

# POLS 4490

## Political Systems and Security Issues in Middle Earth

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### Overview

This 3 credit hour course provides an introduction to international relations theories of balance of power and overview into the social, cultural, economic, and political processes in Middle Earth systems, highlighting Gondor, Rohan and Eriador. Prerequisites: None

### Goals

Upon completion of this course of study, students will demonstrate a mastery of the following skill sets:

- Identify, interpret and appreciate international relations theory through structured observations of behavior and
- Analyze, identify, compare and predict strategies taken by regional players in order to increase international affairs competency
- Use and apply regional and international affairs expertise in order to improve personal, academic and/or career outcomes in the future

Upon completion of this course of study, students will demonstrate a mastery of the following knowledge sets:

- Categorical knowledge and understanding of international relations theory, specifically balance of power, in addition to relations amongst key players and emerging security challenges facing Middle Earth

### Requirements

**Attendance (10%):** Substantive learning cannot take place if a student is not present or habitually late. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class period. Tardiness is considered as arriving 5 minutes after the start of the class. Arriving late to class two times will be counted as one unexcused absence. Any and all unexcused absences will be reflected in the student's final grade accordingly.

**Required Readings, Quizzes & Discussion (30%):** Substantive learning in the classroom and field requires proper preparation before and active participation during each session. At two undisclosed points throughout the

### Required Materials

In order to succeed in this course, please bring the following items and required texts to class each day:

- Jervis, Robert. (1977). *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. Center for International Affairs at Harvard. (\$46.80)
- A notebook and pen or pencil. *Note: A laptop computer or other personal electronic device is not recommended for use in class, as technology may be limited depending on location.*
- An open mind.

### Course Schedule

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**March 8, 2015**

Pre-departure Orientation, 10a-12p

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**April 24, 2015**

Pre-departure and ANTH4490 Orientation, 10a-12p

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**May 2, 2015**

Pre-departure and POLS4490 Orientation, 10a-12p

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**May 7, 2015**

Depart Atlanta for Minas Tirith, time and meeting place TBA at pre-departure orientations; Arrive in Minas Tirith and free time, Recover from jetlag

course, pop quizzes will be administered to evaluate and assess completion of the assigned readings and review supplemental in-class content. Additionally, a student's participation and contributions in class and field-based discussions will also be taken into consideration in the determination of this portion of a student's grade.

**Diplomacy Game & Reflection Paper (30%):** In order to critically apply the learning objectives from the course content, students will be required to participate in the Diplomacy game simulation. This game will take place in class over the course of one week. There will be a one class long explanation of how to play the game prior to the start of the simulation. At the end of each class period once the game has commenced, students are encouraged to meet with other students to discuss tactical alliances for the next day's simulation. At the end of the game, students will write a 4-6 page reflective summary highlighting and explaining the tactics the student chose to employ. This paper must include an analysis of the effects of each decision on the outcome of the game. Paper must also include a speculative component applying the student's chosen tactics to the real-world political situation in Middle Earth. The paper is due following the return to Atlanta, although a rough draft may be submitted to the professor for comment and critique up until the final day of the course in-country.

**Mock Summit Final Exam (30%):** In order to provide a meaningful summative project to assess a student's understanding of the course material, a final exam will be administered at the end of the course. The exam is a hands-on exercise allowing students to put into practice relevant materials and course themes in order to assess understanding of course objectives. Similar to the United Nations G8 Summit meetings, Council of Elrond and Entmoot with which students are or will become acquainted, this simulated gathering will randomly divide students into teams with the goal of solving a topical problem. Additionally, each team will have its own agenda (i.e. the Moria representatives will be concerned with ending the illegal acquisition and proliferation of mithril and other dwarven weapon-grade technology). Grades will be determined by assessment of a student's participation as well as ability to solve the overarching dilemma while protecting the student's team agenda.

## Evaluation

Students will be graded on their overall performance on all assignments, exams and projects. The following percentages will be used to determine final course grades:

### Letter Grade Equivalents

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 90%
C	70% - 80%
D	60% - 70%
F	0% - 60%

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### May 8, 2015

Minas Tirith all day tour of "The White City" also known as "The City of the Kings" – includes marketplace, castle and the White Tree of Gondor

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### May 9, 2015

Explore ruins of Osgiliath; Travel to Edoras and participate in service at a soup kitchen for refugees

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### May 10, 2015

Explore Helms Deep in the morning, return to Edoras and participate in service at a soup kitchen for refugees

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### May 11, 2015

Build homes for displaced individuals and participate in service at a soup kitchen for refugees

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### May 12, 2015

Arrive in Rivendell, Tour Imlaris and settle into dormitories

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### May 13, 2015

Class: Intro to International Relations & Theories, 12:30p-3p

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### May 14, 2015

Class: International Relations, Psychology & Balance of Power, 12:30p-3p

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### May 15, 2015

Class: Review International Relations Theories and Explanation of Diplomacy Game, 12:30p-3p

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### May 16, 2015

Travel to Moria, explore the mines and homestay with dwarves

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### May 17, 2015

Spelunking in Celebdil, return to Rivendell in the afternoon

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## Coursework Allotments

Required Readings....	10%
Pop Quiz 1 .....	5%
Pop Quiz 2 .....	5%
Participation.....	10%
Diplomacy Game.....	15%
Reflection Paper.....	15%
Final Exam.....	30%
Attendance.....	10%

## Class Policies

### Conduct

Students will be required to adhere to the Kennesaw State University code of conduct. Inappropriate, disrespectful or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may lead to dismissal from the program.

