



# POLSY-109

**Intro to International Relations – Prof. Spechler**

**Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

Poverty. Inequality. Scarce resources. Ethnic identity. Religious differences. Territorial ambitions. Ideology. Political aspirations. Nearly every area of the world is beset by violent conflict arising from these and other sources. This course will provide basic conceptual tools to help you understand some of the major problems in world politics in recent decades and consider possible solutions to those problems. The primary focus will be on the causes of conflict and war; the advantages and disadvantages of and alternatives to force for achieving foreign policy goals; and ways of preventing or reducing the likelihood, severity and duration of war. Students will participate in a simulation of the UN General Assembly.