

## **PIO 101-03 – Issues in International Politics (Fall 2023)**

Monday and Wednesday | 11:00 am – 11:50 am

Thomas Hall 320

**Instructor:** Dr. Michael Morgan  
**Office Location:** Thomas Hall 307  
**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 am – 11:00 am, or by appointment  
**Office Phone:** 740-376-4660  
**Email:** mam003@marietta.edu

### **Contacting the Instructor**

Email is the best way to reach the instructor. The instructor typically responds to emails received Monday – Thursday within 24 hours and replies within 48 hours to email received Friday – Sunday.

### **Course Overview**

This course is designed to introduce students to international politics by investigating global issues and events and recognizing how their effects are both widespread and highly personal. To better grasp the influence of international politics, this course will introduce foundational concepts, such as power, conflict, and cooperation, and will connect these ideas to contemporary challenges in world politics. By the end of this course, students should be able to (1) identify major concepts and themes used in the study of international relations, (2) comprehend diverse connections among global political, economic, and social actors, and (3) understand the role of international politics in shaping both society and their individual lives.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of PIO 101, students will be able to:

- Pose appropriate questions that will help develop deeper understanding of course content
- Recognize different types of sources
- Recognize primary, secondary and tertiary sources
- Develop strategies for and accessing needed information
- Evaluate sources for credibility, relevance, accuracy
- Demonstrate an ability to engage in thoughtful, respectful academic-level discussions
- Understand plagiarism and academic dishonesty policies

### **Institutional Student Learning Outcomes**

The instructor will assess the following learning outcomes through written assignments.

#### **Critical Thinking**

- Students will investigate how external political conditions and domestic societal pressures influence the creation and implementation of international policies.

#### **Communication**

- Students will demonstrate a sufficient understanding of how diverse interests, strategic interactions, and shared institutions contribute to contemporary international events.

### **Required Text**

Snow, Donald M. 2022. *Cases in International Relations: Principles and Applications*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

## Course Assignments

The following assignments will constitute points earned throughout the semester:

Quizzes	100 points (20 points each – lowest grade dropped)
Writing Assignments	80 points (20 points each)
PIO Final Assessment	20 points
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<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>

## Earning Grades

A considerable portion of points (100) comes from six quizzes given throughout the semester. These quizzes will be made up of five short answer questions related to assigned readings and classroom discussions. Students will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Another 80 points come from four writing assignments that require students to connect the concepts and themes of the course with contemporary international political events. In addition to the articles assigned by the instructor, students should use the **Cases in International Relations** text as a source for these assignments and may also incorporate information from other sources to supplement their responses. Students will be required to follow professional writing conventions and cite sources using the Modern Language Association (MLA) citation style to earn full credit on these assignments. The instructor will post required readings and assignment prompts on Canvas one week before each submission deadline.

The remaining 20 points come from an assessment related to overarching themes and concepts of the PIO 101 course. Students will complete this assessment during class on 12/04.

The instructor will post all assignment grades on the Canvas gradebook so that students can keep track of their progress throughout the semester.

## Assignment Deadlines

There is a substantial penalty for assignments submitted after the due date and time. Students that submit an assignment within 24 hours after the due date and time automatically lose 50% of the assignment's total points. **If a student submits an assignment more than 24 hours beyond the due date and time, they will not earn any credit for the assignment, regardless of the content of the submitted material.**

## Grading Scale

The instructor assigns final course grades using the following scale:

A	93-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	< 60%

## Appealing Grades

If a student wishes to appeal a grade, they must first provide a written statement explaining why they believe some specific aspect of their answer is correct and deserves a higher mark. The instructor reserves the right to add or subtract points during the review process. The instructor may also choose to regrade the entire assignment, not just the portion under appeal. **An appeal must be submitted within 48 hours of the grade being posted on Canvas to be taken into consideration.**

## **Classroom Expectations**

The instructor expects all students to arrive on time, be active participants, and remain seated until the class is dismissed. It is disrespectful to the instructor and other students to arrive late, engage in disruptive behavior (e.g., sleeping, holding side conversations, using electronic devices for anything other than note-taking) or leave the room during the class period.

