

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND LEGAL STUDIES BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Alana Tiemessen, PhD

Visiting Assistant Professor of Government

Email: atiemess@bowdoin.edu

Twitter: @alanatiemessen

Office Hours:

T/Th 10-11am

or by appointment

Dudley Coe 314

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad introduction to the study of international relations (IR); it is designed to strike a balance between empirical and historical knowledge and the theoretical approaches and paradigms in IR. The course material predominantly focuses on trends, actors, institutions, and debates in global politics since the end of the Cold War, and topics include: an introduction to concepts and historical events, IR theories, global governance, international security, human rights, and the global economy. As an introductory course, it will familiarize students with no prior background in the subject, and is recommended for first- and second-year students intending to take upper-level international relations courses. There are no pre-requisites to enrollment.

REQUIRED READING

There are two required textbooks for this course, which are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Both books are also on e-reserve at the library.

- Lamy, Steven L., et al. *Introduction to Global Politics*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Masker, John S (editor). *Introduction to Global Politics: A Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

You are expected to read all the assigned material prior to the relevant lecture. In the lecture and readings schedule, the assigned pages from the Lamy text are identified and all other readings are in the Masker reader (unless where identified otherwise with a web link or on our Blackboard page.)

EVALUATION

Participation	10%	Ongoing
Essay	25%	April 9 th
Policy Paper	5%	May 5 th
Mid Term Exam	30%	Mar 5 th
Final Exam	30%	May 14 th

Grading Scale

Letter	Percentage	GPA	Description
A	93-100%	4.0	Exceptional
A-	90-92%	3.7	Excellent
B+	87-89%	3.3	Very Good
B	83-86%	3.0	Good
B-	80-82%	2.7	Satisfactory
C+	77-79%	2.3	Satisfactory
C	73-76%	2.0	Below average
C-	70-72%	1.7	Below average
D	60-69%	0.7	Poor
F	0-59%	0	Inadequate

Participation: 10%

Participation grades will be determined by attendance and oral participation in class. The following are general guidelines and evaluation criteria for participation: **(A)** Exceptional contribution, characterized by being an outstanding participant by frequently and intelligently contributing to discussion. The student's participation helps to generate more and better discussion within the group. Participation demonstrated that the student completed, understood, and could critically assess the assigned material.

(B) Substantial contribution, characterized by meaningful involvement that added to the discussion. He or she offered productive comments or questions and participation was relevant to the readings and discussion. Participation demonstrated that the students completed and understood the assigned material.

(C) Expected contribution, characterized by meaningful involvement that added to the process. He or she participated consistently but not frequently. The student showed willingness and understanding during the discussion. Comments or questions were somewhat linked to the readings and discussion but it was not clear if the student understood the assigned material.

(D) Marginal and infrequent contribution, characterized by minor involvement that added little to the discussion. Participation did not demonstrate if he or she completed and understood the assigned material.

(F) Insignificant contribution, characterized by a failure to display interest or make relevant comments. The student listened but not intently and did not utilize reading material when making comments. Participation demonstrated that the student did not complete the assigned material.

Essay: 25% (8 pages)

Your essay will address a current crisis or debate in global politics and your topic must be chosen from the list provided (forthcoming). The analysis will comprise the following: a description of the crisis or debate and its significance; a review of recent developments and actors involved; a comparison of three scholarly arguments on

the topic; and a critical evaluation of one proposed solution to the crisis or argument in the debate.

The goal of this assignment is to introduce you to the structure and style of academic writing, by engaging with both scholarly literature and empirical evidence, and identifying the nuances in contemporary global politics issues.

This essay will be due on April 9th (in class and in hard copy). More details on the essay guidelines and topics will be distributed separately.

Policy Paper: 5% (2pages)

The policy paper follows from your essay and comprises a brief summary of the topic and findings from your research. More importantly, the paper must provide policy recommendations that are directed toward a specific organization or international actor, such as the US State Department, UN Security Council, World Bank, an NGO, etc.

