

IS 220-01: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Professor: COL Dennis Foster

Meeting Times: T H 1300-1415

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Course Webpage (CANVAS): <https://vmi.instructure.com/courses/2519>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The overarching goal of this course is to encourage cadets to develop the basis for a “scientific” understanding of the relationships amongst states. To this end, we will analyze and discuss the major theoretical perspectives that characterize the scholarly study of international phenomena. We will then utilize these theories as guides to understanding important issues, problems, and puzzles in the international realm, such as international conflict and the impediments to cooperation, the difficulty of effective foreign policy decision making, the role of international institutions, and the changing nature of international economic affairs. Additionally, cadets will learn a number of important facts about the contemporary international system, such as the manner in which it evolved, facets of the geographic, demographic, and political attributes of its constituent states, and some of the current events which work to further define and reshape it on a daily basis. Finally, cadets will get a taste of the intricacies of institutionalized bargaining over important international security issues by participating in a short Model United Nations conference.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Goldstein, Joshua S., and Jon C. Pevehouse. *International Relations*, 2013-14 Update, 10th Edition. Longman Publishing.

Several additional readings will be posted on CANVAS (Denoted “C” in syllabus).

CANVAS: Important information for this course will be posted on VMI’s new academic interface, CANVAS. This syllabus, lecture notes and readings will be posted on the course’s CANVAS home page. Several assignments for this course will also be taken on or submitted to CANVAS. Feel free, also, to post questions about the material or other course-related matters in the “Discussions” section; I will answer them as time permits. We’ll go over the operational details of CANVAS in class.

As the application of theory and analysis to current events is crucial in all social sciences, cadets are strongly encouraged to keep abreast of world events by regularly consulting the sections of such periodicals as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Economist* dealing with international affairs. Current events topics will be addressed at length during class discussions and will be important to successful participation in the Model UN Conference.

GRADING

1. **Participation (10%):** Participation in class will comprise ten percent of each cadet's course grade (**twenty-four** points). Participation will include attendance, reasoned contribution to class discussions, and the introduction of current events topics and materials germane to class themes
2. **Map Quizzes (10%):** An essential component of understanding international affairs is a basic knowledge of international geography. As such, **six** map quizzes will be administered throughout the course. The dates of these quizzes, as well as the regions that each quiz will cover, are provided in the Course Outline. Cadets will receive a map of a region and will be asked to identify selected countries within that region, and will be provided with regional review maps at the beginning of the semester. Each of these six quizzes is worth **four** points
3. **Exam 1 (15%):** This exam will cover material from Part 1 of the course, and will be administered on **29 September**. Cadets will be required to answer **twenty** multiple choice questions (**one** point each) and **four** of the six short-answer questions asked (**four** points each).
4. **Exam 2 (15%):** This exam will cover material from Part 2 of the course, and will be administered on **27 October**. Cadets will be required to answer **twenty** multiple choice questions (**one** point each) and **four** of the six short-answer questions asked (**four** points each).
5. **Model UN Conference (20%):** Cadets will be required to prepare a short research paper for and participate in a Model United Nations Conference to be held during the week of **3-8 December**. The assignment is given on **pages 5 and 6** of this syllabus. Countries will be chosen at random on **6 October**. **The short research paper is due at the first meeting of the conference.** Of the **forty-eight** total points comprising this assignment, **twenty-four** points represent the instructor's assessment of the paper, and **twenty-four** points represent the instructor's assessment of the caliber of each cadet's participation during the conference.
6. **Final (30%):** The final exam will generally require cadets to apply their knowledge of existing theory and international issues to the study of international economics, environment, and demographics (as surveyed in the third section of the course). In this sense, the final is cumulative. Cadets will be required to answer three of six essay questions; these answers are worth **twenty-four** points each (**seventy-two** points total).

