

POL S 203: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Summer 2018

5 Credits

Instructor:	Travis Nelson	Time:	MTWTh 2:30-5:00pm
Email:	travisn@uw.edu	Location:	JHN 026
Office Hours:	TTh 5:00-6:00pm	Office:	GWN 36

Course Page

1. <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1206672>

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles of international politics. We will use the three major theoretical approaches to international relations – Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism – to explore both current and historical events. Theories of international politics are designed to serve as schematics to aid in the understanding of the root causes and consequences of events.

The first component of this course is devoted to understanding the basic theories of international politics. Here we will explore the birth of the modern state system, the rise of nationalism, and the three levels of analysis (the individual, the national, and the systemic). The second component of this course focuses on war and peace. Here we will discuss the origins of WWI and WWII, the Cold War, and Democratic Peace Theory. The last component delves into the world of political economy and issues in international politics. Here we will go over globalization, trade, theories of economic development, humanitarian politics and intervention, along with other topics such as international law and environmental politics.

Students are expected to keep up with current events in national and international politics through the daily reading of a national newspaper. A portion of class is dedicated to the discussion of current events.

Course-level Learning Objectives (CLOs):

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical roots of contemporary global politics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and theories used to analyze global politics and political processes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in international politics.
- Critically apply relevant theories to interpret contemporary case studies.
- Cultivate an awareness of the linkage between international issues and local issues.

Grading Policy: 2 Exams (60%), Response Paper (25%), Participation (15%)

Participation

Participation will be graded on the quality of your participation in class discussion. I expect you to complete the course readings, and to engage with your classmates in meaningful discussion. Without preparation, it will be difficult to participate in the discussions. Strive to think critically about the readings and contribute

in meaningful ways. This will have the greatest impact on your success in this course. Significant and original contributions will yield full participation points for that day.

Exams and Response Paper

This course will have 2 exams and one response paper that make up the bulk of the overall grade. The second exam will not be cumulative, each exam will be one hour in length. The response paper requires the student choosing the readings from one of the days, and writing up a response paper that both summarizes and analyzes the readings for that day. Students will then lead a discussion on one of the assigned readings of their choice. If more than one student presents on the same day, they are to decide in advance who will lead a discussion on which reading.

Important Dates:

Exam 107/03/2018
Exam 207/18/2018

Letter Grade Distribution:

$\geq 97.00\%$	4.0	74.00%	2.4
95.00%	3.9	73.00%	2.3
93.00%	3.8	72.00%	2.2
91.00%	3.7	71.00%	2.1
89.00%	3.6	70.00%	2.0
87.00%	3.5	68.00%	1.9
85.00%	3.4	66.00%	1.8
83.00%	3.3	64.00%	1.7
82.00%	3.2	62.00%	1.6
81.00%	3.1	60.00%	1.5
80.00%	3.0	58.00%	1.4
79.00%	2.9	56.00%	1.3
78.00%	2.8	54.00%	1.2
77.00%	2.7	52.00%	1.1
76.00%	2.6	50.00%	1.0
75.00%	2.5	$\leq 48.00\%$	0

Grading Policy

I am responsible for the grading of your submitted work. I make every attempt to be fair, transparent, and consistent. I will explain any reasoning behind your grade or the meaning of any comments I write on your work on request. Study and review of the material increases the likelihood of receiving a good grade in this course. To request a re-grading of your work (outside of tabulation errors), you must:

1. Wait 24 hours, carefully review your answers, and my comments on them.
2. Provide a typed statement to me (no more than one page) explaining why you believe the grade you received should be altered. This must be about the substance of your work, not the effort you put into it or this class.
3. Email me your written concerns within one week of receiving your exam for discussion.
4. I will reread your work, re-evaluate it if I feel it is appropriate, and return it to you within one week.

Accommodations

If you are a student athlete or a student with disabilities who will need accommodations throughout the quarter, you must provide me with the relevant paperwork within a reasonable time frame (i.e. not the week before an exam).

If a valid medical incident requires you to miss an assignment, I require documentation before it is excused and accommodations made. This is not guaranteed. The sooner you make your request, the more likely accommodations will be made.

If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to the instructor as soon as possible so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924, email uwdrs@uw.edu, or online at <http://disability.uw.edu>. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor, and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. A suspected instance of either may be immediately investigated and necessary disciplinary actions may ensue. Students are expected to uphold the standards of Academic Honesty and Conduct set forth in the Student Rights, Freedoms, and Responsibilities Handbook. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, misrepresentation, or plagiarism, is not tolerated at any level.

More information on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty may be found in the College Catalog. Learning about what plagiarism is and how best to avoid it is also strongly recommended.

