

International Relations in Movies

PLSC 380V - Summer 2020

26 May – 26 June

Instructor: Abdul Basit Adeel
Email: aadeel1@binghmaton.edu

Office Hours: TBA
Course Credits: 4

Course Description: This course is designed to teach International Relations through movies. Readings and movies are assigned to various thematic modules (three days long eight modules in total). Students must familiarize themselves with the reading before watching with the movie(s) to identify corresponding themes and ideas. They will be required to write a short response paper applying the acquired theoretical knowledge and engage in online discussion with their colleagues. This course satisfies the International Politics and upper level requirement for the Political Science major.

Course Objectives:

Students are expected to have acquired knowledge of major theories of International Relations as well as concepts and issues including but not limited to Interstate and Intrastate War, International Institutions, Cold War, Great Power Politics, Alliances, Ethnic Conflict, Terrorism, Human Security, Foreign Interventions, Genocide, Human Rights, etc. by the end of this course. They are also expected to have developed skills to critically engage with movies and other visual material.

Course Materials: There is no *required* textbook. Students will receive a list of readings through Blackboard each week. These readings will include excerpts from books and edited volumes, scholarly articles, commentaries and media reports.

Student Responsibilities: Students are expected to read the assigned material and watch the movies, *obviously*. They are required to write a six-page long final paper on the issues of their choice. Besides that, these are the *recurrent requirements* for each module: Students are required to **(1)** raise at least two discussion questions and **(2)** respond to at least two questions raised by their colleagues (or the instructor) in an online discussion board. The discussion must include reference to the assigned material. They are also required to write **(3)** a two-page (double spaced) response paper to finish the module. The response paper should identify an event, or an issue presented in the movie and analyze it using the theoretical concepts presented in the corresponding reading(s).

Discussion Questions x 8	35%
Discussion Response x 8	15%
Response Paper x 8	25%
Final Paper x 1	25%

These assignments (except the final paper) are due on the following dates, unless there is an emergency which must be officially documented to the instructor.

Module	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Diss. Questions	May 27 11: 59 am	June 1 11: 59 am	June 4 11: 59 am	June 9 11: 59 am	June 12 11: 59 am	June 17 11: 59 am	June 22 11: 59 am	June 25 11: 59 am
Diss. Response	May 28 11: 59 am	June 2 11: 59 am	June 5 11: 59 am	June 10 11: 59 am	June 15 11: 59 am	June 18 11: 59 am	June 23 11: 59 am	June 26 11: 59 am
Response Paper	May 28 11:59 pm	June 2 11: 59 pm	June 5 11: 59 pm	June 10 11: 59 pm	June 15 11: 59 pm	June 18 11: 59 pm	June 23 11: 59 pm	June 26 11: 59 pm

All response papers must be submitted through *Turnitin* by 11:59pm, which is an internet-based plagiarism detection service. You will find a Turnitin link for each response paper on MyCourses. **Late submissions will carry a 50% penalty, which means you can only submit one day late.**

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be original. Sources must be properly cited. You may use any citation style of your choice, as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper. Any and all instances of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Harpur College Academic Honesty Committee for possible further disciplinary measures. You can find out more about the Honesty Code in the bulletin: <http://bulletin.binghamton.edu> (Click on Academic Policies and Procedures - All Students).

Grading Scheme: Letter grade for the course will be computed on a 100-point scale as follows:

95-100	A	84-87	B	74-77	C	0-64	F
91-94	A-	81-83	B-	71-73	C-		
88-90	B+	78-80	C+	65-70	D		

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD): Students requiring particular accommodations for participation in this course must contact the Binghamton University office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), located in the University Union, Room 119. (Phone: 607-777-2686, email: ssd@binghamton.edu). Please feel free to inform me if you require any other accommodation.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

The syllabus may be updated according to our progress in the class. I reserve the right to change dates and readings as necessary; any changes will be announced through Blackboard/MyCourses. Both required and (most) recommend readings will be available through blackboard (if not accessible through the online library system). More readings and movies for the modules coinciding with weekends!

Module 1: The State of Nature (May 26 – May 28)

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapter 13 [excerpts]

Thucydides, *The Melian Dialogue* [excerpts]

Machiavelli, *The Prince* [excerpts]

Children of Men (2006)

The Road (2009)

Module 2: Anarchy, Self-help and Balance of Power (May 29 – June 2)

Waltz, K. (1979), *Theory of International Politics*, Chapters 4, 5

Mearsheimer, J. J. (2001), *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapters 1, 2

Jervis, R. (1978), "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30:2 pp. 167-214.

Fail Safe (1964)

Dr. Strangelove (1964)

Independence Day (1996)

Module 3: Decision Making and Diversion (June 3 – June 5)

Allison, G. T. (1969). "Conceptual models and the Cuban missile crisis". *American Political Science Review*, 63(3), 689-718.

Putnam, R. D. (1988). "Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games". *International organization*, 42(3), 427-460.

Fearon, J. D. (1994). "Domestic political audiences and the escalation of international disputes." *American political science review*, 88(3), 577-592.

13 Days (2000)

Wag the Dog (1997)

Module 4: Perceptions and Misperceptions (June 8 – June 10)

Jervis, R. (1976). *Perception and misperception in international politics: New edition*. Princeton University Press. [excerpts]

Wendt, A. (1992). "Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics." *International organization*, 46(2), 391-425.

Haas, P. M. (1992). Introduction: epistemic communities and international policy coordination. *International organization*, 46(1), 1-35.

Arrival (2016)

Valley of the Wolves: Iraq (2006)

Dancing with the wolves (1990)

Module 5: Ethnic Wars and their Spillover (June 11 – June 15)

Mueller, J. (2000). "The banality of "ethnic war"". *International Security*, 25(1), 42-70.

Brubaker, R. & Laitin, D. (1998). "Ethnic and Nationalist Violence," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 24, 423-452.

Posen, B. (1993), "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival*, 35(1), pp. 27-47.

No Man's Land (2001)

Savior (1998)

The Peacemaker (1997)

Module 6: Genocide and Peacekeeping (June 16 – June 18)

Evans, G. & Bellamy, A. J. (2002). “The responsibility to protect”. *Foreign Affairs*.

Finnemore, M. (2004). *The purpose of intervention: Changing beliefs about the use of force*. Cornell University Press. [excerpts]

Doyle, M W. (2001), “War Making and Peace Making: The United Nations’ Post-Cold War Record,” in Crocker et al. *Turbulent peace: The challenges of managing international conflict*.

Hotel Rwanda (2004)

Sometimes in April (2005)

Module 7: Women and Children in War (June 19 – June 23)

Carpenter, C. (2005). “Women, Children and Other Vulnerable Groups”, *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(2): 295–334

Kirby, P. (2013). “How is Rape a Weapon of War?”, *EJIR* 19(4): 797-821.

Savior (1998)

War Witch (2012)

Beasts of No Nation (2015)

Module 8: Terrorism and Political Violence (June 24 – June 26)

Pape, R. A. (2003). “The strategic logic of suicide terrorism”. *American Political Science Review*, 97(3), 343-361.

Victoroff, J. (2005). “The Mind of the Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 49, No. 1. pp. 3-42

Hoffman, B (2006). “The End of Empire and the Origins of Contemporary Terrorism”, in *Inside Terrorism*, New York: Columbia University Press, 43-62

The Battle of Algiers (1966)

Paradise Now (2005)

The Baader Meinhof Complex (2008)