Introduction to International Relations
Political Science 120
Spring Semester 2019
MWF 1:00-1:50pm in Kauke 039

Dr. Kent Kille
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Class web page: http://discover.wooster.edu/kkille/introir/

Office hours: Mon. 2:00-3:00pm, Wed. 10:30-11:30am, Fri. 2:00-3:00pm; or by appointment
*Schedule an office hour meeting at https://kentkille.youcanbook.me/

Teaching Apprentice: Cassidy Ktsanes
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Office Hour: Sunday 7:00-8:00pm in CoRE

Course Description:
This introductory course is designed to provide students with a better understanding of international relations by exposing them to a wide range of factors that are shaping global events while also supplying them with concepts and frameworks to make the relations between these factors more clearly identifiable. Topics covered include: your place in international relations, the structure of the international system, what interests and identities are important to international politics and how these impact relations, traditional and continuing concerns of international relations (such as conflict, security, peace and economic relations) along with other important issues now facing the global populace (such as population, human rights and the environment) and what can be done to work to address the range of issues through international organization, diplomacy, and international law.

Required Reading:
1) Mark A. Boyer, Natalie F. Hudson, and Michael J. Butler, Global Politics: Engaging a Complex World.


3) Selected reserve readings, on electronic reserve through the library are available at:
http://libguides.wooster.edu/er.php?course_id=11920. A password will be provided in class.

**Course Requirements:**
Students will take **two midterm exams** and a **final exam**. In addition, there will be 6 short **position papers** (see syllabus for dates) designed to prepare students for **class participation**.

The **midterms** and **final exam** will test students’ knowledge of course materials through a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. Note that these exams are not cumulative. In addition, there will be a map portion on each exam. For the first midterm students will be responsible for the Americas and Europe; on the second midterm students will be responsible for the Middle East and Asia; and on the final exam students will be responsible for Africa. The final exam also has a 3-5 page **take-home essay** that looks back across the course. The take-home essay assignment will be handed out in class.

The **position papers** are designed to help students prepare for class discussions by getting them to review and integrate information on the topics to be discussed. Papers must directly reference the related course readings, which includes information from the daily news reading. These papers are due at the beginning of class on discussion days (see syllabus for dates and topics). The papers must be 2-3 pages in length, double spaced with 1” margins, 12-point font, and should have a Works Cited page, including referenced current news stories, at the end of the paper (which is not included in the page length).

**Class participation** is strongly encouraged. There will be six specific meetings where we will hold open debate on particular topics. Students will have prepared for these discussions by writing position papers (see above). However, student comments, questions and discussion are encouraged and will play an important part in the course across all class sessions.

**Grading:**
- First Midterm: 21%
- Second Midterm: 21%
- Final Exam: (26% total)
  - In-class exam: 21%
  - Take-home essay: 5%
- Papers and Class Participation: (32% total)
  - Six position papers: 21% (3.5% for each paper)
  - Class participation: 11%

As stated in The College of Wooster Catalogue, letter grades are defined as:
- **“A range”** indicates an outstanding performance in which there has been distinguished achievement in all phases of the course
- **“B range”** indicates a good performance in which there has been a high level of achievement in some phases of the course
- **“C range”** indicates an adequate performance in which a basic understanding of the subject has been demonstrated
- **“D range”** indicates a minimal performance in which despite recognizable deficiencies there is enough to merit credit
- **F or NC** indicates unsatisfactory performance
Course Policies:
1) Attendance is a vital part of this class and class discussion is strongly encouraged. If you miss a class session it is suggested that you contact the instructor to explain your absence and get notes from the Teaching Apprentice.

2) On position paper discussion days you are expected to turn in your position paper at the beginning of class and then participate in the discussion. Position papers will not be accepted at any other time, so failure to attend will result in a zero for that paper and points off on your class participation grade.

3) Exam make-ups will only be allowed in extreme circumstances, such as a severe illness or death of a close member of the family. A makeup exam will be administered only if the student contacts the instructor before the exam and has documentation to support his or her excuse.

4) Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such. References must be clearly cited in the position papers, students must provide citations (either footnotes or parenthetical format) for the information they drew from sources in the body of the paper. Work done by other students or work done previously for other classes is also unacceptable. Students who plagiarize will automatically fail the course and could be subject to further academic disciplinary action. If there are any questions regarding proper academic behavior please see the professor or refer to the “Code of Academic Integrity” in the official student handbook The Scot’s Key (available at http://www.wooster.edu/students/dean/).

5) Students must turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices before class. Any failure to do so, especially the use of cell phones during class time, will lead to a severe penalty for the student’s class participation grade. Laptop computers or tablets are allowed in class for note-taking or reference to electronic readings only, and it is highly recommended that students turn off wireless internet access before class. Any improper use of a laptop computer or tablet will lead to the loss of privilege of using this device in class, as well as a severe penalty for the student’s class participation grade.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

January 14: Overview of Course

January 16: International Relations and Your Life
   Global Politics: “Why Global Politics Matters,” pp. 20-29
   Chadwick Alger, “Columbus in the World, the World in Columbus” (on electronic reserve)

January 18: Globalization
   Global Politics: Chapter 4, pp. 132-146

January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Campus-Wide Commemoration

January 23: Discuss Position Paper #1 – Your Place in Globalized International Relations

POSITION PAPER #1: This class is an introduction to international relations, but how does this relate to your life? Based on the course readings (Alger, Boyer et al., and current news stories), discuss how global politics and the forces of globalization affect your life personally and, in reverse, what types of international roles you play (i.e. in what ways are you global?). Along with the paper you must attach a completed copy of the self-inventory (handed out in class). Be prepared to discuss your personal experiences as an “international actor” with the class.

January 25: Polar Structure of the International System
   Global Politics: “Power Relationships,” pp. 71-74
   Taking Sides: Issue 1.1, “Should the United States Continue to Act as a Global Leader?”
   Taking Sides: Issue 1.2, “Was Russia’s Intervention in Ukraine the Result of Western Aggression?”

January 28: Power in the International System

January 30: Nationalism: Definitions
   Global Politics: Chapter 3, pp. 80-89 and 115-127, and “The Sovereign State” pp. 102-110 and “State Sovereignty” on p. 54

February 1: Nationalism: Positive and Negative Aspects
   Global Politics: Chapter 3, pp. 89-102
February 4: Discuss Position Paper #2 – The Polar Structure of the International System

**POSITION PAPER #2:** How would you classify the polar structure of the current international system (unipolar, bipolar, tripolar, multipolar, nonpolar)? Do you believe that the future polar structure will change and, if so, what will be the new polar structure or, if not, why will the international system remain the same? In answering both of these questions, be sure to carefully explain the characteristics of power and sources of power that inform your positions.

February 6: National Identity and Self-Determination

Issue 4, “Are the Palestinians Blocking the Path to Peace in the Middle East?” (on electronic reserve)

February 8: Transnationalism

*Global Politics:* Chapter 4, pp. 132-134 and 147-167; plus review “Cultural Globalization” pp. 140-143 and 145-146

Issue 3, “Does Globalization Threaten Cultural Diversity?” (on electronic reserve)

*Taking Sides:* Issue 3.4, “Can Islam Be Blamed for Inciting Terrorism?”

February 11: Transnationalism and International Student Perspectives

*Guest visit from the Ambassadors Program*

February 13: MIDTERM #1

February 15: Theoretical Approaches to International Relations: Realism vs. Liberalism

*Global Politics:* Chapter 1, pp. 4-20 and 29-30, “International Relations Theory and Your World”

*Taking Sides,* pp. 11-12 on “Theories of World Politics”

Charles Kegley Jr., “The Neoliberal Challenge to Realist Theories of World Politics: An Introduction” pp. 1-17 (on electronic reserve)

February 18: Overview of Levels of Analysis and System Level of Analysis

*Global Politics:* Review all of Chapter 2, reading closely pp. 40-42 and 66-75 and levels of analysis and war, pp. 257-260

*Taking Sides,* pp. 12-13 on “Levels of Analysis”

February 20: State and Individual Levels of Analysis

*Global Politics:* Read Chapter 2, pp. 43-52, review pp. 52-65, and read “Regime Types and Governance” pp. 110-115

John Rourke, “Foreign Policy-Making Actors,” pp. 81-90 (on electronic reserve)

