Contemporary International Problems: Big Ideas in International Relations
PSCI 4820.001
Spring 2017
MW, 2:00–3:20 pm
WH 115

Prof. Andrew J. Enterline
E-mail: Through Blackboard Email

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Office: Wooten Hall 145
Office Hours: W, 3:30–6:30 pm

Course Description
This course focuses on some of the contemporary issues, ideas, and debates—what I refer to loosely as “big ideas”—in the field of international relations (IR) broadly defined. In doing so, this course eschews focus on scholarship strictly associated with the sub-field of IR as it is known in the discipline of political science. Rather, we will draw on ideas from a diverse set of fields, including anthropology, biology, ecology, economics, geography, history, political science, religion and philosophy. The course is designed to provoke students to consider ideas, problems, dilemmas, etc., that are germane to IR. This provocation is stimulated through weekly discussions of the assigned material (books and films), rather than lecture; a take-home exam; and a simulation exercise at semester’s end. If successful, the course will stimulate students to think about the big picture, i.e., the issues and dilemmas about human behavior and outcomes in IR that deserve our careful attention.
Reading Materials

The following reading materials are required for the course (in the order that they will be discussed during the semester, so that you may plan your purchase accordingly.) They are available at the UNT bookstore, other booksellers, and often local libraries. You need to have each book in hand in sufficient time to read the book prior to our discussion on the assigned week.


Note About ebooks

Previous students in the course reported that electronic books, or ebooks, were not particularly conducive to the nature of the discussion that we conduct in class (i.e., flipping back and forth through the books discussing various passages, ideas, and so forth.) So, you might wish to try an ebook and see how it works for you before deciding to go either the ebook or paperback route entirely.
Class Format
The foundation of this course is discussion of course readings and the ideas contained therein. On Mondays students will discuss the assigned book in small groups (discussion questions will be provided); on Wednesday the class will discuss the assigned book, revisiting the discussion questions and other ideas that spring to mind, in addition to drawing connections across the course materials. You must bring the appropriate book to each class session.
UNT Blackboard

Student attendance, grades, etc., will be posted on the UNT Blackboard system. Additional information regarding upcoming course activities, adjustments to plans, etc., will also be posted on Blackboard students are responsible for this information. Hence, students should check their Blackboard account regularly.
Communication

Email communication will be done exclusively through Blackboard’s email function (not to be confused with any Blackboard internal “messaging”), which flags the subject line of your incoming mail accordingly. The Blackboard email link is located in the left-hand portion of the screen. Save for emergencies, please avoid alternative methods of communicating electronically, as they are likely to become lost in the stream of email minutiae in Enterline’s inbox.
Student Responsibilities

Attendance & Participation

Attendance will be taken for this course during the first 5-ish minutes of class. It is incumbent upon late arriving students to notify the instructor of their attendance. I post attendance records periodically on Blackboard. Students are expected to arrive to class each Monday having read the assigned readings for the week and with the assigned book in hand.

Participation in the course means actively engaging the course material by talking about the readings and films, not merely showing up in the classroom and sitting quietly. If you pursue the latter strategy, you will not receive credit for participation. Quality of contributions, rather than simply volume, are the goal of each student when engaged in participation. Midterm evaluation of student participation will be reported on Blackboard at the end of February. Participation in small and large group formats will account for 30% of a student’s final grade.
Exam

There will be one exam, a take-home, from April 6–11. The exam, an essay format, will require the students to integrate the course material (i.e., films, books and discussion) in a coherent analysis. Finished exams will be uploaded to a Blackboard assignment dropbox by April 11 at 5 pm. The exam contributes 40% toward the student’s final grade.
Simulation Exercise & Paper

A simulation exercise will be conducted in class during our 4/12–5/1 sessions. Attendance is required during all simulation days. The simulation paper requires students to integrate ideas contained in the course materials and discussions with behavior observed during the simulation in an analysis of approximately 10 double-spaced pages. The semester paper must be uploaded by Wednesday, May 10 by 11:59 pm in the Blackboard system. Additional information regarding the paper will be forthcoming. The student’s participation in the simulation and the paper jointly contribute 30% to each student’s final grade.
Winter Weather

As winter weather may be likely in the DFW area in January and February, please monitor your Blackboard and MyUNT email accounts for messages from me regarding class. Due to commuting hazards (me riding a motorcycle from my home in Fort Worth), I may cancel class given poor weather and prior to any declaration by the UNT Registrar. My cancellation this usually requires some form of freezing precipitation.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecturer/Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (1/18)</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (1/23-5)</td>
<td><em>No Readings (Film on each day)</em></td>
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<td>3 (1/30-2/1)</td>
<td>Kissinger</td>
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<td>4 (2/6-8)</td>
<td>Horgan</td>
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<td>5 (2/13-15)</td>
<td>Breyer</td>
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<td>6 (2/20-22)</td>
<td><em>No Readings (Film on each day)</em></td>
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<td>7 (2/27-3/1)</td>
<td>Zoepf</td>
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<td>8 (3/6-8)</td>
<td>Baron-Cohen</td>
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<td>9 (3/13–17)</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>10 (3/20-22)</td>
<td>Walsh</td>
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<td>12 (4/3-5)</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
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<td>12 (4/6)</td>
<td>TAKE HOME EXAM BEGINS</td>
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<td>13 (4/10)</td>
<td>No Class (doing exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (4/11)</td>
<td>TAKE HOME EXAM ENDS (take-home due April 11, by 11:59 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (4/12)</td>
<td>Simulation Exercise</td>
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<td>14 (4/17-19)</td>
<td>Simulation Exercise</td>
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<td>15 (4/24-26)</td>
<td>Simulation Exercise</td>
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<td>16 (5/1)</td>
<td>Simulation Exercise Debrief</td>
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<td>16 (5/3)</td>
<td>No Class (writing paper)</td>
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<td>17 (5/8-12)</td>
<td>Simulation Exercise Paper Due Wednesday, May 10, by 11:59 pm via Blackboard</td>
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Course drop information: see schedule at –
http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html

Policies on academic dishonesty:
http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm

Department Statement of ADA compliance

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science
POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.
The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT’s policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf. Violations of academic integrity in this course will addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT The UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 “Student Standards of Academic Integrity

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.