**Course Description**

Over the last several decades, the field of international relations has moved away from systemic theories of international behavior and foreign policy toward theories that open up the “black box” and examine factors within states. This course looks at the ways domestic actors’ preferences, political coalitions, and institutions—“the rules of the game in a society or, more formally, . . . the humanly devised constraints that shape human interaction”—affect states’ ability and desire to bargain, cooperate, and reach agreement with other states, as well as their ability and desire to adhere to international agreements.

**Course Requirements**

Course grades are based on five requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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**Participation:** All reading assignments must be completed before class, since they serve as the basis for discussion. Any un-excused absences (see absence policy below) will result in participation grades of zero for the missed days. Participation grades are based on weekly discussion of the readings, periodic presentations on the readings, and discussion and analysis of colleagues’ research.

**Research Presentation:** All students are required to present their research using PowerPoint and to field questions. I will provide sign-up sheets and additional information and assign presentation dates early in the semester.

**Literature Review:** As a first step in your research, you must identify a research question and review the various ways others have addressed that question. In approximately five pages, define the parameters of the literature you address and discuss the major works within it. What do they share in common? What do they seek to explain? What are their shortcomings? The literature review is due in my office by 4 pm on Wednesday, February 27. For examples of literature reviews, consult the works on the syllabus, especially: Cortell and Peterson, *Altered States*, pp. 2-8; Layne, “Kant or Cant,” pp. 7-12; Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, pp. 9-17; and Peterson, *Crisis Bargaining and the State*, pp. 13-23.
For longer, critical literature reviews, see

Peter A. Hall and Rosemary Taylor, “Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms,” *Political Studies* 44:5 (December 1996); 936-57.


Research Paper (in two drafts): All students must complete a major (15-20 pp.) research paper during the semester. A complete rough draft is due in my office by 4 pm on Friday, March 28. Each student will have the opportunity to re-write his or her draft based on my evaluations and on peer comments. Completed papers are due in my office by 4 pm on Wednesday, April 23. *Students must re-submit the literature review and rough draft with their final papers.*

All late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late. No student can pass this course without completing all assignments, whether or not the assignments are graded. *All students are responsible for saving a hard copy of all assignments.*

Extra Scheduled Classes: In addition to the regular Monday meetings, we will meet on February 14 for individual meetings and on March 21 and April 4 as a class.

Other Policies

Absence: To be excused from a class or to reschedule an assignment requires notice from the Health Center or the Dean of Students. Late assignments will be penalized as stated above, unless an excuse is provided from the Health Center or the Dean’s office. If you will miss class because of a religious holiday, you must notify me in the first two weeks of classes.

Disability Services: Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should contact the Dean of Students Office. If you feel it is important for me to know that you have a diagnosed disability that will require accommodation, the Dean of Students Office must notify me in the first two weeks of classes.

Blackboard (formerly CourseInfo): All assignments and course documents are available on the Blackboard site accessible through the William and Mary homepage.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Last day to add a class; last day to drop a class without a “W;” last day to select Pass/ Fail or Audit option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
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Required Texts

The following texts are available for purchase in the bookstore:


I. Introduction: Domestic Institutions, Coalitions, and Preferences

A. Overview (January 20)

No readings.

B. States and Elites (January 27)


C. State Structures: Norms and Institutions (February 3)


*Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991), chs. 1, 2, 3 (111 pp.).


II. Domestic Institutions and International Cooperation (February 10))


III. Domestic Institutions and International Conflict

A. The Domestic Politics of Crisis Bargaining (February 17)


B. The Democratic Peace (February 24, March 10)


IV. Domestic Institutional Change (March 17, 21)


V. Domestic Politics and Transnational Relations (March 24, 31)


VII. Student Research Presentations (April 4, 7, 14, 21)

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.