

**Introduction to International Relations**  
**Widener University**  
**POLS 221**

**Location and Time:** Rm. 224B, Kapelski Learning Center, MWF 10:00 AM- 10:50 AM

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeremy R. Backstrom

**Email:** jrbackstrom@widener.edu

**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00 AM- 12:00 PM; 12:30 PM- 1:30 PM Rm. 337, Kapelski Learning Center

**Class Web:** Campus Cruiser

**Required Materials:**

- ❖ Pevehouse, Jon C.W. and Joshua S. Goldstein. 2017. *International Relations Brief 7<sup>th</sup> edition*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education Inc.
- ❖ Pevehouse, Jon C.W. and Joshua S. Goldstein. 2008. *Readings in International Relations*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education Inc.

**Additional Reading Materials:**

\*\*\*Any additional reading materials will be available via pdf through the class website.

**Technology Requirements:**

- ❖ Internet access (free access available in campus computer labs)
- ❖ Basic use of a personal computer (word processing and internet research)
- ❖ Widener University Campus Cruiser

**Software Requirements:**

- ❖ Microsoft Office or Open Office (free alternative to MS Office)

**Course Catalog Description:**

An introduction to various approaches and methods of analysis in international relations. The course examines the nature of the international system, the manner in which states and other actors behave, the causes of war and techniques of conflict resolution, economic interactions, and the implications of growing international independence. The course also addresses socio-economic imbalances among nations.

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide a general overview of the political science subfield of international relations and introduce the various areas of study within the subfield. While we will regularly discuss real world examples to illustrate important concepts in international relations, this course is not a current events course. This course concentrates on providing a broad introduction to international relations including the theoretical approaches to the study of international relations such as realism, liberalism, constructivism, and gender theories. Furthermore, this course concentrates on the significant areas of study within the international relations subfield such as foreign policy analysis, conflict studies, international law, international

organizations, human rights, international political economy, North-South relations, and globalization.

Moreover, while the comprehension of the material is important, the course focuses heavily on the development of writing and critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills and the improvement of writing skills can be beneficial for the student in their political science courses, courses in other disciplines, and their advancement in future endeavors outside of academia.

### **Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Identify and interpret seminal theoretical methods for understanding international relations specifically realism, liberalism, and constructivism.
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of international relations using the three levels of analysis.
- ❖ Analyze the role of state and non-state actors in international relations.
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of the various topics related to international relations such as conflict studies, international political economy, international organizations and law, human rights, international political and economic development, and globalization.
- ❖ Evaluate and critique seminal literature regarding various topics within the subfield of international relations.
- ❖ Use political concepts noted in the textbook and the classroom to examine current real-world events.
- ❖ Improve your general critical thinking, research, and communication skills that can be applied to other courses and future endeavors.

### **Current Events:**

As this is a course in political science, I encourage you as students to become more cognizant of the world and daily events that arise concerning international affairs and politics; foreign policy; conflict and political violence; international law; international organizations; human rights; international political economy; and international relations in general. Therefore, I want you to read the newspaper headlines (New York Times, Washington Post, BBC, Philadelphia Inquirer, etc.), watch the news on television, or read online news (local news or national news such as CNN, MSNBC, FoxNews, BBC, CSPAN). If you gain your information regarding politics and government from headlines for social media newsfeed/trending headlines, please ensure to follow up this headline in a major news resource. If time permits, we will devote time in each class to discussions concerning current events regarding these topics.

### **Communication and Email:**

As indicated above, you can contact me via email at [jrbackstrom@widener.edu](mailto:jrbackstrom@widener.edu). Please ensure that you address the email with the course number (POLS 221) and your last name in the “subject line” (Example: Backstrom- POLS 221). I request that you use proper English in your

emails so I can understand your question/issue and offer you an answer or resolution to the issue. Proper English does not include the abbreviated version of words as those you would use in a text message/instant message/tweet. I will respond to your email in a timely manner, typically within 24 hours on the weekdays and 48 hours on the weekends. Please be aware that while this is my general and intended practice for responding to your e-mails, it is subject to the changes and interruptions of life. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours do not assume I got your message and please follow up. Finally, please note I do not discuss grades electronically. If you wish to discuss your grades, you will need to come to my office during my office hours or by appointment.