The goal of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to write for a non-academic audience, engage directly with the policy relevance of your issue area, and practice a writing style that necessitates brevity and a lack of jargon.

The policy paper will be due on May 5th (in class and in hard copy). More details on the guidelines will be distributed separately.

Mid Term Exam 30%

The mid term exam will held during class time on March 5th. The exam will cover the reading and lecture material for the introduction, IR theories, and global governance topics. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer conceptual questions, and one essay question.

Final Exam 30%

The final exam will be held during the college's scheduled exam period on May 14th at 2pm. This is exam is NOT cumulative and will cover the readings and lecture material since the mid-term and include the security, human rights, and global economy topics. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer conceptual questions, and two essay questions.

GENERAL POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Students must abide by Bowdoin's policies and procedures, including the *Academic Honor and Social Code*, as found in the Student Handbook:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/index.shtml>

Assignments and Exams: All assignments and examinations must be completed in order to pass the course. Any requests for extensions, alternative exam dates, excused absences, etc. will only be considered if accompanied by documentation explaining a personal or medical situation that would justify such an

accommodation. In the event of such circumstances, notify me as soon as possible and in advance of the assignment deadline or exam.

Academic Honesty: All written work submitted by students must be *original* in conception, organization, and phrasing. Sources must be appropriately acknowledged, including online materials. Work submitted in this course for evaluation must not be, or ever have been, submitted in other courses. Any violations of the college's policies may result in sanctions ranging from a failing grade on the assignment to expulsion.

Questions and Assistance: First, make sure you cannot answer your own question by reviewing the syllabus or the college's resources. Otherwise, quick questions regarding course content and assignments can be directed to me by email or in person. If you have questions that require a more lengthy or private discussion, please see me during our office hours.

Office hours are time set-aside just for you. All students are welcome to come to my office hours to talk about course material, assignments, their research interests and academic goals, and any challenges they are facing in completing the assignments or participating in the class.

Attendance: Arrive to class on time. Arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful. Repeated and excessive tardiness will negatively affect your participation grade. You are expected to attend all classes, save for one "free pass" that will not count against your participation grade.

Class Behavior: Exhibit responsible, attentive, and mature behavior in class. This means avoiding any of the following: napping, talking to classmates while others are speaking, using phones, using your laptop or tablet for anything other than taking notes and class activities, consuming anything other than a quick snack or beverage, etc. I do allow the use of laptops in class, although if I notice that your use of it becomes a distraction to you or others I will ask you to put it away.

Be respectful of your classmates! Listen to them, learn their names, respect opinions, embrace diversity, and learn from each other.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

I. INTRODUCTION

What is IR? (Jan 20)

- No readings, but...start following global politics news!

Concepts and Actors (Jan 22)

- Lamy Ch 1 (p3-23)

Evolution of Global Politics (Jan 27)

- Lamy Ch 2 (p27-47 or to 62)

II. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES

Realism (Jan 29)

- Lamy Ch 3 (p68-83)
- Morgenthau, Hans J. "Six Principles of Political Realism."

Liberalism (Feb 3)

- Lamy Ch 3 (p83-99)
- Doyle, Michael. W. "Liberalism and World Politics"

Constructivism (Feb 5)

- Lamy Ch 4(p103-106; 122-127)
- Lynch, Marc. "Kissinger the Constructivist" in *The Washington Post*. Oct 21, 2014. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/10/21/kissinger-the-constructivist/>
- Hopf, Ted. "The Promise of Constructivism" in *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (1998): p186-92 only). (Blackboard)

Feminism (Feb 10)

- Lamy Ch 4 (p115-122)
- Sylvester, Christine. "Internations of Feminism and International Relations."
- Sjoberg, Laura and Caron E. Gentry. *Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Women's Violence in Global Politics*. London: Zed Books, 2007: 1-22. (Blackboard)

III. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Who(se) Rules? (Feb 12)

- Lamy Ch 6 (p171-179)
- Patrick, Stewart. "The Unruled World: The Case for Good Enough Global Governance" in *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 2014: 58-73. (Blackboard)

Major Power Relations (Feb 17)

- Amin, Samir. "The Triad: America, Europe, and Japan—United or Fragmented?"

