Introduction:
The study of international relations dates back to antiquity and remains one of the most vital disciplines in the academic community. It is the study of the relations among states and other political and economic units in the international system. Particular areas of study within the field of international relations include diplomacy and diplomatic history, international law, international organizations, international finance and economics, and communications, among others. In addition, increased attention has been paid in recent years to developing a more scientific understanding of the international system as a whole. Aspects of international relations have been studied as early as the time of the ancient Greek historian Thucydides. As a separate and definable discipline, however, it dates from the early 20th century, when the first organized efforts were made to find alternatives to wars in nation-state international behavior. Two schools of thought quickly developed. One looks to strengthened international law and international organizations to preserve peace; the other emphasizes that nations will always use their power to achieve goals and sees the key to peace in a balance of power among competing states. With increased importance attached to a theoretical understanding of the whole international system, there has been a growing use of concepts and modes of analysis developed in the natural sciences in an attempt to improve the verifiability and applicability of theories. In many of the leading U.S. universities there are both research institutes and schools of international relations.

Rationale for studying International Relations:
1) The study of international relations is critical to an understanding of the various economic, military, social and technological forces that are shaping the world today.
2) As our world becomes more and more interconnected and interdependent, people with a broad knowledge about international systems will play an important role in defining and creating new relationships.
3) Prosperous and relatively powerful countries such as the USA, UK, Germany and Canada can not isolate themselves from the changes and activities taking place in the global arena. How international collaboration occurs, why nations go to war, what ensures that some nations are rich and others are poor, who wields political and economic power ultimately affects all areas of our lives.
4) Grappling with current complex and multifaceted issues reveals how the world works and how it can be changed.
5) A knowledge of international relations can help provide a basis for careers in business, government, journalism, law and teaching.

Aims of the Course:
1) The course is designed to foster a better understanding of the behavior of sovereign nation-states and other international actors; the causes of war and the condition of people; of international trade and finance; of diverse cultures, and of the diplomatic relations of powers such as the United States, Russia, China and Canada.
2) The course is designed to explore the enduring questions of the origins of war and the maintenance of peace, the nature and exercise of power within an international system, and the changing character of the actors (both state and non-state) who participate in the various dimensions of international decision-making.
3) The emphasis in this course is on equipping students with a significant knowledge of the historical and contemporary dimensions of the international system while introducing them to the methodologies employed in historical, political and economic analysis.
4) Students are encouraged to develop additional language skills, to acquire knowledge of one or more significant regions in the international system and to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad.
5) An important aim of this course is to help provide an education in political science of a high academic standard as measured by internal and external quality assurance procedures.
6) The aim of studying international relations at this level is to provide a sound intellectual basis for studying phenomena from different viewpoints and to help produce students qualified to proceed to further, more specialized undergraduate study in this field.

7) The course provides further an overview of substantive topics in international relations such as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the causes of war, multilateral cooperation and global institutions.

This course thus is designed to help students gain a better understanding of international relations by exposing them to a wide range of factors, which are shaping global events while also providing them with the concepts to make the relations between these factors more clearly identifiable.

Objectives of the Course:
The overall “core” objectives of the course are as follows. By the end of the course, each student should have acquired:
1) a knowledge of the major theories of international relations;
2) an understanding of how these differ and in what respects they are similar;
3) an understanding of how these theories can be applied to actual events in international affairs;
4) an understanding of how the international system is rapidly changing and what are the underlying forces behind these changes.

Learning Methods:
This course will employ a variety of learning methods: lectures, discussions and debates. Each student enrolled in this course must actively participate in the classroom discussions. Class discussion will rely on information from both lectures and reading assignments.

Students’ Responsibility:
1) Attendance at all lectures is mandatory. Attendance is a vital part of this course. The instructor should be notified directly if a student is unable to attend a lecture.
2) Students are expected to arrive on time for lectures to avoid disrupting the class.
3) Students are expected to have done the required readings for each lecture session and come fully prepared.
4) While there will be some overlap between lectures and readings, students should not expect to perform well unless they attend all the lectures.
5) If you miss a lecture, it is suggested that you attempt to get the notes from a fellow student.
6) All written work will be graded not only for content, but also for grammar, writing style, spelling, organization and presentation of material.
7) Students are required to demonstrate familiarity with the primary sources and appropriate examples.