Additionally, I will be available during my office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays after our class from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. If this does not meet your needs, if you need to meet with me at a different time, or if you need to meet with me for a longer period of time, please email me and schedule an appointment to meet with me.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Regardless of course format, Widener University considers regular attendance, participation, and interaction with the instructor and other students to be essential components of successful learning in a Widener class. Courses are conducted for the benefit of students, and it is important that students attend regularly and participate in class activities, however attendance and participation are defined by the course instructor. The academic program takes priority over other obligations, whether sponsored by the college or not. The student is responsible for attending class and for work missed due to absence, and the faculty are not required to make special arrangement for student absences. The presence of a qualifying disability accommodation may allow some flexibility on attendance and due dates, but the essential academic integrity of course goals and student learning will be preserved. Good communication from the students to the faculty about any problems related to attendance and deadlines is crucial. See the Undergraduate Catalog for the full policy statement.

As adults, you are expected to attend every class. **Attendance is required and roll will be taken at every class.** In addition, you are expected to be in the classroom on time. If you continue to have a problem with being on time. If you continue to have a problem with being on time, you will be listed as absent for the day. Excessive absences or tardiness will count against you for your final grade. Each late arrival (1-10 minutes) will count as a tardy. If you are tardy twice, this will count as an absence. If you arrive late by 10 minutes or more, you will be marked as absent. If you depart early, you will also be marked as absent unless you discuss the necessity for an early departure with me before we begin class.

You have a total of three absences that you may use at your discretion. **At the fourth absence and each subsequent absence, your overall grade for the course will be reduced by one letter grade.** Additionally, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes for the missed class from one of your fellow students.

Finally, as a student in this course, you are expected to come into each class having read the required readings and be prepared to participate in the discussion. My lectures complement the readings and it will benefit you to take notes from my lectures in addition to reading the required chapters.

### **Additional Policies:**

Personal laptops or I-Pads may be used to take notes during the class; however, this is not an invitation to check your email, chat online, check the internet for topics outside of the classroom

discussion; or any other activity that would disturb your attention and those around you from your class work. If caught engaging in one of these infractions, I will warn you only once. After this warning, you will not be allowed to use your laptop in the class.

Cell phones, I-Pods, or any other electronic communication device must be shut off or silenced during class. Similar to the policy regarding laptops, I will warn you only once. After this event, I will not tolerate any violation of this policy. You will be asked to leave the classroom for that day and be listed as absent for the class.

This is a course on international relations and each of us has our own personal thoughts and opinions on the matter. As your instructor, I strongly encourage scholarly debate and discussion in the classroom. However, you must be respectful of your fellow students and their opinions. I will not tolerate any outbursts or demeaning (hateful, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, obscene, and/or etc.) attacks/comments against your fellow students regarding their opinions or observations. If this does occur, I will consider it as a disturbance to the learning experience of the classroom, instruct you to leave for that day, and you will be listed as absent. At the instructor's discretion, a student that violates these guidelines may be removed from the course and possibly the campus.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

#### **Exams: (3 exams worth 10% each. This section is worth 30% of your grade.)**

There are three exams given during this course, covering the readings of the textbooks and lecture materials for the specific section. Furthermore, the exams are not cumulative and will only cover the information for the specific section of the course being tested. The exams will be closed book, closed notes multiple choice and short answer exams. **Students must provide their own materials for the exams.**

#### **Map Quizzes: (5 quizzes on different regions of the world- This section is worth 10 % of your grade- 2% on each quiz)**

Throughout the semester, there will be five quizzes that I will announce beforehand. Each quiz will cover countries within a particular section of the world. If you miss the class when a quiz is given, you will not be permitted to make up the quiz unless you provide some form of documented medical proof for the absence. Otherwise, you will receive a zero for the quiz. I will provide the schedule of dates for the map quizzes at a later time.