- Ferguson, Niall. "A World Without Power."
- Brzezinski, Zbigniew and John J. Mearsheimer. "Clash of the Titans" in *Foreign Policy*, Jan/Feb 2005.
<http://www.ou.edu/uschina/SASD/SASD2005/2005readings/Clash%20of%20the%20Titans.pdf>

No Class (Feb 19)

- No readings. A mandatory, brief, "homework" assignment will be distributed.

United Nations (Feb 24, 26)

- Lamy Ch 6 (p179-186; 197-199)
- Hanhimaki, Jussi M. "An Impossible Hybrid" and "Reform and Challenges" in *United Nations: A Very Short History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008: 26-42; 135-149. (Blackboard)
- Bosco, David. "Introduction" and "The Council in Context" in *Five to Rule Them All: The UN Security Council and the Making of the Modern World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009: 1-9; 249-56. (Blackboard)

Non-State Actors (Mar 3)

- Lamy Ch 7 (p209-223)
- Scott, Matthew J.O. "Danger—Landmines! NGO-Government Collaboration in the Ottawa Process."

MID TERM EXAM (Mar 5)

IV. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Security (Mar 24)

- Lamy Ch 8 (p245-256)
- Waltz, Kenneth N. "Structural Realism after the Cold War."

No Class (Mar 26)

- No readings. A mandatory make-up class will be scheduled, at a time and date that is convenient for most students.

Nuclear Proliferation (Mar 31)

- Lamy Ch 8 (p269-278)
- Alagappa, Muthiah. "Nuclear Weapons Reinforce Security and Stability in 21st-Century Asia."
- BBC News. "Iran Nuclear Crisis: Can Talks Succeed?" November 25, 2014.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-11709428>

Terrorism (Apr 2, 7)

- Lamy Ch 7 (p232-238) Ch 9 (p283-305)
- Der Derian, James. "In Terrorem: Before and After 9/11."
- Juergensmeyer, Mark. "Transnational Network: Global Jihad" in *Global Rebellion: Religious Challenges to the Secular State, from Christian Militias to al Qaeda*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008: 193-211. (Blackboard)

V. HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights (Apr 9)

- Lamy Ch 10 (p309-321; 325-337)
- Ignatieff, Michael. "The Attack on Human Rights" in *Foreign Affairs*. Nov/Dec 2001: 102-116.

Civil Wars (Apr 14)

- Goldstein, Joshua S. "Wars of the World" (Chapter 11) in *Winning the War on War: The Decline of Armed Conflict Worldwide*. New York: Plume, 2012: 275-307. (Blackboard)
- Guéhenno, Jean-Marie. "10 Wars to Watch in 2015" in *Foreign Policy*. January 2, 2015. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/01/02/10-wars-to-watch-in-2015/>

Humanitarian Intervention (Apr 16, 21)

- Lamy Ch 6 (p187-197); Lamy Ch 8 (p321-324)
- De Waal, Alex. "Darfur and the Failure of the Responsibility to Protect."
- Carpenter, Charli. "Don't Call This a Humanitarian Intervention" in *Foreign Policy*. August 30, 2013. http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2013/08/30/don_t_call_this_a_humanitarian_intervention?page=full

VI. GLOBAL ECONOMY

Global Financial Order and Crisis (Apr 23)

- Lamy Ch 11 (p347-356; 364-371); Ch 12 (p389-394)
- Lim, Wonhyuk. "Demise of the Anglo-American Model of Capitalism."

Trade and Aid (Apr 28)

- Lamy Ch 12 (p375-389)
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. "Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression."

Inequality (Apr 30)

- Lamy Ch 13 (p407-430)
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. "Making Globalization Work."

