

# International Relations

## GO 131/Colby College

Autumn 2020  
T&Th 11:00-12:15 (remotely)

### Professor Walter Hatch

[email: wfhatch@colby.edu](mailto:wfhatch@colby.edu)

office phone: x-5305

skype address: walter.hatch

### Office Hours:

T and Th 4-5 pm; and by appt

on-line most M and some W evenings

### Course description

We will examine the central issues in the field of international relations: war and peace (or, more broadly, conflict and cooperation), wealth and poverty, the sustainability of our planet. To do all this, we first learn the different theories used to explain or understand global politics; then we test them against different historical cases, from the rise of ISIS in the Middle East to the global trade in human body parts. Along the way, we ponder various policy responses.

### Course objectives

My goals here are threefold. By the end of the semester, I am hoping you will:

- 1) Understand the contours of this field (**basic knowledge**)
- 2) Think deeply about the problems in this field (**analysis**)
- 3) Write clearly and pithily about the themes in this field (**exposition**)

### Class format

I will be teaching remotely – not my accustomed or favorite method. But it is necessary (for me and some of you). So I will expect you to absorb assigned material (readings plus lectures via slides and audio uploaded to moodle) asynchronously, meaning at your chosen time, but before we “meet” via zoom. This means that our zoom meetings will be mostly discussion-based. I will probably start off each session, with everyone together, asking you: “What is going on in the world?” This is an invitation to discuss international politics in the news for a few minutes. (See below about reading/watching/hearing global media coverage.) We will then move into smaller “breakout” rooms to share thoughts on readings and presentations. I will try to prepare questions that might guide those discussions. One concern: We have more than 40 students in the class. That’s a LOT of breakout rooms. After our first session, I will probably propose dividing the class into two discussion groups – one (with about 20 students) that meets from 11 to 11:35 am; and other (with another 20 or so students) that meets from 11:40 to 12:15 pm. No matter what we do, I expect you to be prepared and ready to discuss materials at our “zoom” meetings. This will not only help raise your class participation grade; it will also make our time together much more productive and fun.

### Requirements

- Critical papers. You will write four mini-papers (no more than 600 words), responding critically to a question or two that I will pose. The first will have to do with IR theory, and will be due by noon on Saturday 9/12. The second will have to do with more specific application of IR theories (WWI and WWII, plus big concepts like hegemonic stability theory and democratic peace theory); it will be due on September 29. The third, due on October 29, will have to do with the Rwanda genocide, as seen through Keane. And the fourth will have to do with globalization and regionalization, terrorist networks and other nonstate actors. This last paper is due on November 17. You will be uploading all of these papers as word docs to moodle. I will read, mark up and grade on-line before returning them to you. Each paper is worth 15 percent – so, together, they account for 60 percent of your course grade.

- Final exam on December 3 (Thursday), 1:30-3:30. This will be cumulative: a mix of T/F questions about course readings, multiple choice questions about basic concepts, and very brief essay questions. You will probably complete this on google forms. Worth 20 percent.
- Class participation. I value your *engaged presence* in class. “Presence,” of course, means attending our zoom “meetings.” Being “engaged” means a) carefully listening to/trying to understand others in class; and b) sharing your thoughts on specific questions; and c) demonstrating that you are keeping up by doing reasonably well on “quizzes” that I ask you to complete routinely on moodle. Class participation, as a whole, is worth 20 percent.

### Required materials

Three books are available at the Colby Bookstore:

- Jon C.W. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein, *International Relations, Eleventh edition* (Longman, 2017).
- Joseph S. Nye and David A. Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History, Tenth edition* (Longman, 2017).
- Fergal Keane, *Season of Blood: A Rwandan Journey* (Penguin, 1996).

In addition, you will find many required readings on the course moodle site and/or at what I call the “e-library.” (To find articles on the Colby Library website, search for the journal by title; then search for the issue by date of publication; then scroll down to find the article). Some other materials are available elsewhere on the web, as indicated on the syllabus.

