



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
PS3620 Spring 2019**

Prof. Holly Oberle

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Class Sessions: M/R 10:00-11:15 am Waleed C145

Office Hours: 11.30-1 M/R or by appointment

You MUST book an appointment with me if you want to see me during office hours. This helps me stay organized and make the most of our time together. Please use the following link: <https://oberle.youcanbook.me/>. This link also appears in my email signature. Please be on time and cancel if you cannot make it. Walk-in appointments will only be accepted if your request is simple and will only take less than 5 minutes. Meetings can be arranged outside my office hours via email.

International Relations is, broadly, the study of how states interact with one another. But even more broadly, this course is designed to give students a more informed way to make sense of the world around you. The course aims to give you the historical background and the theoretical framework to analyze and critique the practices and events of global politics. Major theories and approaches as well as the formative academic debates that form the core of the discipline are introduced. The course will also introduce students to the practice of international relations through a simulation, in which student groups represent various African countries and work together to draft a proposal on an important issue area such as conflict, health or economic integration. Thus, the course strives to introduce students to *both* the theory and practice of IR. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to link historical events with current challenges, using IR theory and definitions to make those links.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, you will:

- 1) know and describe the key definitions and concepts in IR such as the prisoner's dilemma and the balance of power.
- 2) understand the main theoretical schools of thought in the discipline, the events that gave rise to the different theories, and the explanatory power of each theory.
- 3) get to know the professor, such as the fact that she has a dog named Sky back home.
- 4) compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of each theory.
- 5) apply the theoretical approaches to some of the key historical events of the 20th century as well as contemporary events,
- 6) apply theory to case studies and current events

PS3620 – Spring 2019

COURSE MANAGEMENT

I do not use Blackboard. You will receive invitations to view the Google Drive folder. The syllabus and all other important documents, including the readings, will be shared with you using Google Drive. Please take your time to familiarize yourself with Google Drive. If you are having problems with Google Drive please take the following steps BEFORE contacting me:

1. Google it -- Google is actually really helpful when it comes to well, Google.
2. Ask a friend or fellow student.
3. Ask the TA.
4. Go to the Student Technology Help Desk in the library.

Problems with Google drive will NEVER be accepted as a valid excuse for not getting your work done on time or not having prepared for class.

The preferred communication between students and the professor is through email. Not having received or read an email will NEVER be accepted as a valid excuse for not knowing about changes to the course or other important information. Changes and updates to the course schedule will be communicated through email, and reflected on the Google Drive folder. All changes will be announced in class as well. It is your responsibility to check the Google Drive often.

ASSESSMENT

Components:

History exam	20%
Simulation	25% (elements will be broken down)
Film Critique	25%
Final exam	25%
Participation	5%

History exam: a short exam will be taken in class after the first section to test your knowledge of the concepts discussed in Section 1. This exam will include short answer questions and some short open questions.

Simulation: More Details to be discussed soon. This is a joint activity in which you will work with groups from this class as well as student teams from Baruch College in New York. You will be put into groups of 6, and assigned a country. You will elect each person in your group to different positions in your country (such as delegate to the Summit, Head of Government, Foreign Minister, etc.) You will research your country and a specific issue area (issue to be determined). Using the online platform ICONS (through the University of Maryland), you will work with your group as well as groups from our course as well as groups from Baruch to create a proposal on the issue area, and sponsor the proposals of other countries. The majority of the work will be done online, outside of class, however, we will also hold two “summits” during class time to discuss and modify proposals. The goal is to create a cohesive proposal on the issue areas and to vote on the proposal at the end of the summit. You will be evaluated based on your participation, meeting the deadlines for proposals and sponsorship, and your level of engagement. Your grade will NOT be based on whether a proposal is accepted or not. ***The simulation costs \$13 per student. This covers the cost to host the simulation and the materials on the website. Each student will be required to sign up with the ICONS website (www.icons.umd.edu) and pay the fee using a major credit card prior to the “election” of group members to their various positions on February 21st. If you have a problem paying the fee, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP.***

Final exam: an exam will be taken at the end of the course covering the theory section. This exam will be based on

PS3620 – Spring 2019

open questions of varying length.