The proportion of the **240** total available points that each cadet attains determines his or her final grade. The final grading scale is as follows:

A:	216-240 points.
B:	192-215 points.
C:	168-191 points.
D:	144-167 points.
F:	0-143 points.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Work for Grade Policy regulations are fully applicable and will be enforced for each of the assignments and tests (see pages 8-11).
- Qualified cadets are permitted to take 3.0 cuts with the approval of the instructor.
- Exams, quizzes, and other assignments will not be postponed except as provided by Institute regulations. Exams, quizzes, and due dates for assignments will be rescheduled only at the discretion of the instructor, and on his terms.
- Late submission of any written work is graded down six grade points per day.
- Other than water in a closed container, no tobacco products, food, beverages, or gum are allowed in the classroom.
- Obscene language will not be permitted.
- The use of personal electronic devices for purposes not associated with classwork is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, (a) any form of communication (i.e., speaking and texting) with a cellular or “smart” phone; and (b) the use of a laptop or “pad” computer for tasks other than those pertaining to IS 220. The instructor reserves the right to confiscate devices used in contravention of these policies.

“VMI abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which mandate reasonable accommodations are provided for all cadets with documented disabilities. If you have a registered disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disabilities Services, the designated office on Post to provide services for cadets with disabilities. The office is located on the 2nd floor of the VMI Health Center. Please call or stop by the office of LTC Jones, Director of Disabilities Services, for more information, 464-7667 or jonessl10@vmi.edu.”

COURSE OUTLINE

Part 1: International Relations Theory

- 9/1: Introduction and Overview
No Readings Assigned
IN CLASS: The Four-Person World
- 9/3: The Study of International Relations
Goldstein & Pevehouse (hereafter, "G&P") 2-26
- 9/8: The Relevance of History to the Study of IR
G&P 26-39
- 9/10: Theories of IR: Realism
G&P Chapter 2
IN CLASS: Europe Map Quiz
- 9/15: Theories of IR: Realism
[C] *Korab-Karponicz, "Neorealism"*; [C] *Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue"*
- 9/17: Theories of IR: Liberalism
G&P, 84-96
- 9/22: Theories of IR: Liberalism
[C] *Kant, "Perpetual Peace"*
IN CLASS: Asia Map Quiz
- 9/24: Alternative Theoretical Perspectives: Social and Gender Theories
G&P, 96-123
- 9/29: **Exam 1**

Part 2: Actions and Institutions in the International Realm

- 10/1: Foreign Policy Decision Making
G&P, Chapter 4
- 10/6: Interstate Conflict and Military Force
G&P, Chapter 5
IN CLASS: Countries chosen for Model UNSC
- 10/8: Interstate Conflict and Military Force
G&P, 192-204, 222-229
IN CLASS: Middle East Map Quiz
- 10/13: Weapons of Mass Destruction: Strategy and Proliferation
G&P, 209-222
- 10/15: Weapons of Mass Destruction: Strategy and Proliferation
No Readings Assigned
IN CLASS: "Chicken" Game

10/20: Non-State Actors: Insurgency
[C] Merari, "Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency"; *Ge&P*, 204-209
IN CLASS: Latin America Map Quiz

10/22: Non-State Actors: International Organization and Law
Ge&P, Chapter 7

10/27: **Exam 2**

Part 3: Economic, Environmental and Demographic Concerns in IR

10/29: International Political Economy: Trade
Ge&P, 283-294

11/3: **No Class - Wednesday Classes Meet**

11/5: International Political Economy: Trade
Ge&P, 294-317
IN CLASS: Model UN Rules of Procedure Distributed

11/10: International Political Economy: Monetary Affairs
Ge&P, 320-333

11/12: International Political Economy: Monetary Affairs
Ge&P, 333-351
IN CLASS: Africa Map Quiz

11/17: The North-South Economic Gap
Ge&P, Chapter 12

11/19: International Development in the 21st Century
Ge&P, Chapter 13
IN CLASS: Oceania Map Quiz

11/24: Environmental and Demographic Factors in IR
Ge&P, Chapter 11

11/26: **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Furlough**

12/1: **IN CLASS: Model UN Discussion – BRING GUIDELINES**
IN CLASS: Map Quiz “Championships”
No Readings Assigned