A NOTE ON OFFICE HOURS: At this level, the onus of responsibility for managing course material and acquiring the necessary weekly readings rests solely with the individual student. Students encountering difficulty must take the initiative to seek out and consult with the instructor: this is what the posted office hours are for. Students are encouraged to come forward with their concerns earlier rather than later in the semester so as to ensure effective progress and successful completion of this course.

Further Attention:
1) It is the responsibility of every student to furnish his/her own BLUE BOOK (S) for each of the written examinations in this course.
2) Exams in this course will consist of both essays and multiple choice.
3) Use of LEAD PENCILS or RED INK PENS during any of the stipulated or required exams is categorically prohibited.
4) All examinations in this course are administered during the regular lecture hours.

Accessibility:
Minnesota State University Moorhead is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students and strives to make courses inclusive and accessible in accordance with sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The University will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students in need of special accommodations to assist in providing and/or arranging reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory or physical):
- Please contact the DRC at (218) 477-4318 (V) or (800) 627.3529 (MRS/TTY) to schedule an appointment for an intake. Online students may need to schedule a phone meeting or web conference.
If you are already registered with the DRC and have a current Accommodation Letter, please schedule an appointment to visit with me, during my office hours, to discuss implementation of your accommodations.

Additional information is available on the DRC website: http://www.mnstate.edu/disability/

Position Papers:
There will be TWO SHORT position papers assigned during the session. The papers should be around two pages in length and typed.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated according to the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First written examination</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second written examination</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Papers (10 points each)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL written examination</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examination Schedule:
- First written examination… February 13, 2015
- Second written examination.. March 12, 2015
- Third written examination…. Scheduled as listed in the MSUM Spring 2015 Final Class Schedule

If a student is forced to miss an examination for a medical reason they MUST supply a signed medical documentation from a physician. Students may NOT take the make-up exam(s) unless they have secured prior approval from the instructor.

Course Outline:

1. The concept of international relations. Attempts to define international relations. Distinctive features of international relations. the problem of formal anarchy. Attempted solutions. The root disciplines of international relations. The development of international relations study. Research institutes in international relations in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia and the developing countries.

2. Modes of analyzing international relations.

3. Theories of international relations.

4. Basic actors in international relations.
   b) International governmental organizations: the United Nations; the specialized agencies of the United Nations and regional organizations.
   c) Multinational Corporations, non-governmental organizations, individuals, and other international actors.

5. Foreign Policy.
   a) Concept of foreign policy, foreign policy decision and foreign policy making process. Linkage between domestic and foreign policies. Domestic sources of foreign policy - history, tradition, culture, ideology, legislatures, etc. Systemic Factors - geography, international interactions and international systems.
   b) Decision making theories. The formulation of foreign policy. Characteristics of foreign policy decision making in the USA, Russia, United Kingdom, Nigeria, India, Venezuela, etc., etc.

6. Patterns of Alliances.

7. Implementation of Foreign Policy.
   a) The right of states to participate in the international community as an aspect of state sovereignty. Various forms of participation. Diplomacy and foreign policy. Diplomacy and international law. Modern diplomacy. Concept of


c) The functions and categories of consular officers. The establishment of consular posts.

8) War.

a) Concept of war, peace, conflict and dispute.


c) Zones of contemporary ethnic wars.


9) The Problems of Peace.

a) The arms race. The arms race and social and economic development. The impact on the arms race on international relations.


10) Pacific settlement of international conflicts/disputes.

Present and present thoughts on international disputes. The nature of disputes. Origins and development of disputes. Solutions: negotiations, mediation, arbitration and adjudication, the role of the United Nations and Regional Organizations.


Traditional vs. modern concept of global security. The idea of human security. The components of human security: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, political security, international trade in drugs. Communal conflicts and global security.

12) International Political Economy.


REQUIRED TEXT

1) Goldstein, Joshua S. International Relations ISBN 9780205723904


4) Reserve Material at MSUM Library (see list posted on website)