

**THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO  
POLS. 3620-01 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Dr. Kareem Mahmoud Kamel**

**Class: WU 2:00-3:20 pm Waleed CP69**

**Office Hours: HUSS 2028 WU 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment**

**e-mail: [kareemmk@aucegypt.edu](mailto:kareemmk@aucegypt.edu)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce students to the major theories of international relations and increase their understanding of the issues, dilemmas, debates, and complexities involved in contemporary international politics. Theories and concepts are presented to provide order to what looks like meaningless developments and to give interpretation to what could seem as contradictory behavior. In this course, theories are not presented in isolation of the actual world. Major global and regional developments will be looked at through the prisms provided by the different theories. The context within which theories have been developed will be focused upon and a thematic approach will be used towards the study of different theories and issues. The dialectic between theory and reality is essential in the evaluation of different theories and students are required to be able to comparatively and analytically assess the strengths, weaknesses, similarities, differences, and dilemmas in each group of readings and theoretical approaches.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION**

#### **- Attendance/Participation (10%):**

Despite the class having a significant lecture component, attendance/participation are essential aspects of the course and reflect an important dimension of student commitment. Students are expected to read the assigned material before coming to class, punctually attend, take good notes (**powerpoints will NOT be handed to students!**) and actively and meaningfully participate in class discussions. They are also expected to respond to any queries the instructor might ask about the readings or current events. **An attendance sheet will be created to record student attendance. I will personally take attendance at the end of every class once the student roster is finalized.**

- **In order to avoid unnecessary disruption, students must avoid drifting in or leaving the room while class is in session. Those who show up 10 minutes or more after the beginning of class will not be allowed in and they will be considered absent.**
- **The use of mobile phones during class is strictly prohibited (including SMS or any other messaging service). Please either switch off your phones or put them on silent/sleep mode before entering class. Repetitive violation of this policy will negatively impact your participation grade.**
- **SIX absences (the equivalent of 3 weeks of class) or more will result in an automatic F for the course. Less than six absences will negatively affect your participation grade.**
- **Exceptions to the absence policy will ONLY be made if the student has a serious, documented, and verifiable excuse that is acknowledged by the Office of Student Affairs (or clinic) and brought to my notice within a maximum period of one month from the time the absence took place. Later excuses will not be accepted.**

**- Midterm Exam (25%) – Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

The exam is intended to test the depth of your knowledge of the reading material and your ability to assess the writings and arguments presented by different scholars and readings.

**- Term paper (30%) – HARDCOPY DUE IN-CLASS: Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Students are expected to turn in one research paper of a minimum of 3,500 words analytically examining a specific well-defined topic relevant to the course. *A detailed guidelines sheet will be distributed to class specifying the exact requirements of this assignment several weeks before the paper due date.*

**- Presentations (10%) – During the final two weeks of the semester (May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>)**

Each student will be allocated 10 minutes to present their research to class.

- Final Exam (25%):** A non-comprehensive final exam will be administered during the final examination period (TBA by university)

**Points are distributed as follows:**

Attendance/Participation	10%
Midterm	25%
Term paper	30%
Presentation	10%
Final Exam	25%

**Grading Scale (100 points):**

A	93-100
A-	89-92
B+	85-88
B	81-84
B-	77-80
C+	73-76
C	69-72
C-	65-68
D+	61-64
D	57-60
F	Below 57

**VERY IMPORTANT**

- **Please refer to the University academic integrity policy concerning academic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, obtaining unfair advantage, and other forms of academic misconduct. This usually manifests itself in the receipt of information during an examination; use of unauthorized material during an examination, transfer of unauthorized material to another student; and submission of the same paper or substantially the same paper for two different courses. <http://aucegypt.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/academic-experience>**

- All references must be *clearly* and *consistently* cited in your written assignments both in-text and in the works cited list. Copy-pasting material or submitting unreferenced research work will not be tolerated. Any form of plagiarism will result in an F in the course, and possible request for dismissal from the university.
- No modification in any of the deadlines specified in the syllabus will be granted.
- In order to ensure fairness, every student has one chance at every method of assessment. No additional chance for compensation will be granted for any student who deems his/her grade unsatisfactory. Extra credit assignments, re-takes, re-submissions, drafts, re-drafts or make-up exams will NOT be allowed.
- All written assignments (hard copies) have to be handed in to the instructor in person in class on the designated date of submission.
- Late papers without an official, verifiable, emergency excuse will not be accepted and/or heavily penalized.