12/3-

12/8: **Model UN (Two 120 minute meetings; Times TBD)**
Research Papers Due at Beginning of First Meeting
No Readings Assigned

12/10: **IN CLASS: Conclusion and Evaluations**
No Readings Assigned

Model United Nations Assignment

1. Take some time prior to 6 October to consider which country from the following list you might like to choose.

United States of America **	Libya ‡ •
France **	Indonesia †
Russian Federation **	Timor-Leste †
Chad *	Slovakia †
Jordan *	Democratic People's Republic of Korea †
Chile *	Pakistan †
New Zealand *	Democratic Republic of Congo †
Lithuania *	Brazil †
Germany ‡	Turkey †
Ecuador ‡	Georgia †

KEY:

- ** Permanent member of UN Security Council
 - * Non-Permanent member of UN Security Council for Model UN Conference
 - ^ Security Council Presidency for Model UN Conference
 - † Member of General Committee
 - ± Chair of General Committee
 - ‡ Member of Committee on Disarmament and International Security
 - Chair of Committee on Disarmament and International Security
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2. **The issue that will be addressed in the Model UN Conference is the institution of international controls on the sale and development of missile technology and materiel (as a basic reference point, see Goldstein and Pevehouse, pp211-214).**
3. **The Model UN Conference will be held in conjunction with another section of IS 220; the meeting times of the conference will be determined during the semester.**
4. After having chosen a country, you are required to prepare a five page (double-spaced, 12 point font, one-inch margined) paper, due **at the beginning of the first meeting of the conference.** *The central goal of the paper is to decide whether or not it is in your country's best interest to work to institute international controls on the sale and development of missile technology and materiel, and to make a convincing argument supporting that decision.* This will require you to research the assigned issue and to acquaint yourself with your country and its stake in the outcome of the issue. As suggested on the Stanford University Library's Model UN research website, this can best be accomplished by reviewing policy statements, relevant addresses (inside and outside the UN), and the texts of previous UN resolutions sponsored by your country concerning the issue.

5. In regards to the actual conference, you are additionally expected to intelligently debate the issue on behalf of your country's interests within the rules and regulations governing the UN General Assembly and its committees. To do so, you should familiarize yourself with the rules concerning general debate, resolution proposal and amendment, and voting (as presented in the "Model UN Rules of Procedure," to be distributed on 5 November), and how your country's membership on various councils and committees is relevant to these rules. A very good starting point for research on actual UN procedure is the website referenced above and the UN's website (www.un.org).
6. **In accordance with the Institute's and Department's Work for Grade Policies, you are required to submit "Help Received" information for both the written and oral portions of this assignment. For the written portion, this information is to be attached on a separate sheet of paper, in bibliographic form, at the end of your work; for the oral portion, you are required to submit a list of the human and text sources consulted in preparation for the debate. Both "Help Received" Statements are due at the first meeting of the conference.**
7. A note on your choice of country. Just because a country is not militarily, economically, or demographically powerful, or is a member of few relevant committees or councils, does not necessarily mean it is unimportant. Indeed, it might play an extremely critical role in UN outcomes. More to the point, *do not assume that having a weak country or one of few memberships exempts you in any way from having to write a good paper or prepare for the model conference. Likewise, if you have chosen a powerful, multi-membership country with a large stake in the resolution of the issue, do not assume that your position is so obvious, clear, or self-explanatory that you can "punt" on the paper and the presentation.* Making such assumptions is sure to result in poor performance on the paper and in the conference, and will almost certainly result in a sub-par grade.
8. Finally, I am willing to give all cadets assistance in accessing and understanding the material germane to this project, in thinking through their positions, and in outlining their presentations. However, cadets **MUST** come to my office to receive such assistance. Complaints about difficulties encountered in writing the paper and participating in the model conference will not be taken very seriously if the cadet in question made no effort before the conference to obtain out-of-classroom assistance.