Finally, you are required to follow international news closely throughout the semester. Some of the best sources, all available on-line, are the *New York Times*, *BBC*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Washington Post*. National Public Radio (91.3 FM in Waterville) is another good (but very incomplete) source of international news. PRI’s “The World” is even better. Most blogs, including FB posts, are unhelpful. Instagram is, for this purpose, worthless.

### Hatch House Rules:

- In most cases, I do not give make-up examinations.
- Papers and other assignments are due at the designated time. Any work received after the designated time will be penalized at the rate of one-half letter grade per day. I will not extend deadlines, or waive the penalty, except in the extraordinary case of a verifiable family emergency or documented medical problem. Plan ahead and build a cushion into your time budget so that you aren’t derailed by last-minute surprises (like a computer problem).
- You cannot pass this course without turning in all assignments and attending class routinely. Please do not ask my permission to miss a zoom meeting, or spend time explaining your absence. I am quite interested in you, but not in the details of your daily schedule. Anyone who misses three (3) class meetings risks being dropped from the course.
- I will vigorously enforce Colby’s policy on academic negligence and dishonesty  
<http://www.colby.edu/academicintegrity>  
 Negligence includes simple but apparently unintended mistakes like quoting sources without using quotation marks around the borrowed words; dishonesty includes cheating on exams (bad idea!) and plagiarizing the work of others. The policy is outlined in your student handbook, in the 2019-20 course catalogue. Plagiarism is discussed here:  
<http://libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism>
- Please treat other members of this class with respect. I will do my best to maintain the integrity of this community by discouraging any action or speech that denigrates the race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic class, or political ideology of others.
- Colby College prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination. If you want to report such behavior, please contact Counseling Services (x4490) or the Gender and Sexual Diversity Program (x4093). To learn more, visit [www.colby.edu/sexualviolence](http://www.colby.edu/sexualviolence)
- No audio, video, or photographs of the class may be recorded without my explicit consent.

- Please let me know in advance if you have a physical need to get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom (or elsewhere). Otherwise, I will expect you to satisfy those needs before or after class.
- I am ridiculously accessible – either in my office, via email or via skype (see top of page one). Feel free to use these opportunities to chat with me about the class, larger academic questions, international politics, Asia politics, U.S. politics, Colby politics, or the meaning of life. Mostly, though, let's focus on ways to help you succeed in GO 131.
- I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus.

## Course plan:

### Week One: Levels of Analysis

#### **August 27 (Th): From the Inner Id to the Global System (Levels of Analysis)**

Pevehouse, chapter one (especially pp. 14-15)

Nye, pp. 55-65 in chapter two

### Week Two: IR Theories

#### **September 1 (T): Realism versus Liberalism**

Pevehouse, parts of chapter two (pp. 38-66; just skim pp. 54-66) and chapter three (pp. 72-81)

Nye, pp. 1-25 in chapter one; plus pp. 39-54 and 65-71 in chapter two

Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Relations" and "Political Power," pp. 55-59 (moodle)

Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," pp. 78-92 (moodle)

#### **September 3 (Th): Theoretical Alternatives – Marxism, Constructivism, Feminism**

Pevehouse, parts of chapter three (pp. 81-89; and pp. 92-101)

Nye, pp. 72 - 74 in chapter two

V.I. Lenin, "Imperialism: A Special Stage of Capitalism," pp. 63-65 (moodle)

Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," pp. 93-110 (moodle)

Tickner, "Man, the State and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security," pp. 115-122 (moodle)

### Week Three: Using Theory to Understand Global Politics

#### **September 8 (T): Economic Conflict and Cooperation**

Pevehouse, part of chapter 5 ("Economic Conflict," pp. 156-158)

Krasner, "State Power and the Structure of International Trade," pp. 284-299 (moodle)

Robert O. Keohane, From *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*, pp. 317-347 (moodle)

#### **September 10 (Th): War and Peace**

Pevehouse, part of chapter 5 ("Theories of the Causes of War," pp. 132-134)

Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue," pp. 12-16 (moodle)

Kant, "From Perpetual Peace," pp. 20-22 (moodle)

Ikenberry, "Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis and Transformation of the American World Order," pp. 131-144 (moodle)