VII. CONCLUSION

The World Today (May 5)

- TBD

FINAL EXAM (May 14th 2pm)

KEEPING UP WITH GLOBAL POLITICS

Whether you're a freshman who is new to global politics, a seasoned IR scholar, or a future political media pundit, keeping track of news and debates is essential but overwhelming. All students should make a concerted effort to check global news on a daily basis. You can skim the news to get a broad picture, but I also recommend reading more in depth into the issues that interest you and that are relevant to our class topics. Also, regularly consult more than one source on a topic, which will help to expose you to more sides of a story.

Below is a list of useful online resources. For the news junkie, these are the standard sources but explore others. Blogs are a great way to get perspectives from scholars and policy makers on issues and events as they happen, and they often reflect their broader research expertise. Many great provocative ideas and heated debates can be found in the "Twittersphere" among scholars, policy makers, diplomats and politicians as well—but do take this with humor and a grain of salt at times!

Global Politics in the News

BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/>

NY Times (World)

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage®ion=TopBar&module=HPMiniNav&contentCollection=World&WT.nav=page>
Subscriptions (digital) for students are relatively cheap:
<http://www.nytimes.com/subscriptions/edu/lp1474.html?campaignId=48U9F>)

Al Jazeera America <http://america.aljazeera.com/>

Foreign Policy magazine <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/>

Wall St Journal <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/>

IR and Foreign Policy Blogs

The Monkey Cage <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/>
Topical US and international politics issues, written by prominent poli sci scholars

Duck of Minerva <http://www.whiteoliphant.com/duckofminerva/>
International politics perspectives from a small, influential group of scholars

Political Violence @ a Glance www.politicalviolenceataglance.org
Insightful and timely analysis of security and conflict issues

Wronging Rights www.wrongingrights.com
Human rights issues, with lots of snark and sarcasm

The Disorder of Things <http://thedisorderofthings.com/>
Critical IR theory and current affairs

Dart Throwing Chimp <http://dartthrowingchimp.wordpress.com/>
Theorizing and forecasting democratization, coup d'etats, mass atrocities, civil unrest and state collapse.

Women Under Siege <http://www.womenundersiegeproject.org/blog>
Part of a journalism project that investigates the role of sexual violence and rape in conflict.

Points of Order <http://www.pointsoforder.org>
Perspectives on multilateralism, international institutions, and world order.

Global Politics Twitterati

David Bosco @multilateralist (American University Prof, blogger of international organizations)

Dan Drezner @dandrezner (Tufts University Prof, blogger of all things IR)

Andrew Exum @ExumAM (Former Army ranger, counterinsurgency expert)

Ali Gharib @Ali_Gharib (Middle East blogger and Daily Beast contributor)

Mark Leon Goldberg @MarkLGoldberg (blogger for UN Dispatch)

Megan Greene @economistmeg (Chief Economist at Maverick Intelligence)

Blake Hounshell @blakehounshell (Deputy Editor of Politico magazine)

Marc Lynch @abuaardvark (GW Prof, Middle East expert)

Colum Lynch @columlynch (UN reporter for Washington Post, Foreign Policy)

Jamie McGeever @ReutersJamie (Chief Markets Correspondent for Reuters)

Angela Merkel @Queen_Europe (Satirical/Fake Chancellor of Germany)

Samantha Power @ambassadorpower (US Ambassador to the United Nations)

Vladimir Putin @DarthPutinKGB (Satirical/Fake President of Russia)

Kenneth Roth @KenRoth (Director, Human Rights Watch)

Stephen Saideman (Carleton Univ Prof, expert on conflict intervention and NATO)

Laura Seay @texasinafrica (Colby Prof, Africa expert)

Anne-Marie Slaughter @SlaughterAM (Princeton Prof and former head of policy planning at State Dept)

Stephen Walt @StephenWalt (Harvard Prof, international security expert)

Lauren Wolfe @Wolfe321 (Director of Women Under Siege project)