#### **Short Paper Assignments: (2 assignments- This section is worth 30% of your grade- 15% on each assignment).**

The following guidelines must be followed to fulfill the fourth hour of quality assignments for this course:

- 5-6 pages in length
- Must be typed/word processed
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman Script
- 1 inch margins

- No grammatical errors
- Only your name at the top of the paper
- Handed in on time at the beginning of class
- Submit the assignments through [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) via the class website on Campus Cruiser as well as in hard copy (paper).

**Assignment 1:** Although this is not a course on American politics, this is a course on International Relations and the United States plays a significant role in international affairs. Interestingly, this course coincides with the inauguration and first few months of the Donald J. Trump presidency. You are now assigned as a foreign policy advisor for President Trump and he wants your analysis and assessment on a current international event.

Write a short paper on a current event regarding international affairs. Examples would include: the Syrian civil war, Russia, China and Taiwan, the conflict in Yemen, terrorism in general, the Islamic State, conflict in Afghanistan, possible conflict with North Korea, India and Pakistan, Israel and Palestine, various conflicts in Africa, involvement in the United Nations, multilateral vs. unilateral responses to international conflicts, etc. (If you question whether your topic of interest fits the assignment, please contact me as soon as possible.) Ensure to provide the following: a brief summary of the event; three options on how President Trump could respond to this event; which course of action you suggest that he takes and why; and why he should not proceed with the other two options.

Ensure that you do not merely write an account of the event but rather analyze the event and the possible options to respond to it. There are no incorrect assessments- I just want you to analyze and critique the options on how to respond to the international event. Finally, please note that any preconceived notions of how President Trump feels about this issue is not a concern. You may note that an option parallels his previous or current stance on the issue; however, you do not have to select and promote the option that he previously endorsed. **This assignment is due on October 9, 2017.**

**Assignment 2:** Watch a film from the list below and analyze the film in relation to the study of International Relations. Ensure that you relate back to topics of interest that we covered (or will cover) in the course including but not limited to realism, liberalism, constructivism, foreign policy, war and conflict (causes of, morality of, nuclear war etc.), terrorism and political violence, international law, international organizations (UN, regional organizations, NGOs, IGOs), human rights, economic issues, international trade, climate change, global health, and/or globalization.

In writing this assignment, ensure that you provide a brief summary of the film. With this in mind, please ensure that you do not merely provide a summary of the film. You should probably only devote 2-3 paragraphs of providing a summary of the film. In addition, please be sure to respond to the following questions: How does the film speak to international relations, government, and politics? How does the film relate to the course readings? What type of theories identified in this course can you identify in this film (realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, feminist)? Does the presentation of these concepts in the film parallel your understanding of the concept from the information learned in this course? **This assignment is due December 4, 2017.**

\*Apocalypse Now (1979) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.

- \*Argo (2012)
- \*The Battle of Algiers (1966)
- \*Black Hawk Down (2001) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*The Constant Gardener (2005)
- \*Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)
- \*E-Team (2014)- Netflix
- \*The Fog of War (2003)- <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/the-fog-of-war#watch-film>
- \*Ghosts of Rwanda (2004)- <https://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/ghosts-of-rwanda-pbs-frontline-season-22-episode-6>
- \*Hotel Rwanda (2004)
- \*The Hurt Locker (2008) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*The Islamic State (2016)- Vice News <https://news.vice.com/video/the-islamic-state-full-length>
- \*The Manchurian Candidate (1962 or 2004)
- \*Platoon (1986) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*Restrepo (2010) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*Romero (1989)
- \*The Siege (1998)- I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*The Square (2013)- Netflix or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuO3OvMJ2Gw>
- \*Star Wars films specifically Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones or Star Wars IV: A New Hope- I have a copy of these films if you wish to borrow them.
- \*The Sum of All Fears (2002)
- \*Syriana (2005) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*This is What Winning Looks Like (2016)- Vice News <http://www.vice.com/video/this-is-what-winning-looks-like-full-length>
- \*Triumph of Evil (1995) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8lCLJKRVoc>
- \*The Year of Living Dangerously (1982) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.
- \*Zero Dark Thirty (2012) - I have a copy of this film if you wish to borrow it.

**\*\*\*NOTE 1:** Please be aware that some of the films contain graphic language and/or graphic violence. If you do not feel comfortable with watching this film, please feel free to select another film that matches your comfort level.

