

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
PSCI 438
Fall 2022

Dr. Ozum Yesiltas
Nursing and Health Sciences 227
Ozum.Yesiltas@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: M-W 10 am-11 am
12 pm-1 pm
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a broad-based introduction to the major theoretical trends and scholarly traditions that define, organize, and drive the field of international relations. The overall aim of the course is to enable students to broaden their appreciation of contemporary international issues by using theory as an analytical tool. Students will study the nature of political change in world politics through a variety of traditional and non-traditional analytical frameworks. Students will also be exposed to classical and current debates in international relations and encouraged to examine the actions of policymakers as defined by a variety of constraints that limit their options and decision-making.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Familiarize students with international relations paradigms, theories, and concepts developed throughout history and particularly in the twentieth century.
- Encourage students' awareness of international issues.
- Provide students with the necessary theoretical background to discuss patterns of behavior in world politics.
- Encourage students to form their own research agendas in world politics.
- Develop student's empathy skills, encourage them to see the world from multiple perspectives.
- Develop students' critical, analytical, and oral skills in discussing international issues.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, 4th edition, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Rashid Khalidi, *Brokers of Deceit: How the US Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*, Beacon Press, 2013.
- Thomas J. Christensen, *The China Challenge*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

FORMAT OF THE COURSE

The class will be a mix of lectures, discussions and simulations. An outline of the reading schedule is provided in this syllabus. Students are required to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned materials. You will be regularly asked to contribute your opinions and answer questions about the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is vital to your success in class. If you're found absent more than "twice" without an excuse, your final grade will automatically drop by "5 points" (e.g. if the student earned 82 out of 100 in the end of the semester, the final grade will drop to 77). In addition, students will collect points through their participation to in-class group activities.

Weekly Quizzes: Every week, in the beginning of the class, there will be a short quiz based on the week's readings. There will be a total of 10 quizzes.

Theory Journal: Students are to prepare theory journals consisting of 5 entries. Each entry should be no more than 2 pages each or 500-700 words maximum. The journal, which will be an ongoing project during the first 6 weeks of the semester, must be completed and submitted together via D2L on **October 16**.

The main idea of the assignment is to pull together class material in new ways, exploring the world using theories. You're expected to deploy your critical thinking skills to apply and reflect upon what you've learned, not just report news or summarize class readings. You'll be evaluated on the quality of your analysis and commentary on events/issues in the "real world" and how skillfully you drew upon course materials, so summary should be kept to a minimum.

Rules:

1. Each entry must draw upon: (a) the theory (theories) covered in each week's readings (b) an outside media/news report/article, selected from appropriate sources such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *the Economist*, *Wall Street Journal* or other reputable sources. The key is selecting issues/events that relate to course topics and have a distinct international dimension. If you have doubts/questions about your source please check with me before writing your entry.
2. In your entry, you're expected to evaluate an international issue/event in light of the theories we discuss in class and elaborate on how a particular theory (or theories) enhances our understanding of these real world events.
3. In the end of each entry include the link to the original article/news source you referenced in the journal.
4. Please secure your journal together neatly before submitting it. It is important to stay on track each week. You must write your entry in the end of each week while the material discussed in class is still fresh. Since there is no weekly monitoring system, self-

discipline is vital to your success regarding this assignment. If you postpone your entries and try to complete the entire journal in the last minute, it is more than likely that it will reflect on your writing and decrease your grade.

5. You will have a total of 5 entries drawing on Realism/Structural Realism, Liberalism/Neoliberalism, Constructivism, Marxism/Critical Theory and Feminism.
6. I am willing to look over and provide feedback (not grade) for one journal entry per student. This is completely voluntary but will be helpful for those who want to check if they are on the right track and use my comments as a guide for subsequent entries.

