Description and Learning Objectives:
This course introduces students to basic concepts in the study of international politics. After providing a general introduction to the most prominent theories that scholars have used to understand international politics - what makes the world “work” the way it does - the course will then focus on major topics of study, ranging from international security, international political economy to international law. By the end of the course students should:

- Be able to discuss current international political issues using the appropriate language and theoretical tools.
- Be able to ‘frame’ some issues, analyzing them within the relevant theoretical and political context.
- Have improved their research essay writing skills.

Course Organization:
The course is divided into eight thematically organized units. For most units there will be one textbook chapter, and one “illustrative” classical reading assigned. Lectures in each unit will expand and explain issues raised in the reading. Students are required to do the assigned readings before class and are encouraged to keep up with current international political affairs.

Textbooks:
- **Other reading:** Each unit includes short illustrative readings (see below). These are available in Mingst and Snyder, Essential Readings in World Politics, 2nd Edition, (Norton 2004), or are available from the instructor as PDF’s - Your Memorial email account must be functioning.

Course Evaluation:
- Mid-term exam 20% (In class, October 26)
- Term Paper 40% (Due, in class, November 18 - Late Penalty = 5% per day)
- Final exam 40% (As scheduled by the Registrar)
ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

ESSAY (40%)  Due in Class, November 18.  (Late Penalty is 5% per day)
Students must write a major research essay on a topic recommended by the instructor.  A list of approved topics will be distributed to the class along with detailed instructions for the assignment.

Requirements:

• The paper should be approximately 2,500 words
• The paper should make use of seven separate sources in its citations
• The paper should be formatted in the style of a formal research paper - please consult the essay handout provided in class or a style guide if you are unfamiliar with writing research papers

Please remember, a good research paper has three core elements.  It has a thesis, which introduces the core argument of the paper.  It develops that core argument throughout the body of the paper through the use of evidence – drawn from a minimum of seven separate research sources.  It should also have a conclusion which reiterates the central argument of the paper and sums up how the evidence supports that argument.

There are no “correct” answers – there are only well written, well argued and well researched papers. Any paper that has neither a clear thesis nor sufficient research will result in failure on the assignment.  It goes without saying that papers should also be well written, spell checked and carefully proof-read.

MID TERM AND FINAL EXAMS:
Both exams will focus on multiple choice, short answer and definition questions.  These questions will draw heavily from the material covered in lectures and the Mingst textbook.  Students are expected to have a clear understanding of all key concepts and terms covered in this material.

The final exam will also include a short essay question that will focus on the illustrative reading articles provided by the instructor.  Students should be sure to complete all of the reading.

• Note: In order to be sure of receiving the additional illustrative readings assigned each week, students’ Memorial email addresses must be working.  Please insure this is the case.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:
Students must not engage in academic dishonesty . . .
Cheating includes (but is not limited to) allowing another student to copy from your work, presenting someone else’s work as your own, consulting electronic devices such as mobile phones or MP3 players and/or interacting with others while a test is ongoing. Information about procedures and penalties for academic dishonesty is outlined in the University Calendar and is available from the Department (http://www.mun.ca/posc/undergraduate/planning/plagarism.php).

Students must have an appropriate classroom demeanor . . .
On occasion less serious students disturb others’ learning during class, by talking at inappropriate times, using the Internet and/or using cell phones. Students distracted by any such behaviour should bring this to the attention of the course instructor.
Students must have a functioning Memorial email account . . .
Memorial University’s policy is that students are to use e-mail from an account with the official university domain name (@mun.ca). This is the sole address to be used for official university e-mail communication. The policy further states that “failure to appropriately check e-mail will not exempt them from responsibilities associated with the email correspondence.” This course requires that your MUN email address is working and that you regularly check your messages. Class readings and advice will be emailed to you on a regular bases.

In addition, if students wish to contact the instructor via email, they must make it clear who they are and what course they are referring to. Questions that require “in-depth” lengthy answers may not receive a quick response. Complex questions about research papers or problems understanding course materials are usually better addressed in person during office hours.

Students must complete assignments on time . . .
In the event that a class is cancelled on the day of a scheduled exam - the exam will be administered in the next available class. Students unable to write exams on the days which they are administered may qualify—through the provision of valid medical documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note) for the day in question—for a deferred and dissimilar testing opportunity.

The penalty for late essays is 5% per day. E-mail or other technological problems do not constitute a valid excuse.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:
Persons with Disabilities: The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (www.mun.ca/blundon) serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, chronic illness, or mental health; support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.

Use of Recording Devices in Classrooms: Students may not make a visual and/or audio recording, openly or surreptitiously, of any lecture material delivered in a course without the written permission of the course instructor.

Writing Centre: The Writing Centre (www.mun.ca/writingcentre) is a free facility for all Memorial University students who want help with their writing. The Centre provides individualized tutorials to students from all schools and faculties on a by appointment bases.

Political Science Website: Information about upcoming courses, sample course syllabi, course instructors, work internships, international exchanges, degree requirements and more is available on the Political Science website (www.mun.ca/posc/welcome/).
Class Schedule and Reading:

Unit One: Introduction - the Study of International Politics (September 9 & 14)

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapters 1 and 2

Unit Two: Theoretical Approaches (September 16, 21, 28 and 30)

Please note: Class on Thursday, September 23 is cancelled.

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapters 3 and 4

Unit Three: The State, Decision Making and Foreign Policy (October 5 and 7)

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapter 5

Essay Writing Guidance (October 14)

Unit Four: The Individual (October 19 & 21)

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapter 6.

MID TERM EXAM (October 26 - In class)
Unit Five: International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations & International Law (October 28, November 2 & 4)

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapter 7.

Unit Six: International Security, War and Strife (November 9, 16 & 18)

*Please note: Class on Thursday, October 11 is cancelled (Remembrance Day)*

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapter 8.

**Term Paper Due, in class, in hardcopy November 18. The late penalty is 5% per day.**

Unit Seven: International Political Economy (November 23, 25 & 30)

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapter 9.

Unit Eight: Transborder Issues and New Challenges in International Politics (December 2)

Required Reading:

- Mingst, Chapter 10.

**Final Exam: (As scheduled by the Registrar)**