OBJECTIVES: This course covers the basic problems and principles and the major themes, theories, and concepts of international politics. In its narrowest sense, international politics deals with relations between countries. The events of the past several years, however, suggest that we are living in a unique time of change and consistency that challenges traditional explanatory models.

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the international and domestic sources of cooperation and conflict found in the political-military and political-economic relations between the governments and peoples of countries. The course seeks to do so by introducing students to the major substantive and theoretical issues that characterize the field of International Relations. Students will explore core concepts and their interplay, and the application of prominent explanations, theories, and methodologies in the field. Through this exploration students will develop critical thinking skills and apply these skills in their written and oral work. Such an introduction will prove vital for those students interested in the continued study of international politics, careers with an international dimension, and for becoming an informed citizen in an increasingly globalized world where international politics dynamics increasingly hold sway.

REQUIREMENTS: The successful completion of this course will require attention to both course readings and class lectures and discussions. Attendance obligations are outlined in the 2015/2016 MU UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN and Academic Misconduct Policy will apply to all coursework. There will be no make ups for missed quizzes. Paper due dates are known in advance and no late papers will be accepted. Makeups for the midterm and final exam will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Students will be expected to complete and think about all assigned readings before coming to class. Students are also encouraged to read the international coverage in major national newspapers, news magazines/journals, and/or online data sources to be able to follow current international events.

The course grade will be based on two exams (a midterm and final), two short critical review papers, and reading quizzes. The direction of borderline grades will be determined by class participation. The midterm (30% of the grade) and final (30% of the grade) follow the same format: identification of key terms and short essays. Review sheets will be handed out one week in advance to help in preparation for the exams, but keeping up to date on readings and class lecture/discussion will be essential.

To develop reading and writing skills, students will also be required to complete two critical review papers (4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced: 30% of the grade). For each paper, the student will write an essay that assesses an assigned article as follows: identify the article's primary argument (thesis); identify the actors, interactions, and institutions at play, the theoretical perspectives upon which the author's argument is based and proven; and drawing on the above
comment critically (noting possible strengths and weaknesses) on the author’s argument and conclusions.

To encourage preparation for class and facilitate class discussion, during the course of the semester there also will be short pop reading quizzes. Much like dynamics of uncertainty in international politics the number of quizzes and their timing in the course will be at the discretion of the instructor. Performance on the quizzes will count for the remaining 10 percent of the course grade.

**GRADE SCALE:** The scale is based on 1000 points total: 950-1000 (A), 900-49 (AB), 850-99 (B), 800-49 (BC), 750-99 (C), 700-49 (CD), 650-99 (D), 0-649 (F).


**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE** [adjustments will take place as necessary]

**PART I:**

I: Introduction

January 20, 25: Introduction/Overview
   Read:
   FLS, Introduction; Chapter 1

II: Theoretical Approaches

January 27: Realism
   Read:
   Review FLS, pp. xxviii-xxx
   Morgenthau, “A Realist Theory of International Politics”, “Political Power,” MS 32-36
   Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” MS 37-56

February 1: Liberalism
   Read:
   Review FLS, pp. xxx-xxx
   Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” MS 57-66

February 3: Constructivism
   Read:
   Review FLS, pp. xxxi-xxxi
   Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” MS 73-97

February 8: Overviews and Thinking Eclectically
   Read:
   Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” MS 2-10
   FLS, Chapter 2
PART II: War and Peace

III. Interstate War: Systemic Causes
February 10, 15
Read: Feb 10
FLS, Chapter 3
Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma,” MS, 410-424

Read: Feb 15
Ikenberry, Mastanduno, Wohlfforth, “Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences,” MS, 106-126
Schweller and Pu, “After Unipolarity,” MS, 127-152
FLS, pp. 590-600

IV. Interstate War: Domestic and Transnational Drivers
February 17, 22
Read: Feb 17
FLS, Chapter 4

Read: Feb 22
Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,” MS, 256-262
Roy, “The Transformation of the Arab World,” MS, 245-255

V. Civil War, Terrorism and Asymmetric Conflict
February 24, 29
Read:
FLS, Chapter 6
Kydd and Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism,” MS, 471-495

February 26: First critical review paper is due (Submit to class D2L Dropbox). Drawing on the paper criteria noted in the syllabus, complete a critical review of John J. Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West’s Fault,” Foreign Affairs, September/October 2014, Vol. 93 Issue 5, pp. 77-89.

VI. WMD and Ticking Clocks
March 2
Read:
FLS, pp. 579-590
Posen, “A Nuclear Armed Iran,” MS, 451-466
Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb,” MS, 467-470

March 9 (Wednesday): Midterm Exam (in class)

VII. International Institutions and Paths to Peace
March 7, 14, 16
Read:
FLS, Chapter 5 (focus on pp. 198-232)
Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Work?” MS, 308-316
Power, “Bystanders to Genocide,” MS, 317-337

Spring Break: March 17-28
VIII. International Law and Human Rights
March 30, April 4, 6
Read: March 30
FLS, Chapter 11
Excerpt from Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics,” MS, 382-387

Read: April 4, 6
FLS, Chapter 12
Sen, “Human Rights and Capabilities,” MS 660-671
Donnelly, “Human Rights and Cultural Relativism,” MS, 672-685

PART III: International Political Economy

IX. International Trade
April 11, 13
Read:
 Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy,” MS, 523-531
FLS, Chapter 7

X. Monetary Relations and Finance
April 18, 20
Read:
 FLS, Chapter 9, Chapter 8
Drezner, “The Irony of Global Economic Governance,” MS, 560-580

XI. Development
April 25, 27
Read:
FLS, Chapter 10
Milner, “Globalization, Development, and International Institutions,” MS 537-59

April 29: Second critical review paper is due (Submit to class D2L dropbox). Drawing on the paper criteria noted in the syllabus, complete a critical review of Stewart Patrick, “The Unruled World,” Foreign Affairs, January/February 2014, Vol. 93 Issue 1, pp. 58-73.

XII. Futures and Conclusion
May 2, 4
Read:
FLS, pp. 611-25
Harden, “The Tragedy of the Commons,”

Final Exam: Thursday, May 12, 10:30-12:30 a.m.