

POLS 130-01 – Introduction to World Politics (Fall 2023)

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday | 9:00 am – 9:50 am

Thomas Hall 312

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

The study of world politics focuses on how various actors cultivate, maintain, and terminate relationships with one another and how the nature of these relationships contributes to outcomes felt on a global scale. This subfield of political science encompasses a broad set of topics that include transnational cooperation and conflict, global economic institutions, and the role of law and norms in the international system. By the end of this course, students should be able to (1) describe major concepts and themes related to the study of international relations, (2) recognize complex relationships among global political, economic, and social actors, and (3) evaluate contemporary international events using different theoretical frameworks.

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.

Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes

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

Discipline Knowledge

- Students will recognize specific concepts and theories in the discipline.

Political Analysis

- Students will recognize the development of policies through the strategic interactions of political, economic, and social actors.

Research Methodology

- Students will use empirical evidence to generate positions regarding contemporary political issues and/or explanations of political phenomena.

Required Text

Mingst, Karen A. and Heather Elko McKibben. 2021 *Essentials of International Relations*. 9th ed. New York, NY: W. W. Norton and Company.

Course Assignments

The following assignments will constitute points earned throughout the semester:

Exams	200 points (100 points each)
Quizzes	100 points (20 points each – lowest grade dropped)
Writing Assignments	160 points (40 points each)
WA Discussions	40 points (10 points each)
Total	500 points

Earning Grades

A considerable portion of points (200) comes from two midterm exams. These tests will be comprised of a combination of identification, short answer, and essay questions.

An additional 100 points come 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 160 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 **Essentials 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 American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style to earn full credit on these assignments. The instructor will post assignment prompts on Canvas one week before each submission deadline.

The remaining 40 points come from in-class discussions related to each writing assignment. Students will earn points based on demonstrated preparation for and participation in each discussion.

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

Fri 08/25

Introduction: Chapter 1

Mon 08/28

Historical Context: Chapter 2

Wed 08/30

Fri 09/01

Mon 09/04

Wed 09/06

Fri 09/08

Theoretical Perspectives: Chapter 3

Mon 09/11 – Quiz 1

Wed 09/13

Fri 09/15

Mon 09/18

Wed 09/20

Fri 09/22 – WA 1

Levels of Analysis: Chapter 4

Mon 09/25 – Quiz 2

Wed 09/27

Fri 09/29

Experiential Education Day (No Classes)

Mon 10/02

Tools of Statecraft: Chapter 5

Wed 10/04 – Quiz 3

Fri 10/06 – Four Day Break (No Class)

Mon 10/09

Wed 10/11

Fri 10/13 – WA 2

Exam 1

Mon 10/16

Conflict and Security: Chapter 6

Wed 10/18

Fri 10/20

Mon 10/23

Wed 10/25

Fri 10/27

Mon 10/30

International Cooperation: Chapter 7

Wed 11/01 – Quiz 4

Fri 11/03

Mon 11/06

Wed 11/08 – WA 3

International Organizations: Chapter 9

Fri 11/10 – Quiz 5

Mon 11/13

Wed 11/15

Fri 11/17

Mon 11/20

Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

Wed 11/22

Fri 11/24

International Political Economy: Chapter 8

Mon 11/27 – Quiz 6

Wed 11/29

Fri 12/01

Mon 12/04

Wed 12/06

Fri 12/08 – WA 4

Exam 2

Tues 12/11 (8:30 am – 11:00 am)