WORK FOR GRADE POLICY

Development of the spirit as well as the skills of academic inquiry is central to the mission of VMI's Academic Program. As a community of scholars, posing questions and seeking answers, we invariably consult and build upon the ideas, discoveries, and products of others who have wrestled with related issues and problems before us. We are obligated ethically and in many instances legally to acknowledge the sources of all borrowed material that we use in our own work. This is the case whether we find that material in conventional resources, such as the library or cyberspace, or discover it in other places like conversations with our peers.

Academic integrity requires the full and proper documentation of any material that is not original with us. It is therefore a matter of honor. To misrepresent someone else's words, ideas, images, data, or other intellectual property as one's own is stealing, lying, and cheating all at once.

Because the offense of improper or incomplete documentation is so serious, and the consequences so potentially grave, the following policies regarding work for grade have been adopted as a guide to cadets and faculty in upholding the Honor Code under which all VMI cadets live:

1) Cadets' responsibilities

"Work for grade" is defined as any work presented to an instructor for a formal grade or undertaken in satisfaction of a requirement for successful completion of a course or degree requirement. All work submitted for grade is considered the cadet's own work. **"Cadet's own work"** means that he or she has composed the work from his or her general accumulation of knowledge and skill except as clearly and fully documented and that it has been composed especially for the current assignment. No work previously submitted in any course at VMI or elsewhere will be resubmitted or reformatted for submission in a current course without the specific approval of the instructor.

In all work for grade, failure to distinguish between the cadet's own work and ideas and the work and ideas of others is known as **plagiarism**. Proper documentation clearly and fully identifies the sources of all borrowed ideas, quotations, or other assistance. The cadet is referred to the VMI-authorized handbook for rules concerning quotations, paraphrases, and documentation.

In all written work for grade, the cadet must include the words **"HELP RECEIVED"** conspicuously on the document, and he or she must then do one of two things: (1) state "none," meaning that no help was received except as documented in the work; or (2) explain in detail the nature of the help received. In oral work for grade, the cadet must make the same declaration before beginning the presentation. Admission of help received may result in a lower grade but will not result in prosecution for an honor violation.

Cadets are prohibited from discussing the contents of a quiz/exam until it is returned to them or final course grades are posted. This enjoiner does not imply that any inadvertent expression or behavior that might indicate one's feeling about the test should be considered a breach of honor. The real issue is whether cadets received information, not available to everyone else in the class, which would give them an unfair advantage. If a cadet inadvertently gives or receives information, the incident must be reported to the professor and the Honor Court.

Each cadet bears the responsibility for familiarizing himself or herself thoroughly with the policies stated in this section, with any supplementary statement regarding work for grade expressed by the academic department in which he or she is taking a course, and with any special conditions provided in writing by the professor for a given assignment. If there is any doubt or uncertainty about the correct interpretation of a policy, the cadet should consult the instructor of the course. There should be no confusion, however, on the basic principle that it is never acceptable to submit someone else's work, written or otherwise, formally graded or not, as one's own.

The violation by a cadet of any of these policies will, if he or she is found guilty by the Honor Court, result in his or her being dismissed from VMI. Neither ignorance nor professed confusion about the correct interpretation of these policies is an excuse.

2) Faculty members' responsibilities

Each academic department will publish an official statement of supplementary departmental policies regarding work for grade, titled "Departmental Statement Concerning VMI's Policies Regarding Work for Grade." Each departmental statement will include explicit policies on the following: (a) tutoring* [e.g., Writing Center, Learning Center, athletic tutors, private tutors], (b) peer collaboration*, and (c) computer aids, including calculators, translators, spelling, style, and grammar checkers. Individual course assignments that deviate from the departmental work for grade policies must be approved by the department head in advance and must be explained to cadets in writing.

No departmental or individual assignment policies may contradict or compromise the Institutional principles expressed in the Academic Regulations, particularly notions of academic integrity and the requirement to document borrowed material and help received. Each departmental statement must be approved by the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty following review by the Academic Policy Committee of the Academic Board. A copy of the document must be filed with the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty, and the Superintendent's Representative to the Honor Court. Such a statement must be signed by the department head and must be posted in each classroom used by the department.

