

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT
Fall 2021 Semester
Asynchronous Online

Dr. Carmen Walker

cwalker@bowiestate.edu

0218 MLK Bldg

301-860-4431

Virtual Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am – 1:30pm or by appointment (via Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate)

I. COURSE PREREQUISITES: GOVT 130/GOVT 140

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the concepts and themes of international politics as well as the basic factors that motivate and guide interactions in international society.

III. REQUIRED TEXT:

- Mingst, Karen, Heather Elko McKibben, Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft.(2019). Essentials of International Relations 8th Edition. W.W. Norton Publishing.
- Other readings will be assigned and will be made available on Blackboard or via Internet hyperlink

Recommended/Supplemental texts:

- Matthews, Elizabeth G. and Rhonda L. Callaway (2017). International Relations Theory A Primer. Oxford University Press.

IV. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

This course utilizes the University on-line learning management system, *Blackboard*. Therefore, a computer which provides internet access is important. Students may access Blackboard through the following link, <https://bsuonline.blackboard.com/>.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Objectives:

1. Introduce students to international relations theories and concepts

2. Introduce students to major critiques of international relations theories
3. Provide opportunities for students to apply international relations theories to global dilemmas
4. This course will enhance communication skills

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of 3 dominant international relations theories by explaining the assumptions of realism, liberalism, and constructivism.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of major critiques of dominant international relations theories in scholarship
3. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by applying theories and concepts to contemporary and historical international relations dilemmas.
4. Students will demonstrate communication skill through the completion of discussion and written assignments.

ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Objective	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Activity
1. Introduce theories and concepts	SLO 1 Students will demonstrate an understanding of 3 dominant international relations theories by explaining the assumptions of realism, liberalism, and constructivism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Examination • Quizzes • Discussion Board Activities
2. Introduce critiques of dominant international relations theories	SLO 2 Students will demonstrate understanding of major critiques of dominant international relations theories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Examination • Quizzes • Discussion Board Activities
3. Develop effective communication skills.	SLO 3 Students will demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge to assess scholarly ideas by evaluating discussions of contemporary and historical international relations issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board Activities • Research Paper
4. Enhance critical thinking skills	SLO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board Activities

Course Objective	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Activity
	Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by applying theories and concepts to contemporary and historical international relations dilemmas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Paper • Midterm Examination • Final Examination

VI. TEACHING MODES:

Students will be instructed in International Relations. This is an asynchronous course with will incorporate multiple teaching resources and approaches including discussion board activities, writing assignments, quizzes, and examination. This course is designed to introduce students to dominant and emerging international relations theories and debates. Students will enhance their critical thinking and analytical skills through the application of international relations theory to contemporary and historical global dilemmas. The course will be guided by selected readings and central questions that will shape weekly modules. Quiz and exam response activities will contribute to student comprehension of core concepts and theories.

VII. STUDENT PREPARATION:

To prepare for class, student will be expected to consistently utilize the syllabus and Blackboard resources. It will serve as means for communication outside of class. Students will be expected to read all materials prior to class and be prepared to discuss any guiding questions presented on the syllabus for the day. Preparation for class will be reflected in completion of weekly assigned readings, outside research, timely submission of assignments, along with active and informed participation. Students are asked to be on time for the course.

Students who have a disability or think that they need special accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Suite 082 (Room 8212) in the Thurgood Marshall Library, or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301.860.4067. Go to the following website for more information: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/support-services/disability-supportservices/> Bowie State University shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, or veteran status (ADA and Nondiscrimination Policy).

XIII. ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is required for successful completion of this course. Students must sign in weekly to Blackboard. **University rules and regulations state that a student may fail a course if he/she misses a certain number of classes [six (6) for a course that meets three (3) times a week; four (4) for a class that meets twice a week; two (2) for a class that meets once a week.**

Students are expected to participate in all scheduled activities. All students are expected to take examinations and turn in all assignments at the scheduled time. Discussion board responses may not be completed late. Late research papers or essays may be accepted at the discretion of the professor, with penalty. **All written assignments and discussion board responses to others are due on the designated day. Initial post for discussion board activities are always due by Saturday 11:59pm. Make-up work will be at the discretion of the instructor. Late work will be accepted up to one week after original due date with a 10% penalty. (For example 90 - 10%penalty= 81 grade). After one week, the late assignment is converted to a zero. Late discussion board activities cannot be made up. They must be completed during the assigned week. No assignments will be accepted after the final day of class (December 13).**

IX. STATEMENT OF ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE COURSE:

According to the “Code of Student Conduct,” students are to achieve high standards of ethical and professional academic standards. This includes behavior in the virtual classroom. For written and non-written scholarship student are encouraged to be creatively responsible for making a contribution to the body of knowledge. This is accomplished through individual and group effort according to assigned activities. Students who commit acts of plagiarism or copying from other scholarship and/or violating academic standards in the classroom will be penalized according to the “Code of Student Conduct” for students as outlined by Bowies State University. “In cases involving academic dishonesty, a failing grade or a grade of zero (0) for either an assignment and/or course may be administered. Students who are expelled or suspended for academic dishonesty are not admissible to other institutions within the University System of Maryland.” Students engaging in academic dishonesty will fail this course.

X. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Midterm and Exam 30%
2. Written Activities 20%
3. Discussion Board Activities 20%
4. Quiz 15%
5. Essay 15%

Total: 100%

Grades may be accessed on Blackboard.

The numerical equivalents of the letter grades are as follows:

Below 60 = F, 60-69 = D, 70-79 = C, 80-89 = B, 90-100 = A.

Special Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the organization and/or grading of this course to adjust for any unforeseen occurrences during the semester.