Participation is important in any class, and it is particularly so in this course. Students who complete assigned readings and attend regularly should be prepared to contribute to classroom discussions by asking questions and making comments related to course content. Everyone should feel comfortable challenging the views and opinions put forth by the readings, the instructor, and the other members of the class if such points and counterpoints are articulated respectfully.

## **Class Attendance**

Students must recognize that many classroom activities cannot be replicated and that absences can be detrimental to their academic performance. To encourage regular attendance, each student begins the semester with 10 bonus points but loses 5 points for each unexcused absence. This means that a student earns a 5-point reduction on their final grade for each unexcused absence beyond the two-absence threshold. Absences occurring due to participation in co-curricular events, religious observations, or documented illnesses will be considered excused.

If an absence occurs, it is the responsibility of the student to get notes from the class and to compensate as much as possible for the absence. If the absence is excused, the student must work with the instructor to determine an appropriate timeline to complete any missed work.

**Students who do not complete missed work by the instructor's deadline will earn a zero for missed assignment(s).**

## **Plagiarism Analysis**

Please note that by enrolling in this class you are agreeing to submit your papers online to a plagiarism-prevention program called Turnitin.com. You should note that Turnitin – always without your name and any personal information – will retain your paper as part of their database so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Only the faculty member of your course and the campus Turnitin administrator will have access to your name.

## **Academic Integrity**

Dishonesty within the academic community is a very serious matter because dishonesty destroys the basic trust necessary for a healthy educational environment. Academic dishonesty is any treatment or representation of work as if one were fully responsible for it when it is, in fact, the work of another person. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, theft, improper manipulation of laboratory or research data, or theft of services. A substantiated case of academic dishonesty may result in disciplinary action, including a failing grade on the project, a failing grade in the course, or expulsion from the College.

## **Academic Accommodations**

Students who believe that they need academic accommodations due to a diagnosed disability or condition should present documentation to Lindsay Morgan, Director of Accessibility Services (Thomas Hall 212). Students must meet with the Director of Accessibility Services to verify their eligibility for any accommodations. The Director will determine appropriate accommodations and will communicate with the student's instructors. See the Accessibility Services [website](#) for more information.

## **Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being**

Students are encouraged to make self-care a priority. Students are urged to utilize counseling services (740-376-4477) and other campus resources if struggling with distress or mental health issues. Faculty and staff welcome students to reach out if struggling with mental health issues.

## **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

Marietta College is an equal opportunity educator and employer that values diversity. In our educational, admissions, and employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other activities, Marietta College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, veteran status, or any other protected status.

## **Additional Resources**

Detailed information about college policies as well as academic and health and wellness support may be found on the Student Support Information [website](#). Information regarding academic success centers on campus can be found [here](#).

## **Important Dates**

- 09/01 – Final day to add classes
- 09/08 – Final day to drop classes without a "W"
- 10/23 – Midterm Grades Submitted
- 10/30 – Final day to drop classes with a grade of "W"

## Course Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change based on the pace of the class.

The instructor will announce any alterations to the course schedule.

### Course Overview: No Readings

Mon 08/28

### Sovereignty: Chapter 1

Wed 08/30

Mon 09/04

### National Interests: Chapter 2

Wed 09/06

Mon 09/11

### Instruments of Power: Chapter 3

Wed 09/13 – Quiz 1

Mon 09/18

Wed 09/20 – WA 1

### Diplomacy: Chapter 4

Mon 09/25 – Quiz 2

Wed 09/27

### Experiential Education Day (No Class)

Mon 10/02

### International Trade: Chapter 5

Wed 10/04 – Quiz 3

Mon 10/09

Wed 10/11 – WA 2

### Collective Action: Chapter 7

Mon 10/16

Wed 10/18

### Nuclear Proliferation: Chapter 10

Mon 10/23 – Quiz 4

Wed 10/25

### Terrorism: Chapter 14

Mon 10/30

Wed 11/01

Mon 11/06 – WA 3

### International Migration: Chapter 15

Wed 11/08 – Quiz 5

Mon 11/13

Wed 11/15

### Climate Change: Chapter 17

Mon 11/20 – WA 4

Wed 11/22 – Thanksgiving Break (No Class)

Mon 11/27

Wed 11/29 – Quiz 6

### PIO Assessment

Mon 12/04

### Course Wrap-Up: No Readings

Wed 12/06