As an essential part of the duty of teaching and a matter of professional citizenship, faculty are expected to adhere to established work for grade policies and to communicate clearly and regularly with their cadets about the values and practices of academic honesty and integrity. Each faculty member must therefore include work for grade policies in a syllabus for every course he or she teaches. Each syllabus must include an exact transcription of the section titled "Cadets' Responsibilities" from "Work for Grade Policies" in the VMI Academic

Regulations and a full statement of the established departmental policies regarding work for grade, plus any approved course-specific policies.

Furthermore, all faculty members are responsible for discussing with all of their students the details, definitions, and implications of (1) the entire section of the Academic Regulations entitled “Work for Grade Policies”; (2) the relevant sections on quotations, paraphrasing, and documentation in the current VMI-authorized handbook; and (3) the departmental and any approved course-specific policies regarding Work for Grade. This discussion must take place before any work is submitted for grade, and it should be treated with the gravity and level of detail that it merits.

Faculty must also review the Institute policy regarding the discussion of quizzes and exams with their classes. Specifically, faculty must remind cadets that they are prohibited from discussing the contents of a quiz/exam with anyone except the professor until it is returned to them or final course grades are posted.

If a member of the faculty believes that a cadet has violated one or more of VMI's, the department's, or the instructor's work for grade policies, he or she should report the evidence to the head of the department. The department head will decide whether the collected evidence justifies referral to the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty. If the department head decides that the evidence does not justify referral, then he or she will conclude the investigation. Otherwise, the department head will submit a written report to the Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty. The report must contain both a recommendation for action and all relevant documents, including a statement signed by the faculty member who reported the violation.

The instructor will assign a grade of “I” following a formal charge of an Honor Court academic violation in his or her course until the issue is resolved.

* Departmental policies must include a statement on whether tutors and peers may offer cadets **critical comments** on their papers. Offering **critical comments** means giving general advice on such matters as organization, thesis development, support for assertions, and patterns of errors. It does not include proofreading or editing.

Proofreading means correcting errors (e.g., in spelling, grammar, punctuation). It is the last step taken by the writer in the **editing** process. In addition to the corrections made in proofreading, **editing** includes making such changes as the addition, deletion, or reordering of paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or words. **A cadet may not have his or her work proofread or edited by someone other than the instructor. [Instructors may grant exceptions to this rule only if they have received written permission from the department head for a particular assignment.]**

Department of International Studies & Political Science

Work for Grade Policy

Work for Grade in this department is generally of the following types.

1. Written quizzes, tests, or examinations
2. Book reviews
3. Research Papers, policy memoranda, briefing papers, and discourse analysis-- identification and analysis of the critical differences in the findings and opinions of scholars on issues of interest to the discipline.

1. Cadets are permitted and encouraged to study with their peers to prepare for quizzes, tests and exams. However, when a cadet takes either written or oral quizzes, tests, and examinations, answers must be his/her own work without help from any other source including notes or consultation with others.

2. In the case of book reviews, research and other papers, as described in "2" and "3" above, research and composing of such works must be done by the cadet alone. Cadets are permitted to use spell and grammar-checking facilities.

IS cadets are encouraged to make use of all VMI tutoring services to receive critical comments (defined above). Cadets who do so and mark "Help Received" will not receive a lower grade on an assignment. Cadets are also permitted to seek critical comments on their written work from their peers. However, proof-reading and editing (**defined above**) of a cadet's written work is not permitted.

Any exceptions to these rules, including the use of tutors, collaboration among cadets, and the use of computer style, spell and grammar checkers; must be explained in writing by the course instructor. Instructors are at liberty to stipulate exceptions only with the written approval of their department head.

If you have any questions about the application of these rules, consult your instructor. Do not leave anything to chance.

Colonel James J. Hentz
Professor and Head