

International Politics

Political Science V1601x

Fall 2008
M, W 2:40-3:55

[Professor Kimberly Marten](#)

Office: 402 Lehman Hall, Barnard College

Tel: (212) 854-5115

email: km2225@columbia.edu

Office hours: Mon. 1:30-2:30, Wed. 4-5

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Have the terrorist attacks of September 2001, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the apparent growth of (and challenges to) a new American “empire” fundamentally changed our understandings of international politics? Those are the questions that we will focus on this semester. Yet many of the same basic questions that have long puzzled scholars of international relations remain relevant today, and we will discuss these broader questions as well. How can we explain the patterns of international politics? Why does war happen, and can it be prevented? Is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction a threat to peace, and if so, how should the world respond? How do culture and religion affect international politics? How are countries affected by the global economy, with its ever-increasing levels of international trade and investment, and in turn how does the political economy of individual countries shape international relations? Can peacekeeping operations make us more secure? Does the United Nations matter?

In this course we will begin to grapple with these questions. We will examine several contending views of international politics that have become well established among both scholars and policy-makers. While we will focus on current events, it is important to understand some of the big lessons that policymakers have taken from recent history. We will therefore analyze a variety of important cases from the 20th century to gain a better understanding of current events. Discussion sessions, assignments, and exams will encourage students to formulate their own views on these issues and to defend those views well.

Students should leave the course with a broad understanding of the causes and effects of politics in the international system, and with new knowledge about some specific historical and current events cases. Their analytical skills should also be honed by discussions, assignments, and exams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

There are **two in-class midterm** exams, held on **Oct. 20** and **Nov. 12**, and a **final exam**, held on the official date and time to be set by Columbia University. [Please wait to make your holiday travel plans until this date is officially announced by the Columbia registrar; the university does not accept the excuse of holiday travel as a legitimate reason for missing the scheduled final exam.] Each exam will consist of two sections: (1) a list of

short identification questions, and (2) a longer essay. (In each case the student will be given some choice concerning which questions to answer.) Each student may bring one 8 1/2" by 11" piece of paper to each otherwise closed-book exam, on which anything may be typed on both sides. **In addition, regular attendance at discussion section is required.**

All grading is supervised by Prof. Marten, who sets the grading guidelines and reviews section leader performance. Any student who believes a grade was given in error must discuss the situation with the individual who graded the exam first. If the student remains unsatisfied after this, Prof. Marten will review the work in question; but students should realize that a change in grade is very unlikely, and that Prof. Marten reserves the right to lower a grade as well as raise it. **Exams must be taken when scheduled. Exceptions will be granted only in cases of medical or family emergency, and will be granted only by Prof. Marten,** not by the TAs. A passing grade of C- or better must be achieved on each exam, and in section, for the student to receive a passing grade in the course.

Prof. Marten has served on the Barnard College Honor Board, and takes the issues of academic integrity very seriously. For each exam, all students (whether or not they are Barnard College students) must sign the Barnard College Honor Code statement, affirming that their written work is completely their own. Any student found to have violated the Honor Code will face the disciplinary rules of his or her home college. No laptop or cell-phone use for any reason will be allowed during exams, unless the student makes approved prior arrangements through the Office of Disability Services.

Laptop policy: the use of laptops and similar electronic devices in lecture and discussion section is prohibited unless the student signs the "Conditions of Use" form, under the terms of the Barnard Honor Code (which affirms honesty and integrity), which is available at Prof. Marten's office. The conditions of use are as follows: (1) Laptops and similar devices can be used in lecture **only** for taking notes, and in discussion section **only** for taking notes or referring to saved notes on the readings. Students affirm that once class has begun, they will not use their laptops for **any** non-note-taking activity, including email, text-messaging, web searches, playing games, etc. (2) Anyone wishing to use a laptop or other electronic device in lecture **must** sit in the back third of the classroom, so as not to disturb other students. (Any student wishing to have an exception made to the seating rule because of special circumstances must talk to Prof. Marten during office hours.) Any student found violating these policies will be asked to leave the classroom at that time, and will not be permitted to use any electronic devices for the remainder of the term.