**\*\*\*NOTE 2:** If you discover another film that will fit the requirements of this assignment, please contact me and we will discuss the merits of the film for the project.

### **Participation: 20% of your grade**

The course is designed to provide you with an introduction to the subfield of international relations and the various topics of study within the subfield. Moreover, we will read and critique various seminal works concentrating on these topics. Remember you are a scholar, not a student.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the designated date in accordance to the course calendar. In addition, this course will include days that the course will resemble a seminar in which the instructor and the students will interact and discuss the assigned readings. Therefore, it is imperative for you to complete the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss the concepts and arguments during the following class. Furthermore, in order to prepare for the discussion, you should be able to identify the author's arguments concerning the respective

topic but also identify possible flaws/shortcomings of the arguments or questions concerning the theory presented.

Please note that if I observe that the discussion continues to linger without participation, if I am solely leading the discussion, or if there are only a few students participating, I will devise a weekly quiz that will allow me to determine whether you completed the assigned readings and if you understand the theories presented. If this situation arises, you will not be permitted to use the assigned readings or your notes from the readings to take the quizzes. Finally, if you miss the weekly quiz, there are no quiz make-ups.

### **Weekly Thought Papers: 10% of your grade**

At the beginning of each class week (Monday), you are expected to write a thought paper regarding the assigned readings for the week or a particular discussion we had in the classroom during the week prior **ON THE WEEKS YOU DO NOT HAVE AN EXAM OR SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE.** You can offer your thoughts, feelings, opinions, etc. regarding a particular topic that you found interesting, highly significant, or controversial. With a class this size and highly divisive topics such as politics and government, war and political violence, and other topics, we may not have the opportunity to address all viewpoints, opinions, or arguments. Therefore, this allows you to express your feelings, thoughts, opinions, and arguments with me specifically and I can engage in dialogue with you concerning this. This is a method of continuing our classroom discussions outside of the actual classroom. The thought papers are not intended to be conducted in an academic research format and you do not need to include formal citations but rather reference the article(s) or book chapter if you discuss it. Moreover, please do not merely regurgitate the information provided in a lecture or reading. I know what the articles and book chapter argue... I want your criticism, praise, thoughts, feelings, and opinions regarding the readings or a discussion in class. You will receive full credit if you abide by the following formatting guidelines:

- 1 ½-2 pages in length
- Only your name at the top of the paper
- Must be typed/word processed
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman Script
- 1 inch margins
- No grammatical errors
- The thought paper must explicitly address either: 1) an aspect/article of this week's reading or 2) a discussion we had in class.
- Handed in on time (Monday at the beginning of class)
- Hard copy (paper)

### **Extra Credit:**

You will have three opportunities for extra credit throughout the course. Each extra credit assignment is worth 5 points and will be applied to the proceeding test exam. **You do not have to do the extra credit assignments if you do not wish to; however, these three extra credit assignments will be the only opportunity for extra credit.**

**Grading Rubric:**

**A:** 94-100%

**A-:** 91-93%

**B+:** 88-90%

**B:** 85-87%

**B-:** 81-84%

**C+:** 78-80%

**C:** 75-77%

**C-:** 71-74%

**D+:** 68-70%

**D:** 60-67%

**F:** 59% and below

**Late Work Policy:**

All assignments for this course are expected on or before the deadline as indicated on the assignment. As a reasonable person, I understand that uncontrollable personal circumstances may arise. Thus, I am willing to work with you through such issues should they arise and you must submit a late assignment. **If you need to submit a late assignment, you must contact me in advance of the deadline for my approval and for arrangements to be made concerning the assignment.** Written documentation will be required in order to confirm your request to submit a late assignment.

**Late homework assignments will be heavily penalized unless there are extenuating circumstances. There is a 10 point penalty per day for late homework assignments. This includes weekends and holidays.** If the assignment has not been submitted within 5 days, you will receive a "0" for the homework assignment.

**Tentative Reading and Course Outline:**

\*\*\*Pevehouse & Goldstein textbook= **(PG)**

\*\*\*Pevehouse & Goldstein readings textbook= **(PGR)**

\*\*\***NOTE:** Due dates for thought papers and assignments are listed in **Bold** while important dates for Widener University related academic issues are listed in *Italics*.