National Security Council Memorandum: The NSC memo will be based on the “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” portion of the course. NSC is the principal forum used by the President of the US to elaborate on national security and foreign policy matters. The main function of the Council is to advise and assist the President on US foreign relations. The NSC memo requires you to engage in an in-depth analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the US’ role in it based on our class readings, discussions and the simulation activity. As the author of the memo, your responsibility will be to advise the President of the US on how to approach the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in light of US national interests. The memo must include the following:

1. Explain the problem and the importance of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in US foreign policy in the Middle East.
2. Create 3 solution scenarios with a particular focus on the US’ role in the conflict. The solution scenarios must be based on realism, liberalism, and constructivism.
3. Identify the scenario that would best serve the interests of each actor involved including the US.
4. Justify why your chosen scenario is the one that would best establish a permanent peace, and why other solutions would not work.

Solution scenarios are up to your creativity. However, they need to be designed according to the facts on the ground and arguments of the three theories they are based upon. NSC memos must be 7-10 pages long or about 2500-3000 words. The deadline to submit this assignment is **November 20, 11.59 pm.**

Simulation Exercise: The simulation exercise will be on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and will help you better understand the conflict and succeed in writing your NSC memo. A detailed description of the simulation and the individual goals of participants will be provided. Everyone must be ready to actively participate in the simulation activity on the dates specified in the syllabus. Missing class on simulation days will dramatically decrease your participation grade.

Final Exam: There will be a take-home final exam based on the Christensen book. The format of the final will be essay questions. The date of the final exam will be announced as we approach the finals week.

Format Requirements: All assignments must be double-spaced, typed and written with Times New Roman, 12-point font. Sources for each assignment must include books, academic articles and news pieces. All sources must be cited properly and listed in a bibliography or in footnotes/endnotes format. Regarding citations, you may use any academically accepted format.

GRADING

Course Requirements	Weight
Attendance & Participation	10%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Simulation Performance	15%
Theory Journal	20%
NSC memo	20%
Final	20%
Total	100%

GRADE SCALE

90-100 = A
80-90 = B
70-80 = C
60-70 = D
Below 60 =F

MAKE-UP POLICY

Late submission of assignments is allowed only under special circumstances such as medical or family emergencies. You must request them prior to the deadline and present documentary proof. Post-deadline late submission requests will not be granted. If you submit your assignments late without an excuse, 5 points will be deducted for each day after the deadline for up to 3 days.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS

Unless we assign a day to use technology as part of the learning process, use of cell phones, computers or any other electronic devices in the classroom is not allowed.

CIVILITY AND RESPECT

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of each other's perspectives and opinions during class discussions. Any behavior that disrupts the class or impedes other students' ability to fully engage with the course will not be tolerated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is required to be responsible for purposefully pursuing and honestly submitting research and work that is original and is the sole work of the individual. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism occurs when a student purposefully or unintentionally takes information directly from a source without proper citation. If you are unclear about the ethics of an academic action, please consult me during my office hours.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Texas Senate Bill-11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

8/31 Introduction to the course/Overview of the syllabus
Why Do We Need International Theory?

Week 2

9/7 Classical Realism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 2
Structural Realism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 3

Week 3

9/14 Liberalism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 4
Neoliberalism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 5

Week 4

9/21 Constructivism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 9

Week 5

9/28 Marxism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 7
Critical Theory Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 8

Week 6

10/5 Feminism Dunne, Kurki & Smith Ch 10

Week 7

10/12 Introduction to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Stoessinger Ch 7
Brokers of Deceit Khalidi Introduction & Chapter 1
Theory Journal, Deadline: October 16, 11.59 pm

Week 8

10/19 Brokers of Deceit Khalidi Chapter 2, 3 & Conclusion

Week 9

10/26 Simulation

Week 10

11/2 Simulation

Week 11

11/9 Simulation

Week 12

11/16 The China Challenge Christensen Introduction & Chapters 1, 2
NSC Memo, Deadline: November 20, 11.59 pm

Week 13

11/23 The China Challenge Christensen Chapter 3, 4, 5

Week 14

11/30 The China Challenge Christensen Chapters 6, 7

Week 15

12/7 The China Challenge Christensen Chapter 8 & Epilogue

Week 16

12/12-16 **Finals Week**