Grading:

Midterm and final exams: 30% each (90% total)

Section participation: 10%. Anyone who attends all section meetings (each student is allowed to miss one section meeting for any reason without penalty) will **automatically receive at least an A-** as a section grade. Straight "A"s will be used to reward active section participation, if that participation demonstrates that the student has completed the assigned reading. **Each missed section beyond the first** will result in the lowering of the section attendance grade by 1/3 grade (e.g. from an A- to a B+ for the second missed

section, and a B+ to a B for the third). **If you must miss an additional section** because of illness, family emergency, or a religious holiday which prevents you from working on that day, you must notify your section leader by email or phone in advance and work out an acceptable makeup assignment, for example by turning in a one-page written answer to one of the discussion questions handed out for the section you missed.

REQUIRED READING LIST

All books are available at Book Culture (536 West 112th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam), and are also on reserve at both the Barnard College and Butler undergraduate libraries.

There are also a series of assigned articles which must be accessed through the Columbia University library webpage (www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/index.html). Please note that there is no charge for the use of the assigned journal articles if they are located via the Columbia library webpage. Students must have a Columbia email account and password to use these sources. (All registered Barnard and Columbia students are automatically eligible for such accounts. If you have not yet activated your account, you may do so at columbia.edu/acis/accounts/create/.) To access the sources, simply enter the electronic journal title on the Columbia library web “quick search,” and then find the correct issue number or article title when the corresponding database opens. (There will be an in-class demonstration of how to do this on both Sept. 3 and 8.)

Michael **Dobbs**. *One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War* (New York: Knopf, 2008).

Kimberly **Marten**. *Enforcing the Peace: Learning from the Imperial Past* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004).

Karen **Mingst** and Jack **Snyder**, eds. *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 3rd ed. (New York: Norton, 2007).

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Sept. 3. Introduction: theories and international politics

Article:

Stephen M. Walt, "One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998): 29-46.

Part I: Realism and Its Critics

Sept. 8. Realism: What It Is and Why It Matters

Sept. 10. Realism and Causes of War.

Mingst and Snyder: Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory" (pp. 55 intro plus 56-60); Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and Struggle for Power" (pp. 60-79); Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue" (pp. 12-13); Clausewitz, "War as an Instrument of Policy" (pp. 334-7); Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power" and following sections (pp. 131-7); Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence" (pp. 338-46); Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma" (pp. 346-59).

Article:

Condoleezza Rice, "Rethinking the National Interest," *Foreign Affairs* 87, no. 4 (July/Aug. 2008): 2-27. Note: in the first discussion section of the semester, students will debate whether or not Rice (who was a tenured professor of political science and a specialist in international relations at Stanford University before she joined the Bush administration) is actually making a "realist" argument, as she claims. What makes a "realist" argument "realist"?

Sept. 15. Culture, Religion and Conflict: A Challenge to Realism?

Mingst and Snyder: Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It" (pp. 93-117); Tickner, "Man, the State and War" (pp. 118-25); Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations" (pp. 203-9); Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict" (pp. 388-98).

Article:

Walter Russell Meade, "God's Country?" *Foreign Affairs* 85, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2006): 24-44.

Sept. 17. The Liberal Critique of Realism.

Mingst and Snyder: Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics" (pp. 80-93); Kant, "To Perpetual Peace" (pp. 14-17); Wilson, "The Fourteen Points" (pp. 26-8); Slaughter, "The Real New World Order" (pp. 195-203); Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions" (pp. 319-31).

Sept. 22. States Aren't Real: Bureaucratic and Organizational Politics, and the Importance of Individuals

Article:

Graham T. Allison and Morton H. Halperin, "Bureaucratic Politics: A Paradigm and Some Policy Implications," *World Politics* 24, Supplement: Theory and Policy in International Relations (Spring 1972): 40-79.

