've probably studied the transitions of human society from hunting-gathering to agriculture to an industrialized age. Today we are moving out of the industrial era into the digital or information or computer era (we don't have a definite word for it yet.). We are 30-70

years into that era (depending on how it's judged) and it's unclear how deeply this transforms society, but we do see massive changes already. Those changes impact our everyday lives and they will have a huge impact on nation-states and the international system. Every aspect of this course will consider that change. You can't underestimate how rapidly the world is changing today.

The course will be broken up into three sections. The first section deals with some of the more theoretical aspects of international relations: the nature of the international system, the basic concepts of realism, idealism, and constructivism, the forces of nationalism and transnationalism, national power, and international law. These are mostly theoretical issues, but we need to get a firm grounding in some theory before we venture out into the world and its problems. Essentially, here we lay the groundwork for the substantive discussions to come. This section will begin with a quick look at how the international system works. We are watching the system change right now. Generally, great powers compete to see who can lead the world. Sometimes that competition leads to wars (like WWI and WWII) and sometimes one nation can capture a leadership position and make the rules (the UK and the US have done so over the past 200 or so years). Right now, we may be witnessing the transition of leadership from the US to China. Some believe that that transition might include a major war between the US and China or a rivalry that stays just short of direct conflict. India is the wild card in some views. In short, the betting is that the 21st century is defined by the relationships between the US, India, and China.

The second section is more issue oriented, dealing with issues of international security. We'll look at these issues on several levels. First, we'll focus on states and why they often go to war and less often seem to find a way to prevent war. We'll look at the problems of middle power nation-states that don't play by established rules of the international system, such as North Korea or Iran. Second, we'll look at non-state actors. We'll look at intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations. We'll also look at organizations (such as al-Qaeda and ISIS). Hopefully we'll have time to talk about human rights issues here as well. Every aspect of these issues is being changed by the new era: non-state actors have much greater power to set the global agenda; nation-states have lost their monopoly on ideas, on the use of force, and even the control of their own economies.

The third section deals with several issues that have particular relevance to international politics after the Cold War. We will examine international political economy, trade, economic competition, the economics of both the industrialized North and underdeveloped South, the concept of interdependence, the struggle between globalization and regionalism (forces that are pulling nations together or pulling them apart), and international health and demographic issues. The most obvious economic change is the rapid growth in wealth in the developing world and the emergence of economic powerhouses around the world. The media generally focuses on bad news, but there is a tremendous amount of good economic news in places where the economic news has typically been bad. You can find many books and articles that refer to the Chinese economic "miracle" or the Indian economic "miracles" or the African economic "miracle." At the same time, the industrialized world -- North America, Europe, and Japan – seem to be witnessing the slowing down of their economies. We need to understand all of this. We will also spend time examining current events, as they crop up from time to time. Though we certainly have a lot to do (the entire world in one semester), we can change the plan of the syllabus as needed. There's no better way to deal with these issues than to watch history happen and discuss its relevance to the issues we deal with in class and readings.

This course is a required course for Political Science majors (and minors).

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will achieve comprehension of and be able to assess the theoretical paradigms of international relations, particularly realism, idealism/liberalism, and constructivism

2. Students will be able to differentiate between the structures of international eras, and evaluate the evolution of the international system.
3. Students will be able to evaluate the challenges of modern international security, such as the threats of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, great power conflict, and ethnic conflict
4. Students will be able to evaluate the national and international strategies designed to deal with international security challenges
5. Students will achieve comprehension of and be able to assess the theoretical paradigms of international political economy and trade, particularly liberalism, nationalism, and structural theories such as Marxism, and dependency
6. Students will be able to analyze the different economic challenges of relatively wealthy industrialized, and developing states, as well as evaluate the strategies nation states have used to gain wealth
7. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the positive and negative impacts of globalization
8. Students will be able to analyze the different challenges posed by international environmental changes, and international health crises.

**Required Texts**: The book is available online. The book platform online is a key part of the course. Though this is a face-to-face class, 25% of your grade is based on online exercises and quizzes accessible through the book platform online. It will also be available at the VCU Bookstore in hard copy if you'd like that too.
James M. Scott, Ralph Carter, and A. Cooper Drury. *IR*, 4th edition. Sage Publications.

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    2. Buy the book through the VCU bookstore: **https://vcu.bncollege.com/.** Or if you're walking, the bookstore is at the corner of Broad St and Schaefer St.

There are a few other readings assigned. They are listed below in the course schedule for the week you'll need to read them. They are all available online, linked to the syllabus.