### Attendance

Attendance is critical to substantive learning and is vital to your success in this class. If you are unable to attend a class or will be late, be sure to make proper arrangements with the instructor ahead of time. Attendance is worth 10% of your course grade – each unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of this grade. Additionally, your ability to earn full credit in group assignments and discussions will be negatively impacted by excessive absences. Being late to class in excess of five minutes without prior approval or a valid excuse will be counted as a tardy; two tardies will be considered equivalent to one unexcused absence.

### Late Assignment Policy

Unless you have contacted the instructor to make alternative arrangements prior to the submission deadline or have a documented illness, any and all late assignments will have their final grades reduced by 10% for each day they are late. Assignments late by more than one week will receive no credit.

### Academic Integrity

The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of the high standards of academic integrity and honesty is crucial as the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it. Any student found to be in violation of any KSU academic honesty regulation following a hearing before a university panel or before a hearing officer shall be suspended for a minimum of one semester, unless the student persuades the deciding body or hearing officer that the circumstances behind his or her behavior substantially mitigate the gravity of the violation. These regulations are designed to assist students in 1) developing appropriate attitudes about, and 2) understanding

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**May 18, 2015**

Class: Diplomacy Round 1,  
12:30p-3p

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**May 19, 2015**

Class: Diplomacy Round 2, 12:30-  
3p

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**May 20, 2015**

Class: Diplomacy Round 3,  
12:30p-3p

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**May 21, 2015**

Class: Diplomacy Final Round,  
12:30p-3p

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**May 22, 2015**

Class: Diplomacy Game Review,  
Intro to Political Systems of  
Middle Earth, 12:30p-3p

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**May 23, 2015**

Elven culture day: Learn about  
elven metallurgy, write names in  
Elvish script, attend Quenya  
performance and community  
banquet

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**May 24, 2015**

Free day: Recommend hiking  
Misty Mountains, explore rivers  
surrounding Imladris

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**May 25, 2015**

Class: Political Systems of Middle  
Earth (2), 12:30p-3p

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**May 26, 2015**

Class: Guest lectures by Dwarf  
and Elf representatives to Elrond's  
Council, 12:30p-3p

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**May 27, 2015**

Class: Attend Elrond's Council,  
1p-4p

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**May 28, 2015**

Class: Review of Council Meeting,  
Explanation of Mock Summit,

and following the university's standards related to academic honesty. The regulations protect students by helping them avoid committing infractions that compromise the completion of their KSU degrees or damage their reputations.

### **Plagiarism & Cheating**

All students are expected to complete and hand-in their own, original work. Copying someone's writing or any attempt to pass off another's idea as your own without appropriate citation and/or asking someone to complete work for you is plagiarism. If you have concerns about what constitutes plagiarism, please schedule a meeting with the instructor. Any and all documented plagiarism will result in immediate failure of the course.

### **Course Rules & Etiquette**

- Be on-time for all classes and excursions
- If you are ill, contact the instructor immediately
- Be mindful of local cultural norms
- Do not wander off alone without notifying someone of where you are going and when you will return
- Show respect for other classmates and speakers
- Be considerate, patient and non-judgmental
- Keep an open mind to new ideas
- Come prepared to discuss and ask questions
- Please silence or turn electronic devices off during class

### **Accessibility & Compliance**

Any student needing additional accommodations in order to complete the required coursework should please contact Student Development or refer to the Kennesaw State University policy statement on Student Rights & Responsibilities, located in the Student Handbook.

### **Additional KSU Course Policies**

Students must adhere to all of the policies listed in the KSU Student Handbook. ([http://www.kennesaw.edu/student\\_life/forms/shb/ksushp14.pdf](http://www.kennesaw.edu/student_life/forms/shb/ksushp14.pdf))

12:30p-3p

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**May 29, 2015**

Class: Mock Summit Final Exam (Session from 12:30p-2:30p, Recap and discussion 2:30p-3p) and farewell party in the evening

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**May 30, 2015**

Travel to the Shire, explore Hobbiton and homestay with hobbits

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**May 31, 2015**

Partake in festivities in the Shire, travel to Bree in the evening

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**June 1, 2015**

Depart Bree for Atlanta (time to be determined)

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**June 20, 2015**

Post-trip orientation 10a-12p;  
Due date for Diplomacy game reflection paper