#### **September 12 (Saturday): Paper #1 is due by noon**

### Week Four: Applying Theory to Cases

#### **September 15 (T): World War I**

Nye, chapter 3

Michael R. Gordon, "Domestic Conflict and the Origins of the First World War: The British and German cases," *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (June 1974), pp. 191-226; moodle

**September 17 (Th): World War II**

Nye, chapter 4

Wilson, "Fourteen Points," pp. 32-34 (moodle)

Week Five: One More Case; Many more WMDs

**September 22 (T): The Cold War**

Nye, part of chapter 5 (pp. 146-178)

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., "The Origins of the Cold War" (*Foreign Affairs*, 46:1, October 1967), e-library and moodle

Christopher Lasch, "The Cold War, Revisited and Re-visioned" (*The New York Times Magazine*, January 14, 1968), moodle

**September 24 (Th): Nuclear Destruction or Deterrence?**

Pevehouse, part of chapter six ("Weapons of Mass Destruction," pp. 177-188)

Nye, remainder of chapter 5 (pp. 178-197) and parts of chapter 7 on Iran (pp. 263-269; India-Pakistan (pp. 274-278); and North Korea (pp. 290-295)

Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb," pp. 398-401 (moodle)

Week Six: Writing: Global Economy

**September 29 (T): No class**

Paper #2 is due by 11 am

**October 1 (Th): Trade and Finance**

Pevehouse, chapters 8 and 9

Nye, part of chapter 8 (on interdependence, pp. 305-319)

Drezner, "The Irony of Global Economic Governance: The System Worked," pp. 526-544 (moodle)

Week Seven: Global Governance

**October 6 (T): North-South Conflict (from OPEC to the NIEO)**

Pevehouse, chapters 12 and 13 (skim the latter)

Nye, part of chapter 8 (pp. 319-325)

Laurie Garrett, "Ebola Has Gotten So Bad, It's Normal," *Foreign Policy* (January 15, 2019)

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/01/15/ebola-has-gotten-so-bad-its-normal/>

**October 8 (Th): Intergovernmental Organizations (UN, especially)**

Pevehouse, first part of chapter 7 (pp. 198-216)

Nye, part of chapter 6 (pp. 200-215)

Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," pp. 300-309 (moodle)

Barnett and Finnemore, "The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations," pp. 321-342 (moodle)

Week Eight: Break and Global Law

**October 13 (T): No class (fall break)**

**October 15 (Th): International Law/Regimes**

Pevehouse, remainder of chapter 7 (pp. 216-235)

Nye, part of chapter 1 on "ethics" (pp. 26-36)

Matua, "Savages, Victims, and Saviors," pp. 558-582 (moodle)

Week Nine: Leading the World

**October 20 (T): Military Intervention (especially Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia; but Middle East too)**

Nye, part of chapter 6 (pp. 215-229; plus parts of chapter 7 (pp. 257-263; pp. 268-274)

Fareed Zakaria, "The Core vs. the Periphery: Against American Military Intervention in Haiti, Bosnia, and Somalia," *Commentary* 96.6 (December 1, 1993), pp. 25-29; e-library and moodle

**October 22 (Th): Unipolarity and Hegemony – Here Today? Gone Tomorrow?**

Nye, parts of chapter 7 on "Rise of China?" in South China Sea, etc. (pp. 278-290) and on "Eastern Europe" (pp. 232-243); also part of chapter 10 on "A New World Order?" (pp. 382-386)

Nuno P. Monteiro, "Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity is not Peaceful," *International Security* (36:3), winter 2011-2012, pp. 9-40

[http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/ISEC\\_a\\_00064](http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/ISEC_a_00064)

Recommended: Emma Ashford, "An Empire, if you can find it? American hegemony and imperial control," *War on the Rocks*, April 29, 2019

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/04/an-empire-if-you-can-find-it-american-hegemony-and-imperial-control/>

Also recommended: Jill Lepore, "The Force: How Much Military is Enough?" *The New Yorker*, January 28, 2013