**Grades**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Map Quiz Instructions<br>See the instructions for some links to websites that you can use to study. | **5% of the grade**<br>**In class** | **August 29** |
| Knowledge Checks for Each Chapter of the Book | **5% of the grade**<br>**Online assignment** | **See the due dates listed below; There are 3-4 of these per chapter; not all of them are assigned.** |
| Chapter Quizzes | **20% of the grade**<br>**Online assignment** | **See the due dates listed below** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Exam 1 | **20% of the grade In class** | **September 24** |
| Exam 2 | **25% of the grade In class** | **October 24** |
| Exam 3 (Final) | **25% of the grade In class** | **December 12 at 12:30 PM to 3:20 *(note the time change)* in our regular classroom** |

How to calculate your grade: Use the percentages from the above table. So, if you received the following grades, you would calculate your grades in the following manner:

- Map Quiz: 100, at 5% of the grade; that's 100 multiplied by .05 = 5.0
- Knowledge Checks: 100, at 5% of the grade; that's 100 multiplied by .05 = 5.0
- Chapter Quizzes: 92, at 20% of the grade; that's 92 multiplied by .20 = 18.4
- Exam 1: 87, at 20% of the grade; that's 87 multiplied by .20 = 17.4
- Exam 2: 92, at 25% of the grade; that's 92 multiplied by .25 = 23
- Exam 3: 90, at 25% of the grade; that's 90 multiplied by .25 = 22.5
- To get your final grade add all the scores: 5 + 5 + 18.4 + 17.4 + 23 + 22.5 = 91.3.

Congratulations, you got an A.

I give you this very detailed formula for a number of reasons. First, you should never be unaware of what your class average is. You can calculate it at any point in the semester. Second, there are over 100 people in this class, so I cannot calculate all your grades for you if you have questions. This way, I don't need to. Third, if your grade is not what you'd like it to be, you should know, and you should come see me about it. Please do not come to me after Exam 3 and say that you're having trouble in the class. It's too late at that point. But any time in the semester that you feel you are having trouble, or not doing as well as you feel you should, come talk to me. During my office hours and by appointment I am happy to talk to you about the class

Grading scale: I use a typical scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 55-69. Borderline grades are considered in the following manner.

- If your grade is 69.5, 79.5, or 89.5 or higher, then you may be a candidate for a round up to the higher grade (Notice those numbers in the sentence; do not ask for a higher grade if your average is a 68 or 78 or 88 or lower; those are not borderline averages).
- You may become a candidate if your grades are borderline and if your grades have been going up during the semester.
- That means that if you are borderline, but your last exam is lower than the previous exams (you are between a B and C, but your third exam is a C for example), you will probably get the lower grade.
- If you are borderline, and your last exam is higher than the previous exams (you are between a B and C, but your third exam is a B), you will probably get the higher grade.
- Another factor I consider is the typical grade you receive. Let's say we have four grades for the class and three are grades of B and one is a C (bad day) and your average is a 79.6, you are a candidate for receiving a B
- There is no extra credit for this class. Please do not ask.

**Map Quiz**

I will explain this on the first day of class. For the instructions follow the link.

**Knowledge Checks**

Each book chapter has a few "knowledge checks" built into the chapter. These are available to you through the book platform online as you read the chapter. They are questions designed to help you identify and focus on key issues in each chapter. They also prepare you for the chapter quizzes and the in-class exams.

- You are not required to do them all, only the ones assigned below.
- Each is 3-7 questions long
- You may take each one as many times as you need to get the questions 100% correct
- Your grade is based on completing all the assigned knowledge checks with 100% correct. Then you get a 100 for the assignment which is worth 5% of your grade.
- Knowledge Checks for each chapter have a set due date; due dates will be set for the end of the weekend after we finish that chapter. For example, we read chapter 3 the third week of class, so the knowledge check should be completed by the end of the day the Monday of the fourth week. The exact day will be listed in the table below. The first week is an exception because of the drop add period. You'll have about an extra week for that. The second week you'll have an extra day because of the Labor Day holiday.
- All knowledge checks will be due at midnight of the date given. If the date given in the table is August 30, then the knowledge check is due as August 30 becomes August 31.
- Notice that we are not always reading the chapters in the same order as they go in the book

| **Knowledge Check Assigned** | **Due Date** | **Knowledge Check Assigned** | **Due Date** | **Knowledge Check Assigned** | **Due Date** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 1<br>1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 | August 30 | Chapter 6<br>6.1, 6.2 (ignore questions 5 and 6) | October 7 | Chapter 10<br>10.1, 10.3 | November 18 |
| Chapter 2<br>2.1, 2.2, 2.4 | September 3 | Chapter 7<br>7.4 | October 14 | Chapter 12<br>12.1, 12.2, 12.3 | December 2 |
| Chapter 3<br>3.2, 3.3, 3.4 | September 9 | Chapter 13<br>13.2 | October 21 | Chapter 11<br>11.2 | December 9 |
| Chapter 4<br>4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 | September 16 | Chapter 8<br>8.1 | November 4 | | |
| Chapter 5<br>5.3 | October 7 | Chapter 9<br>9.1 | November 11 | | |

**Chapter Quizzes**

Each chapter quiz is essentially prep work for the in-class exams.

