

**MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD**  
**POL 160—INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**FALL SEMESTER 2016**

**Instructor:** Paul A. Kramer, J.D., Ph.D., Professor, Political Science  
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**Office Hours:** M: 7 a.m. to 12 Noon; T /TH: 7 a.m. to 9 a.m; W: 11 a.m. to 12 Noon  
**Class Meets:** MW: 12 Noon to 1:15 p.m. MA 181  
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**PLEASE NOTE: I DO NOT USE D2L TO POST SYLLABI AND STUDY GUIDES. THEY ARE FOUND ON THE WEBPAGE LISTED HERE ONLY!!!**

**Course Catalog Description:** Nation-state system: the network of economic, political, cultural and technological interdependence; power, diplomacy, intelligence, war and the arms race. Course offered: Fall and Spring Semesters, all years.

**LASC/Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goals:**

Goal Area 5: History and Social Sciences

Goal Area 8: Global Perspective

**Course Content:** The study of international relations dates back to antiquity and remains one of the most vital disciplines in the academic community. It is the study of relations among states and other political and economic units in the international system. Particular areas of study within the field of international relations include diplomacy and diplomatic history, international law, international organizations, international finance and economics, and communications, among others. In addition, increased attention has been paid in recent years to developing a more scientific understanding of the international system as a whole. Aspects of international relations have been studied as early as the time of the ancient Greek historian Thucydides. As a separate and definable discipline, however, it dates from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the first efforts were made to find alternatives to war in nation-state behavior. Two schools of thought quickly developed. One looks to strengthen international law and international organizations to achieve peace. The other emphasizes that nations will always use their power to achieve goals and sees the only path to peace in a balance of power among competing state interests. We will explore these ideas and theoretical debates throughout the course. Format is primarily lecture with class discussion.

**Outline of Major Course Content Areas:**

1. The concept of international relations
2. Modes of analyzing international relations
3. Theories of international relations
4. Actors in international relations
5. Foreign policy
6. Causes of war
7. Problems of peace
8. Global human security
9. International political economy

## **Course Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will understand the behavior of sovereign states and other international actors.
2. Students will understand the causes of war.
3. Students will understand the interaction of diverse cultures and the diplomatic relations of international powers.
4. Students will understand the basic principles of international trade and finance.
5. Students will understand the conditions of peace.
6. Students will be able to apply principles of international relations to historical and contemporary international systems.

## **Text: (Required)**

*International Politics—Power and Purpose In Global Affairs*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., D'Anieri (Cengage).

The textbook comes packaged with On Line Study guide called “Mind Tap.” I will offer up a key/password if you wish to use that as a resource. The book comes much cheaper if bundled with the on line study guides which is why I ordered the combination. You do not HAVE to use the on line materials, but they may be useful to you.

**Course Assignments:** 4 Examinations each worth 100 points for a total of 400 points. Examinations will be multiple-choice questions and will cover both the assigned readings and the lectures. Exams will be “closed book.”

## **Grading:**

Grades will be determined by the use of a class comparison rubric or “curve” where students’ overall scores will be placed in rank order with deviations between grades determined in part by the overall distribution of scores within a given class. The +/- grading scale in assigning final grades may be utilized at the instructor’s discretion. Periodic estimates of the grading curve will be provided to students throughout the semester after each examination.

**Missed Examinations Policy:** If you miss a regularly scheduled examination, you have two options:

- 1) Accept a zero for the exam.
- 2) Take a make-up exam scheduled just prior to the last two weeks of the semester. Your grade on that examination will replace the missing test in your overall grade computation.

Make-up exams will consist of an alternate form of the exam regularly given to the class for a given section of the course and will probably consist of different multiple choice questions on similar topics, and may contain some essay/short answer questions at the instructor’s discretion. Because I am providing this option for those who miss a regularly scheduled examination, there will be no opportunity to “make up” a regular exam other than this alternative. If a student must miss a regularly scheduled exam for a school sponsored event, alternate arrangements must be made as far in advance as possible and the instructor should be made aware of potential conflicts within the first two weeks of the semester. As a consequence of this arrangement, any student missing two or more regularly scheduled examinations will accept a zero for the second and all subsequent examinations missed, irrespective of the reason cited for the absence. There will be no accepted excuses for missing the final examination. Students may appeal to make-up a missed final examination after the semester ends. Any such make-up examination will be administered at the sole discretion of the instructor and at a time

convenient to said instructor. To even be considered for a makeup examination, I need DOCUMENTATION of your absence. Illness, child care emergency, family emergency or significant family commitment are the ONLY reasons I will accept for excusing an absence from an examination and I will require some form of written proof of why you were not in class to take the test.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required at lectures but roll will not be taken.