### READING MATERIAL

The majority of the readings will be from the following books (preferably purchased if available)

- Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Pearson Longman, 2015)
- Joseph S. Nye and David A. Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: Introduction to Theory and History*. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Pearson Longman, 2014)

**Additional required readings will be assigned and made accessible to students on certain weeks as shown in the reading schedule below. The two books and all other assigned material will be relevant for exams.**

### TOPICS AND TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

#### **Week of January 29<sup>th</sup> Introduction – What is International Politics?**

- Nye and Welch, Ch:1 “Are There Enduring Logics of Conflict and Cooperation in World Politics?” pp. 7-22 and pp. 31-40

#### **Week of February 5<sup>th</sup>: Tools of Analysis**

- Nye and Welch, Ch:2 “Explaining Conflict and Cooperation: Tools and Techniques of the Trade” pp.43-67
- Art and Jervis, pp. 26-28 (Ian Hurd, “Legitimacy in International Politics”)

#### **Weeks of February 12<sup>th</sup> : Realism, Anarchy and Conflict in World Politics**

- Tim Dunne and Brian C. Schmidt, “Realism” pp. 91-103 (**on blackboard**)
- Art and Jervis, pp. 29-35 (Hans Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism”)
- Art and Jervis, pp. 47-65 (Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics”)

**Weeks of February 19<sup>th</sup>: Liberalism, Cooperation, and the Mitigation of Anarchy**

- Tim Dunne, "Liberalism" pp. 104-115 (**on blackboard**)
- Art and Jervis, pp. 112-124 (Michael W. Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs")
- Art and Jervis, pp. 144-147 (Stanley Hoffmann, "The Uses and Limits of International Law")

**Weeks of February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>: Critical International Relations Theory**

- Stephen Hobden and Richard Wyn Jones, "Marxist Theories of International Relations" pp.116-129 (**on blackboard**)
- Michael Barnett, "Social Constructivism" pp. 130-143 (**on blackboard**)
- Art and Jervis, pp. 73-80 (Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It")

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>: Mid-Term Revision**

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>: Mid-Term Exam**

**Week of March 19<sup>th</sup>: Balance of Power Politics and Collective Security**

- Nye and Welch, Ch: 4 "From Westphalia to World War I" pp. 89-94 ; pp. 102-108
- Nye and Welch, Ch: 5 "The Failure of Collective Security and World War II" pp. 119-129
- Art and Jervis, pp. 124-137 (Stephen M. Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning")

**Week of March 26<sup>th</sup>: The Uses and Dilemmas of Force and Humanitarian Intervention**

- Art and Jervis, pp. 159-165 (Robert J. Art, "The Four Functions of Force")
- Art and Jervis, pp. 347-353 (Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age")
- Art and Jervis, pp. 360-366 (Alexander B. Downes, "To the Shores of Tripoli? Regime Change and its Consequences")

**Week of April 2<sup>nd</sup>: "Terrorism" and the Shifting Nature of Conflict**

- Art and Jervis, pp. 178-187 (Bruce Hoffman, "What is Terrorism?")
- Art and Jervis, pp. 327-333 (Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Ending Terrorism")
- Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" pp. 213-230 (**on blackboard**)

**Weeks of April 9<sup>th</sup> – April 16<sup>th</sup> : Spring Break and Sham el Nessim Holidays  
(exact dates to be confirmed by official university notification)**

**Week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>: The Politics of Nuclear Proliferation**

- Art and Jervis, pp. 214-217 (Kenneth Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb")
- Art and Jervis, pp. 217-220 (Henry Sokolski, "Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran")
- Barry R. Posen, "A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult but not Impossible Problem" pp.242-258 (**on blackboard**)

**Week of April 30<sup>th</sup>: TBD**

**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: TERM PAPER DUE AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS BEGIN**