- Each chapter quiz has 15 multiple choice questions
- Each chapter quiz is available online at the end of book chapter
- There is a start date (when the quiz becomes available), a "Recommended Date" (when we're done with the material in class and when you should have read the chapter, and you should be ready to take the exam), and an end date (when you can no longer take the quiz). That window for taking the quiz is set by me. The dates are below.
- Start dates are set about a week before you need to read the chapter in case you want to get ahead
- The "Recommended Date" is when we plan to finish the material for the chapter. It is a suggested date designed to make sure you keep up with the material, to help you set a good

schedule and not fall behind. That date is not a deadline. You can take the quiz after that date, but the due date or end date is a deadline. See below.

- The end dates for each chapter are set for a few days before the in-class exam that will test you on the chapter material. It is the deadline.
- You can take each chapter quiz twice to improve your grade
- Your grade for the chapter quizzes will be the average of all your chapter quizzes
- That is worth 20% of your overall grade
- Note again that we are not necessarily reading the chapters and taking the quizzes in the same order as they appear in the book

| **Chapter Quiz** | **Start Date** | **Recommended Date: When You Should Be Ready to Take the Quiz** | **End Date** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chapter 1 | August 12 | August 30 | September 20 |
| Chapter 2 | August 19 | September 3 | September 20 |
| Chapter 3 | August 26 | September 9 | September 20 |
| Chapter 4 | September 2 | September 16 | September 20 |
| Chapter 5 | September 25 | October 7 | October 21 |
| Chapter 6 | September 25 | October 7 | October 21 |
| Chapter 7 | September 30 | October 14 | October 21 |
| Chapter 13 | October 7 | October 21 | October 21 |
| Chapter 8 | October 22 | November 4 | December 9 |
| Chapter 9 | October 28 | November 11 | December 9 |
| Chapter 10 | November 4 | November 18 | December 9 |
| Chapter 12 | November 11 | December 2 | December 9 |
| Chapter 11 | November 18 | December 9 | December 9 |

**Exams**

The exams will be multiple choice. Before the exam I will place a review sheet online, linked to this syllabus, below this paragraph. This review sheet should be used as your study guide for the exam. The review sheet will include some terms that are from the readings only, so that you can go back and review those items from the readings. Once you have the review sheet, feel free to ask me questions about the terms. This is the best way to study for the exam. If you understand the terms on the review sheet, you can define each one and see how each one relates to the larger concepts and issues we've discussed in class, you should do just fine on the exam. After the grades are ready, they will be posted on Canvas.

- At the end of each chapter in the book, there is a list of "key terms." Know those for the chapter quizzes and for the exams. I will not add them to the review sheets, but consider them to be in addition to the terms on the review sheet. There will be a lot of terms that are both on the review sheet and in the "key terms" in the book. Consider those to be even more important than the rest.
- There will be some questions on these exams that are in the chapter quizzes. They may be slightly reworded, but they will be essentially the same question.
- Think about it this way. If I spend time talking about a concept or event in class, and if the readings spend time on the same thing, it must be important. I'll want you to know it.

**Review One**
**Review Two**
**Review Three**

**COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE**

Important:

1. Try to do all readings before the Tuesday of the week it is assigned. Of course, the first week, you should get the readings done by Thursday.
2. I use the PPT slides as the structure for the class lectures. The PPT that are posted in Canvas right now may be modified a bit during the semester. I'll let you know as I change things to take into account the pace of the class and world events.
3. You can't use the PPT slides as substitutes for the lecture. They are not full of information, They are only outlines or illustrations.

**Week 1: January August 19-23**: The Nature of the International System and the Possibility of Change

- Scott, Carter, Drury, Chapter 1
- **Nature of the International System PPT**

**Week 2, August 26-30:** Realism, Idealism/Liberalism, Constructivism (or Power, Law, Identity)

- Scott, Carter, Drury, Chapter 2
- ***Map Quiz* August 29 This is an in-class quiz.**
- **Theories of International Relations PPT**

**Week 3, September 2-6**: Realism, Idealism/Liberalism, Constructivism (or Power, Law, Identity) (continued)

- Scott, Carter, Drury, Chapter 3

**Week 4, September 9-13** The Evolution of the International System I

- Scott, Carter, Drury, Chapter 4
- **Evolution of the International System PPT**

**Week 5, September 16-20**: The Evolution of the International System II

- **The Future?**
- Fareed Zakaria. "The Self-Doubting Superpower." *Foreign Affairs*, Volume 103, No. 1 (January/February 2024): 38-55.Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Richard Fontaine. "The Axis of Upheaval." *Foreign Affairs*, Volume 103, No. 3 (May/June 2024): 50-63.
- Matias Spektor. "In Defense of the Fence Sitters: What the West Gets Wrong about Hedging." *Foreign Affairs*, Volume 102, No. 3 (May/June 2023): 8-17.