**Week 1:**

**Aug. 28:** Introduction to the course and discussion of the syllabus

**Aug. 30:** The Globalization of International Relations Chap. 1- **(PG)**

**Sept. 1:** The Globalization of International Relations: Chap. 1- **(PG)**

**Week 2:**

**Sept. 4:** *No Class- Labor Day observed*

**Sept. 5:** *Last day for dropping and/or adding classes*



**Sept. 6:** The Globalization of International Relations: Chap. 1- (**PG**)  
**Sept. 6: Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 8:** Understanding International Relations: Chap. 1- (**PGR**)  
\*\*\* Walt- *International Relations: One World, Many Theories*  
\*\*\* Keohane and Nye Jr.- *Globalization: What's New? What's Not? (And So What?)*

**Week 3:**

**Sept. 11:** Realist Theories: Chap. 2- (**PG**)  
**Sept. 11: Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 13:** Realist Theories: Chap. 2- (**PG**)

**Sept. 15:** Realist Theories: Chap. 2- (**PG**)

**Week 4:**

**Sept. 18:** Power Politics: Chap. 2- (**PGR**)  
\*\*\* Morgenthau- *A Realist Theory of International Politics*  
\*\*\* Mazarr- *George W. Bush, Idealist*  
\*\*\* Mearsheimer- *A Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (**PDF on Campus Cruiser**)

**Sept. 18: Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 20:** Liberal and Social Theories: Chap. 3- (**PG**)

**Sept. 22:** Liberal and Social Theories: Chap. 3- (**PG**)

**Week 5:**

**Sept. 25:** Liberal and Social Theories: Chap. 3- (**PG**)  
**Sept. 25: Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 27:** Alternatives to Power Politics/Foreign Policy: Chap. 3 & 4- (**PGR**)  
\*\*\* Russett and Oneal- *International Systems- Vicious Circles and Virtuous Circles*  
\*\*\* Fukuda-Parr- *Gender, Globalization, and New Threats to Human Security*  
\*\*\*- Wendt- *Anarchy is what states make of it-* (**PDF on Campus Cruiser**)  
\*\*\*Allison- *Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis*

**Sept. 29:** Wrap up Section 1 and Review for Exam #1

**Week 6:**

**Oct. 2:** Exam #1  
**Oct. 2: No Thought Paper Due**

**Oct. 4:** Historical Perspectives in International Relations: Instructor notes

**Oct. 6:** Historical Perspectives in International Relations: Instructor notes

**Week 7:**

**Oct. 9:** Historical Perspectives in International Relations: Instructor notes

**Oct. 9: Short Paper Assignment #1 Due. (No Thought paper)**

**Oct. 11:** Conflict, War, and Terrorism: Chap. 4- (PG)

**Oct. 13:** Conflict, War, and Terrorism: Chap. 4- (PG)

**Week 8:**

**Oct. 16:** Conflict, War, and Terrorism: Chap. 4- (PG)

**Oct. 16: Thought Paper Due**

**Oct. 18:** International Conflict/Military Force and Terrorism: Chap. 5 & 6- (PGR)

\*\*\* Posen- *The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict*

\*\*\* Biddle- *Seeing Baghdad, Thinking Saigon*

\*\*\* Kurth Cronin- *Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism*

\*\*\* Avant- *The Privatization of Security: Lessons from Iraq*

**Oct. 20:** Trade and Finance: Chap. 5- (PG)

**Week 9:**

**Oct. 23:** *No Class- Fall Break*

**Oct. 25:** Trade and Finance: Chap. 5- (PG)

**Oct. 27:** Trade and Finance: Chap. 5- (PG)

**Week 10:**

**Oct. 30:** International Trade/Money and Business: Chap. 8 & 9- (PGR)

\*\*\* Gilpin- *Three Ideologies of International Political Economy*

\*\*\* Clapp- *WTO Agriculture Negotiations: Implications for the Global South*

\*\*\*Cohn- *International Monetary Relations*

\*\*\*Rondinelli- *Transnational Corporations: International Citizens or New Sovereigns?*