Film Critique Report: You will watch a film in which International Relations is a central theme. I will provide a list of acceptable movies from which students can choose. If a student would like to watch a film NOT on the list, the student must get approval from the professor by **March 4th. Regardless, all students must make their choice of film by filling out a shared Google doc by March 4th.** You will use ONE IR theory to discuss and critique the film. The film critique is due **May 2nd by midnight via Google Docs.** The paper must be 1500-3000 words, and must include at least 4 scholarly sources in addition to non-scholarly sources such as previous reviews of the film. The first page of the paper must include the student’s name and ID number, and the essay body must be 12-point font, double-spaced and include page numbers. The essay must also include a bibliography and acknowledge sources appropriately. I require either MLA or APA citation style. In addition, each report must include the film’s title, the director, and the cast of main characters. I will provide more information about this assignment later in the semester.

You must turn in your paper as a Google Doc before the deadline. You must share with ME as well as my TA. Please name the file using the following conventions:

FIRSTNAME_SURNAME_PS3620S19Film
for example:
HOLLY_OBERLE_PS3620S19Film

Participation:

According to University policy, students who miss more than the equivalent of three weeks of class can be penalized. You are allowed to miss up to three weeks of class without penalty for any reason whatsoever. Please do not email me if you are planning to use one of your “free” absences as these are your right to take and I do not need to know why you are taking them. I only need to know if, for reasons of a major sickness or family emergency, you will need to take MORE than three weeks of absences. If you miss more than three weeks worth of class without a documented, verifiable, and qualified excuse (qualified excuses are major illnesses or major family emergency), you will be given an automatic “F.” It is your responsibility to keep track of your own attendance; please email my TA if you have questions about your attendance. Your participation grade will be based on your missing less than three weeks of class and contributing regularly and substantially during class discussion, demonstrating that you read the required reading and you thought about the reading in depth before you came to class. Participation is based on *quality* not quantity.

Grade scale:

<i>Letter grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Letter grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Letter grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	93+	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	60-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	F	Below 60
B	83-86	C-	70-72		

LATE POLICY

Late assignments turned in within 24 hours late or less will be downgraded by a third of a letter grade (a B+ paper will be downgraded to a B, a B- paper will be downgraded to a C+), another 24 hours another third of a

letter grade and anything beyond that will be given a failing grade (“F”). I will only consider late papers without downgrading under the most exceptional of circumstances. Do not abuse this policy.

COMPUTERS IN CLASS POLICY

No computers will be allowed in class, except on special “summitt” days during the simulation. You should take notes with pen and paper. It is a well-known phenomenon that students who take notes on a computer do not retain the information as well as students who take physical notes. Furthermore, I do NOT want to police your use of the internet during class.

BEHAVIOR IN CLASS

- Students are expected to attend the classes (including rescheduled ones taking place in days other than Mondays and Thursdays) AND show knowledge of – and engagement with – the essential readings, that need to be read before the relevant class.
- Students who, without a valid justification, arrive to class more than 10’ late, leave more than 10’ early or leave the teaching room repeatedly during the session will be considered as absent.
- If an attendance sheet is circulated in class, each student is expected to sign only for him/herself. Falsifying signatures is considered by AUC as a breach of academic integrity and the student(s) involved in this practice will be immediately referred to the AUC Academic Integrity Committee.
- Students are expected to maintain the highest form of academic integrity and honesty at all times and through all assignments. Any suspected act that violates AUC's policy on academic integrity will be referred to the Academic Actions Committee for review. Violation of these policies could result in an “F” for an assignment or for the entire course, as per departmental and university policy.
- Students are expected to refrain from using their mobile phones during class, and turn their phones to silent mode (SILENT, NOT VIBRATE).

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND INTELLECTUAL INTERACTION

In this course you will deal with a number of topics that are often controversial. You are free to offer the class any disagreement you may have with the readings or lecture. You will **NOT** be penalized for disagreeing with other students, the readings or the instructor, but your perspective must be based on documentable evidence from the course or other readings. Freedom of speech and ideas is a basic principle of academic life (and of universal human rights) and every student will have a chance to express her/his opinion as long as it is voiced in a respectful manner. However, varied points of view must be expressed in a manner that is sensitive to differences in abilities, ethnicity, religion, gender and lifestyle, and should not be expressed so as to be perceived as a personal attack. In short, respect for others’ differences is one of the most important prerequisites for us working together in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to commit to the principles of academic integrity.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another person's' work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism for assignments and/or reports may result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or the report in

PS3620 – Spring 2019

question. Cheating during an examination may result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, would also be implemented.

