



**GVPT200 Introduction to International Political Relations
Fall 2008
MW 1-1:50pm Lectures in 0226 HJPatterson Hall
ThF Discussion Sections various times/ locations
v1.0**

Professor Virginia Haufler

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office hours: MW2-4pm walk-in hours and
and other times by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Martin Elissetche melissetche@gvpt.umd.edu sections 101,102,103
Jennifer Wallace jwallace@gvpt.umd.edu sections 104,105,106
Stephanie Bier sbier@gvpt.umd.edu sections 107,108,109

Introduction

What are the causes of war? When do states cooperate instead of fight? What causes economic crises in the international system? What is the impact of international activism over global issues such as climate change and human rights? In what ways is your future linked to developments in world politics?

This course introduces students to the basic theoretical approaches and analytical concepts we use in order to understand patterns and trends in international relations. We need these categories to comprehend the complexities of modern international affairs, and to build a political *science* of world politics. In order to deepen understanding, we apply these theories and conceptual categories to specific events, places and issues. Our goal is to help you understand and evaluate different ways of understanding politics at the global level to help you establish a foundation for further study; increase your understanding of contemporary events; and enhance your research, communication, and information literacy skills.

GVPT200 consists of two lectures per week taught by Prof. Haufler, and one discussion section per week taught by one of the teaching assistants. Both the lectures and discussion section are required! GVPT200 fulfills CORE Distributive Studies requirements. The CORE requirement is designed to ensure that you take a range of

courses that familiarize you with different academic disciplines. GVPT200 is a pre-requisite for upper level courses in international politics in the Dept. of Government and Politics. All students should have taken GVPT100 prior to enrolling in this course.

I encourage you to take advantage of the academic services provided by the university through the Learning Assistance Service in 2201 Shoemaker, phone 314-7693. They can help you with time management, reading, note-taking, and exam preparation skills. They offer a variety of one-credit courses, services for students with disabilities, and other academic support.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>. To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, just ask us and we will be happy to explain. See the Library's information page on plagiarism, at http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/plag_stud_what.html

IMPORTANT DEADLINES INFORMATION

You *must* let us know by the end of the schedule adjustment period if there is a conflict between the course schedule (exams and due dates) and any religious obligations you have so we can make alternative arrangements. The University only excuses students from obligations on the actual holiday but not for any travel days you choose to take.

You *must* also let us know by the end of the schedule adjustment period of any physical or learning disability so we can accommodate your needs. We are happy to assist you in any way we can. You will need to document your disability through Disability Support Services.

Readings:

1. The majority of readings are from recent political science and foreign policy journal articles, which are available online—these are not supplementary but are central to the course. They are available to you through the Blackboard online course reserves system.
2. *Essentials of International Relations* 4th edition by Karen Mingst—main background reference for the course available from the bookstore
3. *War is a Force that Gives us Meaning* by Chris Hedges—required reading and, since

it is the First Year Book, provided free of charge by the University

4. *Doing Honest Work in College* by Charles Lipson—reference work for writing assignments available from the bookstore

ELMS/ Blackboard:

We will be using the ELMS/ Blackboard course software to manage this course. Log in at www.elms.umd.edu If you are registered for the course, then you have access to the course webspace for GVPT200. The website will be used to post announcements and documents (including the syllabus), link to relevant websites, and provide other communications. Behind the scenes, we will be using it to manage course registration, grading, and submission of grades. If you have not used ELMS already, please sign up for training and/ or use the student guides available on the ELMS website. Be sure to follow the directions on browser settings, or the system will not work correctly! If you have trouble logging in to the system, you need to get help from the Office of Information Technology HelpDesk at 301-405-1400, or walk-in services at 1400 Computer and Space Science Building.

Note: If you are wait-listed, you will not be able to log in to the course website until you have officially registered for the class. The syllabus is available on the Government and Politics website at <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/gvpt/courses/fall2008/index.htm>

Course Requirements:

- 25% Midterm Exam (essay exam) October 20
- 35% Final Exam (essay exam) December 16 1:30-3:30pm
- 20% Writing Assignment (more details later)
 - 5% Topic and Outline October 16./17
 - 15% Final Paper November 17
- 10% Assignments (homework, quizzes)
- 10% Section Participation (attendance, discussion)**

**If you need to miss a class due to illness, you should contact either your TA or the professor PRIOR to the class you will miss, and furnish documentation for the absence to be excused. We expect all students to show respect for everyone in the class, and to behave with civility at all times.