Readings

There is one required textbook for this course McGlinchey, Stephen, editor. International Relations – an E-IR Foundations Beginner's Textbook. E-International Relations, 2017, www.e-ir.info/2016/12/07/e-ir-foundations-textbook-international-relations. Additionally, students are required to read daily newspapers and to keep up with current events.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Content
6-18	Foundations of International Politics Readings/Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Snyder. “One World, Rival Theories.” Foreign Policy. Nov/Dec 2004; 145. • Ch. 4, textbook.
6-19	The Modern State System Readings/Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard A. Nielsen. 2015. “Does the Islamic State Believe in Sovereignty?” Washington Post • Quinn Meacham. 2015. “How Much of a state is the Islamic State?” Washington Post • The BBC. 2018 Islamic State and the crisis in Syria and Iraq in maps
6-20	Realism Readings/Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue,” A History of the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC), trans. Rex Warner. Penguin, 1954/1972, pp. 400-408. • John Mearsheimer, “Getting Ukraine Wrong,” NYT (13 March 2014).
6-21	Liberalism in International Politics Readings/Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” Philosophy and Public Affairs (Summer 1983), pp. 205-232 (skip part V, pp. 232-35).
6-25	Constructivism in International Politics Readings/Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: introduction”, in Keck and Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders, pp. 1-38 • Ch. 9, textbook.

Week	Content
6-26	<p>World War</p> <p>Readings/Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Gordon, "Domestic Conflict and the Origins of the First World War: The British and the German Cases," <i>Journal of Modern History</i> 46/2 (June 1974), pp. 191-226. • Robert Axelrod, "Live and Let Live System in Trench Warfare in WWI" • In class film, "All Quiet on the Western Front."
6-27	<p>The Cold War and Beyond</p> <p>Readings/Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward Luttwak, "Give War a Chance", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, vol. 78, no. 4, July/August 1999, pp. 36-44
6-28	<p>Norms in Warfare</p> <p>Readings/Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Tannenwald. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use." <i>International organization</i> 53.03 (1999): 433-468. • Emily Gade and Joshua Eastin. "Four Reasons Why Killing Insurgents in Syria Might Backfire".
7-2	<p>Counter Insurgency</p> <p>Readings/Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush: Islamic radicalism doomed to fail. • David Hastings Dunn. "Assessing the Debate, Assessing the Damage: Transatlantic Relations after Bush." <i>The British Journal of Politics and International Relations</i> 11.1 (2009): 4-24. • In class film, "The Battle of Algiers."
7-3	<p>Review and Exam 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring in questions and comments for a student led review prior to exam. • Exam will be administered in Poli Sci Computer Lab, 3rd floor Smith Hall.
7-4	<p>Independence Day, No Class!</p>

7-5	Day Off, Long Weekend!
7-9	Trade and Financial Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gustavo A. Flores-Macas and Sarah E. Kreps. "The Foreign Policy Consequences of Trade: China's commercial relations with Africa and Latin America, 1992-2006." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 75.2 (2013): 357-371. • James McBride and Mohammad Aly Serge. NAFTA's Economic Impact. • In class film, "The Big Short."
7-10	Globalization and Development Readings/Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the one page interview by Deborah Solomon, "Questions for Dambisa Moyo: The Anti-Bono," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> (19 February 2009). • Jagdish Bhagwati, "Banned Aid: Why international assistance does not alleviate poverty," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (Jan-Feb 2010). • Nicholas Kristof, "Where Sweatshops are a Dream," <i>The New York Times</i> (14 January 2009). • Ken Silverstein, "Shopping for Sweat: The human cost of a two-dollar T-shirt," <i>Harper's Magazine</i> (January 2010). • Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, "The Women's Crusade," <i>New York Times Magazine</i> (August 23, 2009). • The girl effect
7-11	International Law and Courts Readings/Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abram Chayes and Antonia Handler Chayes. "On Compliance." <i>International Organization</i>, vol. 47, no. 2, 1993, pp. 175-205. • Ch. 5, textbook
7-12	Human Rights Readings/Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emilie M. Hafner-Burton, and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. "Human Rights in a Globalizing World: The Paradox of Empty Promises 1." <i>American journal of sociology</i> 110.5 (2005): 1373-1411. • S.A.S. v. France, European Court of Human Rights, 2014 (Sections I-II)

7-16	<p>Humanitarian Intervention</p> <p>Readings/Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samantha Power. “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen.” The Atlantic, Vol 288/2: pgs 84-108 (September 2001). • Mac McClelland. “I Can Find an Indicted Warlord. So Why Isn’t He in the Hague?” Mother Jones, September-October 2011 Issue. • In class film, “Hotel Rwanda.”
7-17	<p>Environmental Politics</p> <p>Readings/Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marvin S. Soroos, “The Tragedy of the Commons in Global Perspective,” in The Global Agenda: Issues and Perspectives fourth edition (McGraw-Hill, 1995), pp. 422-435. • Barry Schwartz, “Tyranny for the Commons Man,” The National Interest (July/August 2009): 64-73. • Ch. 15, textbook.
7-18	<p>Final Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam will be 1 hr, 2:30-3:30pm. • Exam will be administered in Poli Sci Computer Lab, 3rd floor Smith Hall.