

DRAFT SYLLABUS

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COURSE SYLLABUS

POL 6665 – READINGS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Dr. James F. Rinehart
Associate Professor of International Relations
Chair, Department of Political Science
Director, MSIR Program
Troy State University

Course Title: *Readings in International Relations*

Course Number: POL 6665

Class Location and time: POL 6665 is an online interactive distance learning course available at the location of the student via the Internet. Students do not attend class or workshops on a Troy State University campus

Term: POL 6665 is available every term

Instructor: Dr. James F. Rinehart
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E-mail hours: All emails will be addressed within 24 hours of receipt,
Monday through Friday

Prerequisites: This course is designed to enhance prior course work in the MSIR program. As such, it may be taken by candidates who are in the latter stages of their degree plan and have taken all three required core courses (POL 5551, POL 6601, POL 6620). I assume that you possess basic computer skills sufficient to insure your success in this learning venue as well as a mastery of writing in English commensurate with graduate-level scholarship

Course Description: A guided program of readings and independent research on a given topic related to the study of International Relations and consistent with student needs and interests. **Your registration for the course requires the approval of your advisor.**

Course Objectives: To provide the opportunity for a more in-depth study of a specific topic or research question in the field of IR of interest to the student.

Methods Used to Achieve Objectives: Course objectives will be achieved through student readings, independent study, and interactive on-line discussion between student and faculty. Access to interactions is via the Blackboard Communications Tools option.

Evaluation: POL 6665 requires the student to prepare a written proposal of independent study in IR. This proposal must be submitted to the instructor and receive his approval. The proposal should address the following points:

1. What specific research question do I plan to attempt to answer? Or, what specific hypothesis do I plan to test?
2. What methodologies will I employ?
3. Why is this research important?

Once the proposal has been submitted and approved, the student will embark on a plan of action, based on the proposal, which involves the completion of a substantive research paper (25-30 pages in length).

The grade for POL 6665 will be determined by the quality of the proposal and the research paper.

Textbooks & Other Materials – Texts and other research materials will be determined by the nature of the proposal prepared by the student.

Hardware and Software Requirements: This course requires that the student have:

- Access to a PC with the Windows 3.1, 95 or 98 operating system, or a Macintosh OS 7 or higher
- Connection to the Internet and an e-mail account
- Internet Explorer or Netscape browser, version 3 or higher
- Java enabled browser
- Microsoft Word or WordPerfect word processing software
- Connection to a printer

Class Procedures & Course Requirements: This course is an asynchronous interactive distance learning course. Students must

assume accountability for their own learning through a variety of learning activities and research methodologies

Calendar: Course requirements should be completed in the time frame of the specific term in which you registered.

University Policies: Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student whose disabilities fall within ADA must inform the professor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements of this course

Standards of Conduct

Conduct including cheating, plagiarism, and furnishing false information to the University or faculty are addressed in *The Oracle*. These standards apply to all students.

Information Technology Usage Policy

The University's Information Technology System includes computing, information, technology, and network resources. All users of this technology system are obligated to utilize the various resources responsibly, legally, and ethically for their intended purpose. All students should read the policy before participating in online course activities.

Absence Policy

POL 6665 has no attendance requirements; the course is presented in an asynchronous distance learning format that allows total participation at the location and time of the student.

Incomplete Work

Students who do not complete the course requirements by the end of the ten week course will receive a grade of incomplete. When the work is done, the grade of incomplete will be removed.

Student Support: Distance Learning administrative support is available online at <http://www.tsulearn.net>. Distance learning staff is identified at <http://www.tsulearn.net/staff.htm>.