You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to “Turnitin.com”, the detection prevention software. By signing this syllabus, you will acknowledge that you have understood that any detected plagiarism will have to be reported.

The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available at <http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/Pages/default.aspx>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Generally, AUC informs instructors about any disabilities a student may have and works with the instructor to make sure each and every student has equal opportunity to participate in the course. If you have not done so already, please visit the AUC Disability Service (<http://www.aucegypt.edu/studentlife/gethelp/Pages/disabilityserv.aspx>). However, even if your specific case has not been documented I am willing to work individually with you. Please make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible to discuss any accommodation necessary to guarantee your full participation.

TEXTBOOKS

There are three required textbooks for this course and one online magazine:

1. Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 5th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
 - ***This book is available on reserve in the AUC library. In addition, some (but not all) chapters will be made available as a PDF and shared on Google Drive.***
 - ***In general, please use the 5th edition, especially for our discussions on the end of the Cold War and poststructuralism.***
 - ***Hereinafter, this text will be referred to as “BSO.”***
2. Mansbach, Richard and Kristen Taylor. *Introduction to Global Politics*, 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge, 2012.
 - ***This textbook is available as an e-book on reserve through the library, in addition it will be shared as a PDF on Google Drive.***
 - ***The link to the ebook through the library is:***
<http://lib.aucegypt.edu/search/c?SEARCH=jz1242+m36&submit=Search>
 - ***Hereinafter, this text will be referred to as “M&T”***
3. Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. *Essentials of International Relations*, 7th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2017.
 - ***This textbook is available on reserve through the library, in addition selected parts of the book will be made available as a PDF on Google Drive.***
 - ***Hereinafter, the text will be referred to as “M&A”***
4. ***Recommended but not required:*** A very fun, simple but informative book on IR Theory is *Theory of International Politics and Zombies* by Dan Drezner. The book is available at the library, and is a good

PS3620 – Spring 2019

supplement to the textbook chapters we will use in this course.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND ESSENTIAL READINGS

I reserve the right to change the readings and dates in order to best facilitate student learning. Any changes will be announced in class and changed on the syllabus. Students must check the syllabus regularly.

Date	Theme	Required Reading	Assignments Due
31 January	Introduction to Course	Syllabus	
4 February	Introduction to Theory Levels of Analysis	M&T Chapter 1 (Sections “What is theory,” “Many theories”, “Levels of Analysis”)	
7 February			
11 February	The Emergence of the State System and Alternative Political Systems	M&T Chapter 2	
14 February			
18 February	The World Wars	M&T Chapter 3	
21 February	<i>Introduction of Simulation assignment, election of group members</i>	M&A pgs. 38-44 Simulation Assignment Sheet	
25 February	The Cold War (<i>no class Feb 25th... Online lecture</i>)	M&T Chapter 4; pages 58-59 of M&A (pdf on Google Drive, think of an answer to the critical analysis questions)	
28 February			
4 March	***History Exam***		
7 March	Realism	BSO Chapter 5	
11 March			
14 March	Liberalism	BSO Chapter 6	

PS3620 – Spring 2019

<i>18 March</i>			
<i>21 March</i>	First Meeting of the International Summit	All draft proposals submitted through ICONS	
<i>25 March</i>	Constructivism	BSO Chapter 9	
<i>28 March</i>			
<i>1 April</i>	Marxism	BSO Chapter 8	
<p>***NO CLASS 4 April PROFESSOR AT CONFERENCE*** ***Students are expected to use normally scheduled class time to meet with their groups and work on their proposals***</p>			
<i>8 April</i>	Marxism	BSO Chapter 8	
<i>11 April</i>	Feminist IR	BSO Chapter 16 (5th edition only)	
<i>15 April</i>			
<i>18 April</i>	Postcolonialism	BSO Chapter 11 (5th edition only)	
<p>***NO CLASS 22, 25, and 29 April (Spring Break)***</p>			
<i>2 May</i>	Postcolonialism	BSO Chapter 11	Film Critique
<i>6 May</i>	TBA	TBA	
<i>9 May</i>	Final Conference of the International Summit	Final proposals	
<i>13 May</i>	*Conclusion and Review for Final Exam*		