Mingst and Snyder: Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception" (pp. 227-41).

Sept. 24. Jihadi Terrorism, religion, and IR theory

Mingst and Snyder: Sadowski, "Political Islam" (pp. 210-26); Pape, "Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" (pp. 398-18); Abrahms, "Why Terrorism Does Not Work" (pp. 418-40).

Article:

Elaine Sciolino and Eric Schmitt, "A Not Very Private Feud over Terrorism," *New York Times*, June 8, 2008.

Part II: Theories Applied to Twentieth-Century Military History

Sept. 29. The Origins of World War I: Military Organizations, Alliances, and Decision-Makers.

Articles:

Volker Berghahn, "The Origins of the First World War," interactive electronic resource available through the Columbia library web. Please read the entire "seminar" (which can be accessed easily as a PDF transcript on the site) as well as two included primary document excerpts: "The Kaiser's Blank Check" and "The Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum to Serbia."

Jack S. Levy, "Preferences, Constraints, and Choices in July 1914," *International Security* 15, no. 3 (Winter 1990/91): 151-86.

Oct. 1. The Origins of World War II: Appeasing and Bandwagoning?

Articles, available from Columbia Library Web:

Norman M. Ripsman and Jack S. Levy, "The Preventive War that Never Happened: Britain, France, and the Rise of Germany in the 1930s," *Security Studies* 16, no. 1 (Jan. 2007): 32-67; concentrate on pp. 45-67.

Evan Thomas, "The Mythology of Munich," *Newsweek*, June 23, 2008.

Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity," *International Organization* 44, no. 2 (Spring 1990): 137-68.

Oct. 6. The Origins of the Cold War: Realism vs. Ideology.

Mingst and Snyder: Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (pp. 28-33).

Articles:

Robert Jervis, "Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?" *Journal of Cold War Studies* 3, no. 1 (Winter 2001): 36-60.

Oct. 8 and 13. The Cuban Missile Crisis: Parity, Deterrence, and Accidents.

Reading for both lectures:

Dobbs, entire.

Article:

Nathan Thrall and Jesse James Wilkins, "Kennedy Talked, Khrushchev Triumphed," *New York Times*, May 22, 2008.

Oct. 15. The End of the Cold War: Realism, Liberalism and Ideas.

Article (available from Columbia Library Web):

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, "The International Sources of Soviet Change," *International Security* 16, no. 3 (Winter 1991/92): 74-118.

Oct. 20. In-class Midterm #1; covers material through Oct. 13.

Part III: International Political Economy

Oct. 22. Realist, Liberal, and Individual Rational Actor Approaches to IPE.

Mingst and Snyder: Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy" (pp. 479-86); Milner, "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions" (pp. 486-508).

Articles:

James Surowiecki, "The Financial Page: The Free-Trade Paradox," *The New Yorker*, May 26, 2008: 30.

Robert M. Kimmitt, "Public Footprints in Private Markets: Sovereign Wealth Funds and the World Economy," *Foreign Affairs* 87, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2008): 119-30.

Oct. 27. Globalization and Inequality

Mingst and Snyder: Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System" (pp. 137-45); Lenin, "Imperialism" (pp. 18-24); Wolf, "Why Globalization Works" (pp. 509-34).

Oct. 29. Oil.

Mingst and Snyder: Friedman, "First Law of Petropolitics" (pp. 543-50)

Articles:

David G. Victor and Nadejda M. Victor, "Axis of Oil?" *Foreign Affairs* 82, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 2003); students only need read the section on "Oil 101" (pp. 51-4).

Kimberly Marten, "Russian Efforts to Control Kazakhstan's Oil: The Kumkol Case," *Post-Soviet Affairs* 23, no. 1 (Jan. 2007): 18-37.