XI LATE POLICY

Late written assignments will be accepted up to one week late with a 10% penalty. Discussion board activities may not be submitted late. Discussion board activities must be completed on time. Initial post are due by Saturday 11:59 and responses to at least 2 other individuals are due by Tuesday 11:59. Make-up activities for missed quizzes will consist in 4 timed essay questions.

Additional Note –

General format guidelines for all assignments: I thank you for all the effort you put into your submitted assignments. Please note the following:

1. It is your responsibility to be in our virtual class for information regarding your assignments and course discussion
2. Please do not submit assignments to my email address. They will not be accepted or graded.
3. All papers should be typed using 12 pt New Times Roman, 1-inch margins (top/bottom/sides)
4. Cited and reference page material must be formatted according to either APA or Chicago manual of style guidelines.
5. Assignment rubrics used for grading are available on Blackboard
6. Assignments submitted without proper citation and references will receive an automatic zero.

XII CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and plagiarism go against the value and mission of this university. Neither will be tolerated. **Cheating or attempts at cheating will result in an “F” for this course.** Cheating involves giving or receiving academic information or work that is deceptive, dishonest or unfair by copying another student’s work, using unauthorized information via electronic devices, theft, talking, notes, or other means. Again, **plagiarism will result in an F for this course.** There are no exceptions. Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s words and ideas as one’s own. This misrepresentation is a breach of ethics that seriously compromises a person’s reputation. Professional careers have been ruined by such acts.

Researchers, therefore, must be careful to acknowledge sources to give proper credit for borrowed materials. The following rules should be observed to ensure the distinction between one’s own words and ideas and those of others is justly maintained. Submitting a paper that is completely the work of another person is plagiarism in its most extreme form.

1. Words, phrases, and sentences of another person should be enclosed in quotation marks and footnoted in proper form.

2. Paraphrases and summaries of the ideas of others should be indicated with a footnote. These paraphrases and summaries should not represent merely the rearrangement of sentence elements but should be rewritten in one's own style.
3. Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries should be introduced with the name of the writer being cited.
4. Every item footnoted in the paper (i.e., all sources of other's words and ideas) should appear in the bibliography in proper form.
5. Footnotes should contain all the information required by standard footnote form and specifically indicate the location of the material cited. Page numbers should be checked for accuracy before a paper is submitted; the reader must be able to find the source of the material quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

XIII STUDENT ONLINE DECORUM

We are coming together in an online forum. We are not expected to agree on all topics. However, we are all expected to be respectful of one another. To enhance the learning atmosphere and create community please conduct yourself in a fashion conducive to learning and encouragement. **Please be mindful of the language and tone used to express comments online.** **Disrespectful language, bullying, discrimination, sexual or nonsexual harassment, or other forms of intimidation will not be accepted and will result in your dismissal from the course.** Each behavior construed by the teacher/professor as non-contributive to learning will be recorded, properly documented, and appropriately reported to the student and to the chair of the academic department offering the course. The report will be in written form with a copy provided to both the student and the department chair. Additional student behavior codes may be found in Student Affairs.

XIV UNIVERSITY POLICY:

All exams and assignments will be taken or handed in as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in zero points earned for the exercise; therefore, except in the most extreme circumstances, (death, child birth, auto accident, hospitalization. Make up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor. An INCOMPLETE (I) grade will rarely be given and only in cases where the student is doing passing work and has a valid excuse (distress or illness). **Student must have a C average by midterm.** Please contact the professor prior to an exam in case of an emergency/illness which would be a cause for an official excuse from the DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. Please note: final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

Students are expected to participate regularly (weekly) in this online class. Weekly attendance (participation) is monitored.

Please note that plagiarism and cheating will result in an automatic “F” for both assignment and course.

Disability Statement:

Students who have a disability and who would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Room 079 in the Basement of the Thurgood Marshall Library or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

Week	Class	Theme/Focus	Required Readings	Participation
August 30 – September 5	Synchronous Class Discussion	Overview of Course		
September 6 - September 12	Module 1	Introduction – Class shifted to asynchronous	Required Text Mingst, K. et al., <i>Essentials of International Relations 8th Edition</i>	Discussion Board
September 13 - September 19	Module 2	Thinking about International Relations	Walt, Stephen. (2009, October 26). One World, Rival Theories . <i>Foreign Policy Magazine</i> .	Discussion Board
September 20 - September 28	Module 3	Approaches to International Relations	Mingst et al., Chapter 1	Quiz Written Response
September 29 - October 5	Module 4	The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations	Mingst et al., Chapter 2	Discussion Board
October 6 - October 12	Module 5	International Relations Theories	Mingst et al., Chapter 3	Quiz Written Response
October 13 - October 19	Module 6	Levels of Analysis	Mingst et al., Chapter 4	Quiz
October 20 - October 25	Module 7	Midterms		
October 26 – November 2	Module 8	The State and the Tools of Statecraft	Mingst et al., Chapter 5	
November 3 - November 9	Module 9	War and Security	Mingst et al., Chapter 6	Quiz Written Response
November 10 – November 16	Module 10	International Cooperation and International Law	Mingst et al., Chapter 7	Discussion Board Quiz
November 17 – November 23	Module 11	International Political Economy	Mingst et al., Chapter 8	Quiz Written Response
November 24 – November 30	Module 12	Intergovernmental Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations	Mingst et al., Chapter 9	Quiz
December 1 – December 7	Module 13	Human Rights	Mingst et al., Chapter 10	Discussion Board Essay Due
December 8 – December 13	Module 14	Human Security	Mingst et al., Chapter 11	Discussion Board
	Module 15	Final Exam TBA		

		The Instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule of activities and topics.		