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/01/28/the-force>

Week Ten: Ethnic/Religious/Local Conflict

**October 27 (T): Arab-Israeli, Former Yugoslavians, and More**

Pevehouse, part of chapter 5 (pp. 136-149)

Nye, parts of chapter 7 (pp. 243-257)

Gareth Jonas, "Were 'Ancient Hatreds' the Primary Cause of the Yugoslavian Civil War?" *E-IR* (students), May 22, 2019

<https://www.e-ir.info/2019/05/22/were-ancient-hatreds-the-primary-cause-of-the-yugoslavian-civil-war/>

Recommended: Nathan Thrall, "The Real Reason There is No Peace," *The Guardian*, May 16, 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/16/the-real-reason-the-israel-palestine-peace-process-always-fails>

**October 29 (Th): The Case of Rwanda**

Keane (all)

Paper #3 is due by start of class

Week Eleven: Market Integration and Power

**November 3 (T): Globalization**

Nye, first part of chapter 8 (pp. 298-305)

Trevor Harrison, "Globalization and the Trade in Human Body Parts," *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, February 1999, pp. 21-33; e-library and moodle

Jason Sorens, "Why the World Needs More Globalisation, Not Less," *Euopp* (LSE), January 17, 2014

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2014/01/17/why-the-world-needs-more-globalisation-not-less/>

**November 5 (Th): Regionalism**

Pevehouse, first part of chapter 10 (pp. 303-318)

Hatch, from *Asia's Flying Geese* (Cornell University Press, 2010), pp. 5-9; moodle

Sara Hobolt, "A Victory for Ordinary People: Why Did the Voters Choose Brexit," *Policy Network*, June 29, 2016

[http://www.policy-network.net/pno\\_detail.aspx?ID=5109&title=](http://www.policy-network.net/pno_detail.aspx?ID=5109&title=)

Week Twelve: Terror and IR theory reimagined

**November 10 (T): What is Terrorism and who are terrorists?**

Pevehouse, pp. 173-177

Nye, pp. 352-357

Kydd and Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism," *International Security* (31:1, 2006), pp. 49-80

[https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/is3101\\_pp049-080\\_kydd\\_walter.pdf](https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/is3101_pp049-080_kydd_walter.pdf)

Fortna, "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes, pp. 425-444 (moodle)

Recommended: Vincent A. Auger, "Right-Wing Terror: A Fifth Global Wave?" in *Perspectives on Terrorism* (14:3, June 2020), pp. 87-97

Also recommended: Joseph Hincks, "With the World Busy Fighting Covid-19, Could ISIS Mount a Resurgence?" in *Time*, April 29, 2020

<https://time.com/5828630/isis-coronavirus/>

**November 12 (Th): Is "History" Over? Are States Irrelevant?**

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *National Interest*, 1989; e-library or moodle

Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, 1993, e-library or moodle

Keck and Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics" and "Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America," pp. 310-320, moodle

Nye, pp. 346-52

Week Thirteen: Break and then Planetary Policy

**November 17 (T): No class**

Paper #4 due (by 11 am)

**November 19 (Th): Global Environment/Population/Health**

Pevehouse, chapter 11

Barrett, "Why Have Climate Negotiations Proved So Disappointing?" pp. 649-659 (moodle)

Recommended: Ben Ehrenreich, "Open Borders Must Be Part of Any Response to the Climate Crisis," *The Nation* (June 6, 2019)

<https://www.thenation.com/article/climate-change-refugees-open-borders/>

Week Fourteen: Our viral, global future (cybersecurity and Covid-19)

**November 24 (Th): Where do we go from here?**

Nye, chapter 10

Myriam Dunn Cavelty and Andreas Wenger, "Cyber security meets security politics: Complex technology, fragmented politics, and networked science," in *Contemporary Security Policy* (41:1, 2020), pp. 5-32.

Recommended: Daniel Drezner, "So what do international relations scholars think about covid-19 and world politics?" *Washington Post*, May 11, 2020

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/11/so-what-do-international-relations-scholars-think-about-covid-19-world-politics/>

Final Exam

**December 3 (Thursday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm)**