

POLS 3701-01: International Relations (CRN 21096)

Middle Georgia State University—Spring 2023

Online

(3 credit hours)

Dr. Annie Watson

annie.watson@mga.edu

Office: Wiggs 12 (also available virtually by request)

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 – 4:30pm, Thursday 12:30 – 5:30pm

Catalog Description

This course addresses key concepts necessary to understanding international politics—political systems, power, security, national interest, interdependence, conflict, cooperation, trust, foreign policy, conflict resolution, and economic interaction.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the political science subfield of international relations—the study of interactions among the states (and key non-state actors) of the world. Over the course of the term, we will review international relations theories and frameworks and explore international concerns such as conflict, human rights, climate change, global health, human trafficking, terrorism, and more.

Thus, by the end of the course, students will be able to...

- Describe the current international system.
- Be informed about current events at the international level.
- Summarize international relations paradigms and apply them to events (both historical and current).
- Understand key international concerns for today's world, as well as possible solutions for these concerns (and challenges to these solutions).

Prerequisite

POLS 1101 or POLS 1101H with a C or higher (or permission of the instructor)

Required Readings

This course does not have a required textbook. All required materials will be shared with you on D2L/Brightspace. Please do not distribute these materials to people beyond this class.

Technology Requirements

Because our entire course will take place through D2L/Brightspace, students must have access to a computer, as well as internet access. I also strongly recommend using [Adobe Acrobat](#) to complete your content guides. (Do **not** complete these guides in a browser window—this often leads to your work being deleted.) Free versions of the program are available to download at the link above for all operating systems.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

This course consists of 8 modules and two exams. Most assignments for the modules are due by the time their module closes (typically every other Friday night at 10:00pm). As you begin to explore the course, remember that each module represents 2 weeks of work in an in-person course. Imagine a Monday/Wednesday class. That's three hours of in-class time and up to six hours spent outside of class (completing reading and homework assignments, working on a term project, and/or studying for exams) per week.

Because our course needs to maintain a similar workload to in-person classes, that means that each module could take up to 12 hours to complete. You certain *can* start a module at 9:00pm on the night it's due. It's unlikely, however, that you will be able to successfully complete it at that point. Be sure to allocate yourself sufficient time to complete all of the module assignments.

For most of the modules, there are 3 parts, 2 of which are graded:

1. **Module Introductory Notes, Task List, and Required Content**—Each module begins with a brief set of introductory notes (the “lecture” of the class, so to speak). Included in this file are the required pieces of content for the module (more on this below) and a task list for the module.

The required content is made up of the readings, websites, videos, podcasts, and other sources of material that are meant to illustrate key aspects of the lesson. I am committed to making my classes affordable, so all of these materials are open access. At some points in the module notes, I also provide optional content, in case you find yourself particularly interested in a topic. These resources will be clearly marked as **optional**.

2. **Content Guides (5 points each for 40 points)**—These are essentially worksheets to guide and confirm your engagement with the required content for the course. They should be the first thing you complete and submit for each module.

The exception to this rule is Module 1, which does not have an associated reflection assignment and does have the syllabus quiz and sample assignment. Its content guide is worth 8 points.

3. **Reflections (5 points each for 40 points)**—For each module (except for the first), you will apply required content to understanding current events, poll results, and/or a variety

of data through short, formal writing assignments. Detailed instructions (and an example of a successful submission) will be provided to you with the modules.

There are also two exams for the course. The **midterm exam (10 points)** will cover all of the material through Module 4, and the **final exam (10 points)** will cover all of the material in the class. They will not be timed, and you can use any of the course materials available to you to complete them (although you must complete them alone). More details about these exams will be provided to you as they approach.

