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PSC 530.01: International Relations Seminar

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Course purpose is to provide a) an introductory graduate survey of international relations literature and b) an introduction to graduate-level scholarly research.

Course objective: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate 1) M.A.-level knowledge of international relations literature, 2) an advanced understanding of international politics, law and organization, 3) graduate research skill in a policy area, and 4) pre-professional oral and written communication skills.

1. Basic reading for the seminar will be assigned from the bibliography provided in class. Specific book assignments and due dates will be listed on a matrix provided in class. Late written assignments will NOT BE GRADED.

2. Research paper: 20–25 pages, including endnotes and bibliography, typed, uneven right margin. Papers are graded on the basis of the use of scholarly research sources, organization and clarity of prose (incl. grammar, punctuation & spelling) and formal paper mechanics. See Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writers (6th ed.). The research project, focusing on an aspect of American foreign policy or a policy issue of an international organization, also includes a prospectus and abstract, to be explained in class.

3. Grades will be based upon written book reviews (40 %), a scholarly research paper on a policy topic (20 %), and oral presentation and discussion (40 %) of assigned books and research paper. Regular attendance and active participation are presumed in a graduate seminar. Any absence, for whatever reason, has grade consequences because participation can’t be made up.

PSc Website:  www.umt.edu/polsci/