

**PROSEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**PSCI 506**  
**Fall 2022**

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**Nursing and Health Sciences 227**  
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**Office Hours: M-W 10 am-11 am**  
**12 pm-1 pm**  
**and by appointment**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide students with the the theoretical foundations and conceptual tools needed to pursue research in international relations. The aim of the course is to provide students with a working understanding of the scope of IR, the role of theory in the field and its main questions as well as to enable students to broaden their understanding of world politics by using international relations theories as an analytical tool. The first part of the course introduces students to the major theoretical approaches in the discipline of IR. In the second half of the course, we will use these theories to discuss central issues in international relations including war and peace, conflict and cooperation and international institutions and organizations.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will become familiar with concepts and theories of International Relations and develop critical and analytical skills in discussing international issues and world events.
- Students will demonstrate an awareness of societal and/or civic issues in the international arena and will be encouraged to see the world from multiple perspectives.
- Students will form their own research agendas in the field of International Relations and will practice academic honesty in their writing assignments.
- Students will enhance their oral skills and communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with evident message and organizational structure.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

There are no textbooks for this course. All required readings are available on D2L.

**FORMAT OF THE COURSE**

This is a fully online class. You're required to follow the course requirements on D2L on a regular and timely basis. You're also required to come to our zoom meetings prepared to discuss the assigned material and critically contribute to scholarly exchange of ideas.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Weekly Reflections:** Students are required to write short weekly reflections (1-2 pages, single-spaced), that critically and constructively engage the week's assigned readings. These should not be summaries. Instead, they should make a clear argument. You might compare and contrast opposing arguments or methodological approaches, critique research designs and offer fruitful alternatives, discuss the theory or policy implications of a set of arguments, suggest new research questions that emerge from your reading, connect readings to current events, etc. These reflections are due **every Sunday at 11.59 pm on D2L**. You may choose to write your reflections about whichever topic(s)/argument(s) (based on the readings) you find most interesting.

**Midterm:** There will be a take-home midterm exam, due **October 30, 11.59 pm, on D2L**.

**Final Research Paper:** Students are required to write a substantial (20-25 pages) research paper. This paper must be on a topic relevant to the course and should include the following sections:

- Abstract
- Problem Statement and Research Question(s)
- Literature Review
- Theoretical analysis
- Conclusion

A detailed guidelines and grading rubric for this assignment assignment will be available on D2L. In order to discuss and approve paper topics, students should schedule and have individual meetings with me no later than the end of week 9 (October 30). Final research papers are due **December 15, 11.59 pm, on D2L**.

**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
Weekly Reflections	20%
Midterm	30%
Final Paper	50%
Total	100%

## **GRADE SCALE**

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

## **MAKE-UP POLICY**

Make-ups are allowed only under special circumstances such as medical or family emergencies. However, you must request it prior to the deadline and present documentary proof. Post-deadline make-up requests will not be granted. If you submit your assignments late without an excuse, I will cut off 5 points for each day after the deadline for up to 3 days.

## **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 with 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](mailto: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 (The readings for each week are available on D2L)**

**Week 1 August 29-September 4**

Introduction to the course/Overview of the syllabus

Why Do We Need IR Theory?

**Week 2 September 5-11**

Introduction to IR as a Discipline: History and Concepts

**Week 3 September 12-18**

Realism

**Week 4 September 19-25**

Structural Realism

**Week 5 September 26-October 2**

Liberalism I

**Week 6 October 3-9**

Liberalism II

**Week 7 October 10-16**

Constructivism

**Week 8 October 17-23**

Marxism and Feminism

**Week 9 October 24-30**

Conflict and International Anarchy

**Week 10 October 31-November 6**

Conflict and Domestic Politics

**Week 11 November 7-13**

International Organizations and Institutions

**Week 12 November 14-20**

Gender in International Relations

**Week 13 November 21-27**

**Thanksgiving No Class**

**Week 14 November 28-December 4**

Conclusion: The Future of IR

**Week 15 December 5-11**

Final Paper Discussions

**Week 16 December 12-16**

**Finals Week**

**Final Research Papers due December 15, 11.59 pm on D2L**