*Taking Sides:* Issue 1.4, “Is Turkey Becoming Authoritarian?”
February 22: Theoretical Approaches to International Relations: Constructivism and Feminism
Russell Bova, “How to Think About World Politics,” read pp. 24-31 and reference pp. 8-23 to contrast with Realism and Liberalism (on electronic reserve)

Jennifer Sterling-Folker, “Constructivist Approaches,” pp. 115-122 (on electronic reserve)

February 25: International Security Continuum
Global Politics: Chapter 6, pp. 214-247


February 27: Discuss Position Paper #3 – Theories of IR and Levels of Analysis
POSITION PAPER #3: Assignment to be handed out in class


March 4: Conflict and Conflict Management: Focus on Terrorism
Global Politics: Chapter 7, pp. 252–290

Taking Sides: Issue 3.6, “Is Closing the Prison for Alleged Terrorists at the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Justified?”


March 6: Peace Studies
Ho-Won Jeong Peace and Conflict Studies: An Introduction, pp. 19-26 (on electronic reserve)


Global Politics: “States, War, and International Law,” pp. 317-321

**POSITION PAPER #4: Assignment to be handed out in class**

March 11-22: **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

March 25: International Political Economy: Analytical Approaches

*Global Politics*: Chapter 9, pp. 336-348 and Chapter 10, pp. 392-406

*Taking Sides*: Issue 2.1, “Is Free Trade Helping to End World Poverty?”

March 27: International Political Economy: North versus South

*Global Politics*: Chapter 10, pp. 376-392


March 29: **Professor Kille Away at International Studies Association Conference**

*TA Cassidy will be available in the classroom during scheduled class time to provide assistance on IPE debate preparation or study questions for Midterm #2*

April 1: International Political Economy: Structured Debate *Instructions provided in class

*Taking Sides*: Issue 2.2, “Should the Export-Import Bank Be Eliminated?”

April 3: Sustainable Development

*Global Politics*: Chapter 12, pp. 442-451

April 5: **MIDTERM #2**

April 8: Global Biosphere Catastrophe?

*Global Politics*: Chapter 12, pp. 451-479

*Taking Sides*: Issue 5.1, “Was the United States Correct to Leave the Paris Climate Accord?”

April 10: International Organizations: Overview and the United Nations


*Taking Sides*: Issue 4.2, “Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?”
April 12: International Organizations: International Economic Organizations

*Global Politics:* “The Dominant Global Economic Institutions,” pp. 348-364


April 15: International Organizations: Regional Organizations


April 17: Discuss Position Paper #5 – International Organizations

**POSITION PAPER #5:** What role do you believe Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) should play in international relations? Is there a difference between how advanced of a role you think IGOs can develop and how far you think they should develop? Answer these questions clearly in relation to the four role categories discussed by Boyer et al. (see pp. 179-185). Building out of this discussion, what do you believe is the capacity of IGOs to address issues with the global political ecology established by Boyer et al. in Chapter 12?

April 19: Diplomacy

John Rourke, “The Diplomatic Instrument,” pp. 262-272 and p. 84 on two-level game from previous reading on “Foreign Policy-Making Actors” (on electronic reserve)

April 22: International Law

*Global Politics:* Chapter 8, pp. 295-331


April 24: Human Rights *Guest lecture by TA Cassidy

*Global Politics:* Chapter 11, pp. 410-436

*Taking Sides:* Issue 4.5, “Should the United States Ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women?”

April 26: **NO CLASS – CAMPUS WIDE I.S. SHOWCASE**

*Students are encouraged to attend any presentations related to International Relations*
April 29 and May 1: International Law Simulation (Paper is due April 29)

POSITION PAPER #6: Negotiating a comprehensive international human rights treaty. Discuss in your paper what you think should be covered in an updated human rights treaty, choices you would make in relation to the options for conducting diplomacy (see Rourke electronic reserve reading pp. 268-272), other ways besides a treaty that you might use to get your ideas of human rights made into international law, and problems that you foresee ensuring that countries adhere to any agreement that could be reached. In class students will be broken in to groups and we will attempt to negotiate a new human rights treaty.

May 3: Simulation de-briefing, class evaluations, and review for the final exam

FINAL EXAM: Thursday May 9 at 9:00am