**Oct. 30: Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 1:** Wrap up Section 2 and Review for Exam #2

**Nov. 3:** Exam #2

**Week 11:**

**Nov. 6:** International Organization, Law, and Human Rights: Chap. 6- (PG)

**Nov. 6: Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 7:** *Last day for class withdrawal without academic penalty*

**Nov. 8:** International Organization, Law, and Human Rights: Chap. 6- **(PG)**

**Nov. 10:** International Organization, Law, and Human Rights: Chap. 6- **(PG)**

**Week 12:**

**Nov. 13:** International Integration: Chap. 10- **(PGR)**

\*\*\* Haas- *Functionalism*

\*\*\* Moravcsik- *A Too Perfect Union? Why Europe Said No*

**Nov. 13: Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 15:** North-South Relations: Chap. 7- **(PG)**

**Nov. 17:** North-South Relations: Chap. 7- **(PG)**

**Week 13:**

**Nov. 20:** North-South Relations: Chap. 7- **(PG)**

**Nov. 20: Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 22:** The North-South Gap/International Development: Chap. 12 & 13- **(PGR)**

\*\*\*Cardoso- *Dependent Capitalist Development in Latin America*

\*\*\*Klasen- *Bridging the Gender Gap to Promote Economic Aid and Social Development*

\*\*\*Birdsall, Rodrik, and Subramanian- *How to Help Poor Countries*

\*\*\*Woods- *The Shifting Politics of Foreign Aid*

**Nov. 24:** *No Class- Thanksgiving Break*

**Week 14:**

**Nov. 27:** *No Class- Instructor out of town*

**Nov. 27: No Thought Paper Due: Work on your Short Paper Assignment #2.**

**Nov. 29:** Environment and Technology: Chap. 8- **(PG)**

**Dec. 1:** Environment and Technology: Chap. 8- **(PG)**

**Week 15:**

**Dec. 4:** Environment and Technology: Chap. 8- **(PG)**

**Dec. 4: Short Paper Assignment #2 Due**

**Dec. 6:** Environment and Population: Chap. 11- **(PGR)**

\*\*\* Homer-Dixon- *On the Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict*

\*\*\* Eberstadt- *Russia, the Sick Man of Europe*

**Dec. 8:** Wrap up for section 3/Exam #3 review/Course Wrap up

**Dec. 8:** *Last day of classes*

**Week 16:**

**Dec. 11-15:** *Final Exams (Date TBD)*

**Dec. 15:** *End of Fall semester*

## **Outline of the Course:**

### **Section 1**

- ❖ The Globalization of International Relations
- ❖ Realist Theories
- ❖ Liberal and Social Theories

### **Section 2**

- ❖ Historical Perspectives in International Relations
- ❖ Conflict, War, and Terrorism
- ❖ Trade and Finance

### **Section 3**

- ❖ International Organization, Law, and Human Rights
- ❖ North-South Relations
- ❖ Environment and Technology

***\*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course.***

## **Institutional Policies:**

### **\*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

FERPA is a federal law that protects your privacy by limiting access to your educational and personal records. Educational and personal information cannot be distributed or discussed with your parents or legal guardians or anyone else without a legitimate education interest without your written permission. Educational and personal information includes your social security number or institutional identification number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPA, or class schedule. Additional information and FERPA waivers (waiver of release of information forms) are available from the registrar or the Office of Student Affairs.

Finally, please note I do not discuss grades electronically. If you wish to discuss your grades, you will need to come to my office during my office hours or by appointment.

### **\*Overall Statement on Academic Support for Traditional Undergraduates:**

Students have academic support resources available to them at no charge. The Academic Support offers course-specific tutoring services, academic coaching services, writing services, and disabilities services. The Writing Center offers tutoring to assist with writing and reading support for any class. The Disability Services office provides impairment-related accommodations consistent with the ADA and its amendments. Academic Coaching offers services where students are paired with an Academic Coach, who can assist the student in various ways. For help or further information, contact the Writing Center at (610) 499-4332; the Disabilities Services at (610) 499-1266; and the Academic Coaching at (610) 499-1193.