- Midterm Exam: Due with Module 5, by March 17th at 10:00pm
- Final Exam: May 5th (by 10:00pm)

Grading Scale

Grades are constructed to reflect university standards and are summarized below. Grades will be based on how many points you earn according to the following distribution:

A	90-100 points
B	80-89 points
C	70-79 points
D	60-69 points
F	0-59 points

Preliminary Course Schedule

Modules will (mostly) be due every other Friday by 10:00pm throughout the semester. Exceptions to the normal schedule are highlighted in gold in the table below. You may work as far in advance of the due dates as you would like (and I strongly encourage you to start each module well in advance of its deadline). I may make changes to course content to reflect new publications or current events; these changes will be shared with you over email.

Assignments should be completed in the order in which they are listed.

Course Dates	Module	Assignments	Deadline
January 11 – 20	Module 1: International Relations and the International System	Sample Assignment	January 16 (by 10:00pm)
		Syllabus Quiz	
		Module 1 Content Guide	January 20 (by 10:00pm)
January 23 – February 3	Module 2: International Institutions	Module 2 Content Guide	February 3 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 2 Reflection	
February 6 – 17	Module 3: Human Rights and International Law	Module 3 Content Guide	February 17 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 3 Reflection	
February 20 – March 3	Module 4: International Conflict and Interventions	Module 4 Content Guide	March 3 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 4 Reflection	
March 6 – 17	Module 5: International Political Economy	Midterm Exam	March 17 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 5 Content Guide	
		Module 5 Reflection	
March 27 – April 7	Module 6: Movement	Module 6 Content Guide	April 7 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 6 Reflection	
April 10 – 21	Module 7: Global Health	Module 7 Content Guide	April 21 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 7 Reflection	
April 24 – 28	Module 8: Other Transnational Issues	Module 8 Content Guide	April 28 (by 10:00pm)
		Module 8 Reflection	
December 2	Finishing Up	Final Exam	May 5 (by 10:00pm)

Course Policies

An Inclusive Classroom

Political debates and discussions can become quite heated. This passion is part of what makes the study of politics fun! However, the fun ends where personal attacks and disrespect begin. Creating an inclusive, respectful, and safe classroom environment is integral to the success of this course. To this end, all class members are expected to treat each other and me with respect, courtesy, tolerance, fairness, and justice at all times.

Communicating with the Instructor

My primary methods of communicating with you will be through campus email and Brightspace. You will be held responsible for regularly checking these accounts. Assignment changes, important dates, and other valuable information may be sent to these accounts over the course of the term. Please check them daily.

The best way to contact me outside of class is over email. When you email me, please provide the class and section in which you are enrolled. This will allow me to more efficiently answer many of your questions.

I do my best to answer emails within 24 hours and very rarely take longer than 48 hours to answer a message (but do not typically respond outside of business hours). This means that if you email me late at night or over the weekend right before a deadline, you may not receive an answer to your question until after the deadline has passed. Please plan accordingly.

I am also happy to answer questions over Microsoft Teams or in person by appointment. While you are welcome to drop by without an appointment during my scheduled office hours, some days will be busier than others, and I cannot guarantee how long you will need to wait to meet with me, particularly if others have made appointments. Making an appointment (either by emailing me or catching me before/after class) is the best way to ensure that you will not need to wait.

All discussions regarding grades or other confidential information must be conducted either in-person or through campus channels of communication (your MGA or Brightspace email). I will not provide or discuss confidential information through any other format (phone call, non-campus emails, etc.).

Late Work

The late submission of assignments will result in a 10 percent reduction in points per day they are late, unless alternative arrangements are made with me. Any work submitted more than 24 hours after the final exam period for the class may not be graded, resulting in a 0 for any work that is outstanding at that point in the semester.

If you are worried about meeting deadlines or if something comes up, please come talk to me as soon as possible. I can't help if I don't know what's going on.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

You are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Student Code of Conduct, available in the [Student Handbook](#).