**Weather Emergencies:** We live in a cold and snowy climate. Many of us drive in to work/school every day. This creates the potential for problems with course attendance. For the record, you should note that MSUM's weather policies are not very forgiving for the commuter. Classes are rarely cancelled even in the harshest conditions. As a result, I am expected to be here to teach when the University deems it possible to have classes. Therefore, if the University is open, you can virtually guarantee (though it is not an absolute certainty) that I will be here for class. I understand that there are times when weather conditions will make it legitimately impossible or impractical for you to attend class. You must use your own judgment in these situations. I will never penalize a student for missing class due to weather related contingencies, including missing an examination due to weather. Your life and well-being are more important than this class. I trust you will not abuse the privilege.

**Special Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Director of Disability Services at 477-4318 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), Flora Frick 154 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to conform with the requirements of the MSUM student Academic Honesty Policy as documented in the Student Handbook.

**Study Guides:** Study guides providing key terms and concepts that may appear on examinations will be posted on my website and can be printed out at your convenience. Additional copies of this syllabus may also be obtained at that site.

**Make-Up Work and Reasonable Accommodations:**

Generally, I intend to discourage the practice of "make-up" work or examinations. If, however, you have a documented family emergency or long term illness, I will accommodate in rescheduling an examination. In no circumstances, however, will I give an examination BEFORE a scheduled date.

**Reading Assignments/Semester Schedule of Lectures/Discussion:** Generally I will cover a chapter in approximately two days of lectures throughout the term.

Monday, August 22--Introduction to the Course Syllabus and Policies

--Section 1: Introduction to International Relations---Problems and Questions; Historical Development, Theories of IR. (Classes from August 24 through September 14—6 class periods)

NOTE: NO SCHOOL Monday, September 5 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Chapter 1: Introduction: Problems and Questions in IR, focus on pp. 11- 18.

Chapter 2: Historical Evolution of International Politics

Chapter 3: Realism and Liberalism

Chapter 4: Economic Structuralism (Marxism), Constructivism, Feminism, Postmodernism

REVIEW/FINISH the section (1 day)

EXAM 1 is MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19 in class.

--Section 2: Conflict in International Relations: International Security, Use of Force, Great Power Politics (Classes from September 21 through October 5—5 class periods)

Chapter 5: Democratic Peace Theory , pp. 120 – 133 only.

Chapter 8: War/Peace/Security

Chapter 9: Use of Force—Conventional Warfare and Terrorism

REVIEW/FINISH the section (1 day)

EXAM 2 is MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 in class.

NO CLASS on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12.

--Section 3: Liberalism in International Relations: International Law, Organizations, Transnational actors, Human Rights Concerns (Classes from October 17 through October 31 (5 class periods).

Chapter 7: International Organizations/Transnational Actors

Chapter 13: International Law and Human Rights

REVIEW/FINISH the section (1 day)

EXAM 3 is WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2 in class.

--Section 4: Economics in International Relations—International Political Economy, Global Trade and Finance, Inequality and Development (Classes from November 7 through November 30 (6 class periods)

NOTE: NO CLASS, Monday November 21---MAKE UP EXAM DAY (NO REGULAR LECTURE)

NOTE: NO SCHOOL Wednesday Nov. 23 and Friday Nov. 25---THANKSGIVING RECESS

Chapter 10: International Political Economy

Chapter 11: Global Trade/Finance

Chapter 12: Global Inequality/Development

REVIEW/FINISH the section (1 day)---December 5 is a reserve day I will use only if I get drastically off of the above schedule due to illness or other absence (snow days, etc).

EXAM 4 is the “Final Examination” which will be held at the time/place indicated in the Fall 2016 MSUM Final Examination Schedule. This is the fourth unit exam of the course and is NOT a comprehensive final examination. As of this writing, the date I have recorded for the fourth POL 160 exam is Thursday December 8, 2016 at 2 p.m. in MA 181.

STUDENTS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THIS DATE AND COMPLYING WITH THE DATE AND TIME ASSIGNED BY THE UNIVERSITY IN THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE, AND MAY NOT RELY ON THIS SYLLABUS FOR THE DEFINITIVE WORD ON THE TIMING OF THE FOURTH (FINAL) EXAM.

\*\*\*Please Note: This syllabus is NOT an enforceable “contract” between student and professor. The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time in the semester by writing or via in-class notification.