**\*Academic Coaching Statement:**

Academic Coaching offers various resources to assist Widener students with their academic success that is tailored to the student's needs. Students have academic support resources available to them at no charge. Academic Coaching offers assistance on study skills, time management, test taking, academic planning, textbook reading, and note taking. Further information can be found at: <http://www.widener.edu/academics/support/coaching.aspx>. Academic Coaching can be reached at (610) 499-1193 or through Tim Cairy at [tjcairy@widener.edu](mailto:tjcairy@widener.edu).

**\*Tutoring Services Statement:**

Tutoring Services offers tutoring for students by trained Widener University students for introductory and upper level courses. Moreover, these services are offered to Widener students at no additional charge outside of your tuition. Further information can be found at: <http://www.widener.edu/academics/support/tutoring/>. Tutoring Services is located at 522 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Pineapple House (9:00 AM- 5:00 PM Monday through Friday) or via email at: [tutoringservices@widener.edu](mailto:tutoringservices@widener.edu).

**\*Writing Center Statement for Regular/Day Courses:**

You are encouraged to visit the Writing Center early and often throughout the semester to help build a strong foundation for writing in this course and in all of your courses. The center's peer tutors and director will work with you at any stage of the writing process, from developing and organizing ideas to revising and editing drafts. Tutors are also available to discuss and practice approaches to managing the college reading workload and reading more effectively. The center is located on the first floor of the Old Main Annex and can be reached at (610) 499-4332. Appointments are strongly recommended to ensure availability particularly during midterms or the end of the semester.

**\*ADAA Statement on Services for Students with Disabilities:**

Consistent with the ADAA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Widener University welcomes students with disabilities into the college's educational programs. If you need impairment-related academic adjustments in this course, please contact Anna Bachus, Director of Disability Services, by email at [apbachus@widener.edu](mailto:apbachus@widener.edu), by phone at (610) 499-1266, or at the office of Disability Services at 520 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street. It is important to make this request as soon as possible so that we will have time to make any necessary arrangements.

**\*Withdrawal:**

During the drop/add period as established by the registrar, students can drop or add classes at any time online. If a student cannot add a course online, the student will need to bring a Registration form signed by his or her advisor to Enrollment Services in Lipka Hall.

After the first six days, any student desiring to withdraw from a course must submit to the Enrollment Services a Registration form signed by his or her advisor and the instructor of the course. Any student who withdraws from the course after the first six days but before the last four weeks of the semester will be given a grade of “W” (Withdrawal). A “W” will not affect the student’s cumulative average.

If a student drops a course during the last four weeks of the semester without the signed approval of the associate provost or stops attending a class at any time without officially withdrawing from the class through Enrollment Services, the student will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

**\*Harassment Policy:**

It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or genetic information in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) prohibits discrimination based on sex and gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in university programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the university prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment as well as in all programs and activities.

The university’s Title IX coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX and/or those who wish to file a complaint of noncompliance may contact the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators: The university’s Title IX coordinator is Assistant Director for Employee Relations Grace Karmioli, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; telephone: (610) 499-1301; email: [gckarmioli@widener.edu](mailto:gckarmioli@widener.edu).

**\*Academic Integrity Policy:**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other attempts to engage in academic fraud will not be tolerated in this class. A full definition of these concepts is available in the Standards for Academic Integrity in the Widener University *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Plagiarism is a particularly prevalent method of academic fraud. The *Undergraduate Catalog* states that “(p)lagiarism- submitting the work of others as one’s own- is a serious offense. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources- whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized- must be given credit through specific citations. When a student paraphrases a work, it is still necessary to cite the original source. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient.”

“Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and commission of it will bring the same penalties.”

Also, “(s)tudents are required to obtain permission prior to submitting work, any part of which was previously or will be submitted in another course. The instructor has the option of accepting, rejecting, or requiring modification of the content of previously or simultaneously submitted work.”

For more information on Academic Integrity, see pages 22 and 23 of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Plagiarism/cheating in this course will result in an instant failure for the semester. This applies to any work submitted for the course, including, but not limited to, take home tests, tests, quizzes, and papers. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. If you have any questions on plagiarism, please contact me. You may also wish to consult the OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab website on plagiarism: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

**\*General Statement:**

The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.