- Nirupima Rao. "The Upside of Rivalry: India's Great Power Opportunity." *Foreign Affairs,* Volume 102, No. 3 (May/June 2023: 17-24.

**Week 6, September 23-27**: The Causes of War and Peace
- *Exam 1: September 24*
- *No Readings*
- **Intro to Security**
- **War and Peace.ppt**
- Both PPT are for the second exam

**Week 7, September 30-October 4:** The Causes of War and Peace (Continued)
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 5 and 6

**Week 8, October 7-11**: Intergovernmental Organizations: IGOs
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 7
- **International Organization PPT**
- **Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict, and the UN**

**Week 9, October 14-18:** Non-State Actors: The Good (NGOs) and the Bad (Terrorists)
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 13
- **NGOs: The Good**
- **NGOs The Bad**

**Withdrawal Date October 25**

**Week 10, October 21-25**: Social Media as a Weapon**:** The Internet and International Relations
- *Exam 2: October 24*
- *No Readings*

**Week 11, October 28-November 1:** Introduction to International Political Economy (IPE)
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 8
- William W. Newmann. "A Brief Introduction to Theories of International Political Economy." *Genocide Studies International* 10, Number 1 (Spring 2016), pp. 7-26. Available at https://muse.jhu.edu/article/612354/pdf.
- **Intro to Economics Section**
- **IPE (International Political Economy)**

**Week 12, November 4-8**: International Political Economy (continued)
- *November 5: No Class: Election Day; Throw the Bums Out, and Bring in New Bums!*
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 9
- **Industrial Nations PPT**

**Week 13, November 11-15**:The Developing World
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 10
- **The Developing World PPT**
- **East Asian Strategy PPT (for reference only)**

**Week 14, November 18-22**: International Environment

- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 12
- Jason Bordoff and Meghan L. O'Sullivan. "Green Upheaval: The New Geopolitics of Energy." *Foreign Affairs,* Volume 101, No. 1 (January/February 2022): 68-84.
- **International Environment** PPT

***Fall Break: November 25-29***

**Week 15, December 2-6:** International Health
- Scott, Carter, and Drury, Chapter 11
- Larry Brilliant, Mark Smolinski, Lisa Danzig, and W. Ian Lipkin. "Inevitable Outbreaks." *Foreign Affairs*, Volume 102, No. 1 (January/February 2023): 126-140.

***Exam 3: December 12 from 12:30-3:20 PM (Note the time change!)***

**Where can you find information on international affairs?**
These are the questions students always ask me: "Where do I find good information on international affairs? I'm looking for something unbiased and something that doesn't always look at the world through American eyes (as in: how do these developments affect the US)." Here's the short answer:
For day by day coverage of events in the world:
BBC News: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/.On a day-by-day basis, no other news organization covers the world as well. It has separate pages for most regions, links to past stories, links to databases, all kinds of information that will get you up to speed on anything.
On a weekly basis:
The Economist: **www.economist.com.** This is a Britain-based weekly which covers world politics and world business. There really is nothing else like it in the comprehensive nature of its coverage. You can also buy it on the newsstand, but the web is free. It covers world politics very well.
Long Term Views of Crisis and Conflict:
International Crisis Group: **www.crisisweb.org.** This is the International Crisis Group, a non-profit organization that studies, analyzes, and makes recommendations about how to resolve various crises in the world. There is nothing better for the in-depth examination of current world events and the dilemmas of problem solving and peace making. It has reports (30-50 pages), briefings (10-30), and a weekly briefing (Crisis Watch), which you can get on the web site or sign up for e-mail delivery.

**Students also often ask these questions:** How do I deal with all the information out there that is bad information? How do I deal with bad or propaganda or conspiracy theory websites? How do I find good sources? Real Sources of news? How do I sift through the propaganda and rhetoric of partisan media and of governmental officials and candidates? Use fact checking sites:
- **Fact Check.Org** From the Annenberg Center at the University of Pennsylvania
- **PolitiFact.com** From several newspapers
- **The Fact Checker** From the Washington Post
- **Snopes.com** (fact checking and debunking urban legends and internet hoaxes that are often about politics)