
Political Science 106
Introduction to International Relations

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Student Questions:
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Course Info:
Summer Session II 2019
9AM–12PM MTWR
210 Harkness Hall

Course Overview

This course serves as a survey of fundamental history and conceptual tools in international relations. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a wide range of phenomena and claims in international relations, including but not limited to, common theories of international relations, sovereignty, international conflict and violence, and international trade. This course will combine textbook, newspaper, and academic readings (research articles/books) in order to expose students to principal contributions of the field. Students should expect to leave this course with familiarity applying multiple concepts and frameworks to a wide variety of international events.

This course is developed in such a way that students will be able to participate in discussion and explore their individual interests in international relations across a wide array of topics, from power politics to international political economy. We will consider the actors, goals, means, and consequences of state interaction. Introductory explanations of methodologies in the field will be given, and the instructor will work to increase student familiarity and understanding with common empirical and theoretical findings. Along the way, students will develop a new way to debate highly contentious issues, such as Brexit, the Forever Wars, and economic sanctions.

Course Requirements

5% Email. Send me an email with your name, major, what you hope to get out of this course, any pre-anticipated absences, and the secret phrase hidden in this syllabus.

25% Participation. This is not just showing up to class, but also doing the readings and being an engaged and proactive student.

Attendance Policy: Due to the short nature of this course, I will not be permitting unexcused absences. For excused absences, I will require a note, and for non-medical situations, an email prior to the event. You will then be expected to schedule a time to make up what you missed in class with me. Repeated absences / tardiness will be reflected negatively in your participation grade.

Discussion is an important part of this class. Since there is no discussion section, I anticipate your participation in class. Do not be afraid to ask questions. I will be far more judgmental of your failure to communicate your questions, concerns, and opinions than I will of you saying something incorrect in discussion. I will not call on students because I respect personal and cultural reservations, but know that if we have not spoken by the end of the course, it will not fare well on this portion of your grade.

- 30%** Short Essays. There will be two short essays in this class, for 15% each of your final grade. These will be take-home assignments. These are to be structured as formal essays, and are not just summaries of what you have read. They will be 3-4 pages double-spaced, not including references. More information will be given in advance of the due date.
- 40%** Final Exam. There will be a final exam given during the period scheduled by the University. The exam will not be given early or late, so please check the Registrar's website and schedule accordingly.

Academic Integrity

Be familiar with the University's policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action (<http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/students.html>). Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

Remember that the same technology that has made plagiarism easier to accomplish has also made it easier to detect. If you do not cite a source, it is plagiarism. If you do cite it, it is scholarship.

Texts

The following book is required:

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake & Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. **Second Edition**. New York: W. W. Norton, 2013. Referred to throughout as **FLS**.

Readings not included in the textbook can be found through the library.rochester.edu search engine. Optional readings are noted as such, and useful for providing background, especially for the initial part of the course on theory and concepts.

In addition to the readings in the syllabus, I **expect** students to read one of the following newspapers: the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *al Jazeera*, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, *Die Zeit*, *Le Monde diplomatique* or a comparable international paper. It is entirely likely that questions on the mid-term and the final will require you to be up-to-date on current events. Most days the final thirty minutes to an hour will be talking about how to relate what you learn in lecture to current events. This requires reading your textbook and the news ahead of time.

Course Outline

July 1 Introduction and Overview

- “How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps.” Memo. Amelia Hoover Green, Drexel University.
<https://www.ameliahoovergreen.com/uploads/9/3/0/9/93091546/howtoread.pdf>

July 2 -isms Lecture

- FLS: Introduction, p. xx-xxxiii
- Mearsheim, John. “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power.” p. 54-67

July 3 History of International Relations: Pre-1945

- Paper 1 Prompt Given Out

July 4 No Class: Independence Day

July 8 History of International Relations: Post-1945

- Paper 1 Due

July 9 Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

- FLS: “A Primer on Game Theory,” p. 82-87
- FLS: Chapter 2, p. 42-67

July 10 Actors in International Relations

- Singer, J. David. 1961. “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations,” *World Politics*, p. 77-92.
- Chiozza, Giacomo, and H.E. Goemans. 2003. “Peace Through Insecurity: Tenure and International Conflict,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 47.4: 443-467.
- Mansfield, Edward D., and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2006. “Democratization and International Organizations,” *International Organization*, 60.1: 137-167.

July 11 Bargaining Models of War, pt. 1

- **FLS:** Chapter 3

July 15 **Bargaining Models of War, pt. 2**

- Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, 49.3: 379–414.

July 16 **Civil Wars**

- **FLS:** Chapter 6, p. 234-264

July 17 **International Institutions and War**

- **FLS:** Chapter 5, p. 203-231

July 18 **International Political Economy**

- **FLS:** Chapter 7, p. 290-331
- Secret Code: *Cold War*
- Paper 2 Prompt Given Out

July 22 **The IMF & World Bank**

- **FLS:** Chapter 8
- **Paper 2 Due**

July 23 **Foreign Aid**

- **FLS:** Chapter 10

July 24 **Separatist Movements**

- Walter, Barbara F. 2006. "Building Reputation: Why Governments Fight Some Separatists but Not Others," *American Journal of Political Science*, 50.2: 313-330.
- Fearon, James D. 2004. "Separatist Wars, Partition, and World Order," *Security Studies*, 13.4: 394-415.
- Lacina, Bethany. 2013. "Periphery versus Periphery: The Stakes of Separatist War," *The Journal of Politics*, 77.3: 692-706.

July 25 **Work from U of R Faculty, Former PhDs & Review**

- Stone, Randall W. 2004. "The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa," *American Political Science Review*, 98.4: 577-591.
- Lee, Alexander. 2011. "Who Becomes a Terrorist? Poverty, education, and the origins of political violence," *World Politics*, 63.2: 203-245.
- Abramson, Scott F., and David B. Carter. 2016. "The Historical Origin of Territorial Disputes," *American Political Science Review*, 110.4: 675-698.
- Goemans, H.E., and David B. Carter. 2011. "The making of the territorial order: New borders and the emergence of interstate conflict," *International Organization*, 65.2: 275-309.
- Carter, David B., and Randall W. Stone. 2015. "Democracy and Multilateralism: The Case of Vote Buying in the UN General Assembly," *International Organization*, 69.1: 1-33.

July 26 **FINAL EXAM**