Schedule

Week 1

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| 3 Sept | Lecture: | What is International Relations? Why does it Matter?
Mingst, Ch.1 |
| 4-5 Sept | Section: | Introduction: Political Science |

Week 2

8 Sept Lecture: How did the Inter-State System Evolve?:
Peter Taylor, "The State as a Container," in Brenner et al
State/Space
Mingst, Ch.2

10 Sept. Lecture: Is State Sovereignty Threatened?
Stephen Krasner, "Abiding Sovereignty," *International
Political Science Review* 2001 22,3

11-12 Sept. Section: States, Systems, and Sovereignty

Week 3

15 Sept. Lecture: What is International Relations *Theory* ?
Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy*
Nov/ Dec 2004 #145
Mingst, Ch.3

17 Sept. Lecture: What are the Contending Approaches?

18-19 Sept. Section: How do We Apply Theory?

Week 4

22 Sept. Lecture: How Does the Distribution of System Power Determine
Outcomes?
Mingst Ch.4

24 Sept. Lecture: Anarchy, Balance, Imperialism...or None of the Above?
Richard Haas, "The Age of Nonpolarity," *Foreign Affairs*
May/June 2008

25-26 Sept. Section: Who's on Top? And How would we Know?
"Rising Powers" The Stanley Foundation project
<http://risingpowers.stanleyfoundation.org> > Learn More
section on Rising Powers 101

Week 5

29 Sept. Lecture: Which Sources of State Power Matter?
Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, "Power and
Interdependence in the Information Age," *Foreign Affairs* ,
September/October 1998
Mingst Ch.5

1 Oct Lecture: How do System and State Interact to Determine Strategy?

Condoleeza Rice, "Rethinking the National Interest," *Foreign Affairs* July/ August 2009

2-3 Oct Section: Power and Strategy Today

Week 6

6 Oct. Lecture: How are Domestic and Transnational Linked?
Anne-Marie Slaughter, "Disaggregated Sovereignty,"
Government and Opposition 2004

8 Oct. Lecture: What Domestic Processes Influence Policy Decisions?
Party Platforms and Foreign Policy in the US
<http://www.cfr.org/publication/16992/>

9-10 Oct. Section: What Difference do Parties Make?
Read Foreign Policy Party Platforms of US Candidates on
their official websites

Week 7

13 Oct. Lecture: Can we Theorize about Individuals?
Mingst. Ch. 6

15 Oct. Lecture: How does Public Opinion Influence Choices?
Shibley Telhami, "America in Arab Eyes," *Survival* Spring
2007
See also www.worldpublicopinion.org

16-17 Oct. Section: System, State and Individual Levels of Analysis

Week 8

20 Oct. Lecture: **Mid-Term Exam**

22 Oct. Lecture: Are International Organizations too Strong or too Weak?
Hans Kochler, "United Nations Organization and Global
Power Politics," *Chinese Journal of International Law* 323,5
2006
Mingst Ch.7

23-24 Oct. Section: Does the UN Matter?

Week 9

27 Oct. Lecture: Can International Law Restrain States?
Stephanie Hanson, "Africa and the International Criminal
Court," Council on Foreign Relations backgrounder
www.cfr.org July 24, 2008

29 Oct. Lecture: Do Non-State Actors Challenge the System?
Thorsten Benner, Wolfgang Reinicke, Jan Martin Witte,
“Multisectoral Networks in Global Governance,” *Government
and Opposition* 39,2 2006

30-31 Oct. Section: How Effective is the International Human Rights Regime?

Week 10

3 Nov Lecture: What Causes Interstate War?
Paul Kapur, “India and Pakistan’s Unstable Peace,”
International Security Fall 2005
Mingst Ch. 8

NOV 4 Presidential Election—VOTE!

5 Nov Lecture: What Prevents War?
Global Peace Index
www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/results/rankings.php

6-7 Nov. Section: Does Anarchy Prevail?

Week 11

10 Nov. Lecture: What about Proliferation?
Ted Galen Carpenter, “Toward a Grand Bargain with Iran,”
Mediterranean Quarterly 18 Winter 2007

12 Nov. Lecture: What are the “New Wars” of the 21st Century?
Joshua Davis, “Hackers Take Down the Most Wired Country
in Europe,” *Wired* #15.09 2007
www.wired.com

13-14 Nov. Section: How Do New Technologies Affect War?

Week 12

17 Nov. Lecture: What are the Responses to Terrorism?
Robert Trager, Dessisava Zagorcheva, “Deterring
Terrorism,” *International Security* 30,3 2005/06

19 Nov. Lecture: When do States Intervene in Foreign Crises?
James Kurth, “Humanitarian Intervention After Iraq,” *Orbis*
Jan. 50,1 2006

20-21 Nov Section: Is there a Responsibility to Protect Citizens of Foreign
Countries? Protect them from Whom or What?