Andrew E. Kramer, "Deals with Iraq Are Set to Bring Oil Giants Back," *New York Times*, June 19, 2008.

Nov. 3. Election Day Holiday. No class meeting. Please vote (if you are eligible)!

Nov. 5. The European Union

Articles:

Laurent Cohen-Tanugi, "The End of Europe?" *Foreign Affairs* 84, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2005): 55-67.

Hanna Ojanen, "The EU and Nato: Two Competing Models for a Common Defence Policy," *Journal of Common Market Studies* 44, no. 1 (Mar. 2006): 57-76.

Omer Taspinar, "Turkey's Fading Dream of Europe," *Current History* 106, no. 698 (Mar. 2007): 123-9.

Nov. 10. Interpreting the Rise of China.

Articles:

David M. Lampton, "The Faces of Chinese Power," *Foreign Affairs* 86, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2007): 115-27.

Jeffrey W. Legro, "What China Will Want," *Perspectives on Politics* 5, no. 3 (Sept. 2007): 515-34.

Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt and Andrew Small, "China's New Dictatorship Diplomacy," *Foreign Affairs* 87, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2008): 38-56.

Nov. 12. In-class midterm #2. Covers material from Oct. 15 through Nov. 5.

Part IV. International Security in a New Era

Nov. 17. The United Nations: An Organization of Organizations

Nov. 19. Peacekeeping/Peace Enforcement.

Readings for both lectures:

Marten: entire.

Mingst and Snyder: Power, "Bystanders to Genocide" (pp. 290-310).

Articles:

Kofi Annan, "Two Concepts of Sovereignty," *The Economist*, Sept. 18, 1999.

Madeleine K. Albright, "The End of Intervention," *New York Times*, June 11, 2008.

Nov. 24. State failure: Afghanistan and warlordism.

Articles:

Seth G. Jones, "The Rise of Afghanistan's Insurgency: State Failure and Jihad," *International Security* 32, no. 4 (Spring 2008): 7-40.

Mingst and Snyder: Krasner, "Sharing Sovereignty" (pp. 176-95).

Nov. 26. Wednesday before Thanksgiving. No class meeting.

Dec. 1. The U.S. and Iraq: What Went Wrong?

Articles:

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "Iraq: An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy* no. 134 (Jan./Feb. 2003): 50-59.

James Fallows, "Blind into Baghdad," *Atlantic Monthly* 293, no. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2004), starting p. 52.

Kevin Woods, James Lacey, and Williamson Murray, "Saddam's Delusions: The View from the Inside," *Foreign Affairs* 85, no. 3 (May/June 2006): 2-27.

James D. Fearon, "Iraq's Civil War," *Foreign Affairs* 86, no. 2 (Mar./Apr. 2007): 2-16.

Matthew B. Arnold, "The U.S. 'Surge' as a Collaborative Corrective for Iraq," *RUSI Journal* 153, no. 2 (April 2008): 24-9.

Dec. 3. Nuclear Proliferation and Deterrence: The NPT, North Korea, and Iran
Mingst and Snyder: Bush, “National Security Strategy” (pp. 47-54); Sagan, “How to Keep the Bomb from Iran” (pp. 360-8).

Articles:

Michael J. Mazarr, “The Long Road to Pyongyang,” *Foreign Affairs* 86, no. 5 (Sept./Oct. 2007): 75-94.

Siegfried S. Hecker, “Denuclearizing North Korea,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist* 64, no. 2 (May/June 2008): 44-49, 61-2.

David Albright, “When Could Iran Get the Bomb?” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist* 62, no. 4 (July/Aug. 2006): 26-33.

Dec. 8. The Existence and Future of U.S. Unipolarity

Mingst and Snyder: Thompson, “Systemic Leadership” (pp. 146-64).

Article:

Niall Ferguson, “A World Without Power,” *Foreign Policy* July/Aug. 2004: 32-9.