For this class, all written work for this class will be submitted through Brightspace, which will automatically submit them to TurnItIn, a plagiarism checker. Papers will be retained by TurnItIn for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

Scores from the checker will be available to you as soon as TurnItIn has calculated them. I will not grade any assignments that receive a similarity score of higher than 40 percent (which means that they will automatically receive a 0). As long as the assignment's deadline has not yet passed, you may turn in updated submissions to address any oversights regarding citations or similarities in language. I will grade your most recent submission (as long as it has a score lower than 40 percent).

Any student whose final submission on an assignment has a similarity score of higher than 40 percent **or that otherwise exhibits signs of plagiarism** will be required to meet with me to discuss their submission and how to avoid plagiarizing on future assignments. Repeated occurrences of high similarity scores and other cases of plagiarism will be reported to MGA's Student Conduct Team (with all of the associated penalties discussed in MGA's academic misconduct policies, linked below).

Egregious misconduct (including but not limited to organized efforts to cheat that involve multiple students and academic misconduct that causes harm to other students) will automatically be referred to the Student Conduct Team. Such referrals may result in failing grades on assignments or the course as a whole, disciplinary probation, and/or academic suspension.

If you are not sure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, I recommend setting up a meeting with either MGA's Writing Center or me in advance of your first written assignment in order to establish an understanding of what it is and how to avoid it. If you are unsure of how to complete an assignment or are running up against the deadline and are starting to panic, *please reach out to me so that we can talk about it rather than submitting plagiarized work. Even late penalties are better than the penalties for plagiarism.*

For MGA's definitions of cheating and plagiarism, check here: <https://policies.mga.edu/policy-manual/section-4-student-affairs/4-1-student-handbook-code-of-conduct/4-1-5-student-code-of-conduct/4-1-5-1-definitions.php>.

For MGA's procedures regarding reports of academic dishonesty, check here: <https://www.mga.edu/student-conduct/academic-conduct-procedures.php>.

To contact MGA's Writing Center, go here: <https://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/writing-centers.php>.

Changes to the Syllabus

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations by the instructor may be necessary. As such, I reiterate the absolute necessity that you regularly check your e-mail.

Campus Policies

Covid-19

The University System of Georgia (USG) continues to recognize COVID-19 vaccines and boosters offer safe, effective protection and urges all students, faculty, staff and visitors to get vaccinated and/or boosted either on campus or with a local provider.

We encourage our MGA community to adopt a self-care and personal responsibility approach to wellness as positive actions to protect self and others; each of us doing our part to keep the MGA community healthy and campus academics and activities thriving. We ask you to complete the self report form if you have tested positive to COVID-19 and review the Quarantine and Isolation Calculator to determine the appropriate actions to take. Visit updated information at this website: <https://www.mga.edu/coronavirus/>.

Carefully review your syllabus, D2L announcements, or email for details.

Class Behavior Expectations

Middle Georgia State University students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the MGA Student Code of Conduct. The Student Code of Conduct, Responsibilities, Procedures, and Rights are found at https://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/docs/MGA_Student_Handbook.pdf#page=45.

Accessibility Accommodations

Students seeking ADA accommodations must contact Middle Georgia State University Office of Accessibility Services in Macon at (478) 471-2985 or in Cochran at (478) 934-3023. <https://www.mga.edu/accessibility-services/>.

Withdrawal Policy

Students are encouraged to read the withdrawal policy found at <https://www.mga.edu/registrar/registration/drop-add.php> before dropping/withdrawing from class.

Delayed Opening or Closing of the University

In the event that the university is closed for unforeseen circumstances, we will coordinate making up the material over D2L/email.

Knight's Alert: <https://www.mga.edu/police/alert/index.php>

End of Course Evaluations

Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.

Campus Carry Legislation

For students who prefer to bring concealed firearms to class, HB 280 provides you with the *possible* ability to do so. Please refer to the following URL to explore your possible right to bring a gun to the university: <http://www.mga.edu/police/campus-carry.aspx>

University Policy

Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to all Middle Georgia State University student policies, including those linked on the Syllabus Policy page:

<https://www.mga.edu/faculty-affairs/syllabus-policy.php>.

Academic Resources

There are many academic resources available to you on campus throughout the semester. These include:

- The **D2L Help Center** provides 24/7 help for those having problems using the system. They can be contacted at 1-855-772-0423 or through a live chat (<https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/s/>).
- The **Technology Assistant Center (TAC)** provides help with passwords, email, SWORDS, and more general tech support. They can be contacted during business hours at 478-471-2023 (Macon), 478-934-3319 (Cochran), or helpdesk@mga.edu.
- The **Writing Center** is a free service that provides one-on-one consultations to assist students with all types of writing. They are open on the Macon, Cochran, Dublin, and Warner Robins campuses and offer both face-to-face and video-conferencing sessions. Check out their website here to sign up for a consultation: <https://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/writing-centers.php>.
- The **Student Success Center** offers tutoring free of charge on all MGA campuses for currently enrolled students. To view center contact information, subjects tutored, and

tutor availability, go to the SSC website at <http://www.mga.edu/student-success-center/>. SSC tutoring sessions may be scheduled online and face-to-face through the “Book an Appointment” link on the Student Success Center website. Other services at the SSC include online academic workshops and a robust website with resources for academic assistance. The centers also have computer workstations, printing, and Internet access.

Other academic resources are identified by MGA here: <https://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/assessment-care-team/campus-resources.php/>

Hardship Resources

Being a student can be hard. Your lives are changing, and college can be a stressful environment. *There is no shame in struggling with this.* If you are feeling depressed or otherwise concerned about your mental health, please reach out to BeWell@MGA. The 24/7 support line for in-the-moment support and connections to next steps is 833-910-3362. Additional services are available through the MGA Counseling Center at 478-471-2985 (Macon), 478-934-3080 (Cochran), and counseling@mga.edu. More details can be found on their website: <https://www.mga.edu/counseling-services/index.php>.

Other important numbers/websites:

- **For a life-threatening emergency, always call 911 (or campus police at 478-471-2414).** For non-emergencies, MGA recommends this guide: <https://selfcareguide.readsh101.com/>.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
<https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- **Veterans’ Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)
- **Georgia Crisis and Access Line**
1-800-715-4225
- **The Trevor Project (LGBTQ+)**
1-800-4TREVOR
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org>
- **National Sexual Assault Hotline**
1-800-656-HOPE
<https://online.rainn.org>
- **National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**
<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov>

- **National Institute of Mental Health**
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/>
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
<https://www.aa.org/>
- **Narcotics Anonymous**
<https://www.na.org/>
- **MGA Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Resources**
<https://policies.mga.edu/policy-manual/section-6-campus-affairs/6-5-nondiscrimination/index.php>

If you are experiencing other kinds of hardship, MGA has some services that may help. These include, but are not limited to, the provision of food and professional clothing, described in greater detail below.

- The **[Knight's Table](#)** is stocked with staple food items such as canned tuna, peanut butter and spaghetti sauce. Students, faculty and staff who show their MGA Knight ID cards can visit once per month during spring, summer and fall semesters to pick up five items each time. For hours of availability (on each of MGA's campuses), contact Elaine Martin at elaine.martin@mga.edu or (478)757-2264.
- The **Professional Closet** offers new and gently used suitable-for-work clothing and accessories, including ties and shoes, for purchase to MGA students, alumni, faculty and staff through Career Services offices on the Macon Campus (Student Life Center, Suite 254) and Cochran Campus (Sanford Hall, Suite 112). The cost of any single item does not exceed \$5, and all proceeds are reinvested into The Professional Closet. The Professional Closet is open during the University's normal business hours, 8:00-5:30 Mon.-Thurs. and 8:00-noon on Fridays.

Other hardship resources have been identified by MGA here: <https://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/assessment-care-team/campus-resources.php>.

My office door is also always open to you. Please keep in mind that I am a **[Title IX](#)** mandatory reporter.