

International Relations (PSCI 3328) Course Syllabus

The University of Texas at Dallas – Summer 2012

Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00pm – 5:00pm in JSOM 2.902

Professor Contact Information

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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

The readings and lectures assume that students have taken at least one prior course in political science, government, political economy, comparative politics, or a similar subject.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the major concepts, theories, and puzzles in international relations, providing a historical and theoretical basis for understanding and studying international events. As students of politics, we will cover the primary theoretical approaches and analytical tools of the social-scientific study of international relations, as well as the substantive areas of international security, international political economy, and international organization. Most of the problems and puzzles of international relations do not have easy or readily apparent answers, but we will examine the best that has been thought and said about these questions and assess competing arguments, even if we do not ultimately arrive at a conclusive answer. Remember Aristotle: The least knowledge we may obtain of the highest things is more desirable than the most certain knowledge of lower matters.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will gain familiarity with the subject matter of international relations. Just as importantly, students will also develop the ability to analyze and interpret international events through the application of the theoretical approaches and analytical tools covered in the course. These include the “grand narratives” of the discipline of international relations (such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism) as well as more narrowly focused tools (such as strategic choice and levels of analysis).

Required Textbooks and Materials

(FLS) Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN# 978-0-393-92709-2.

(MS) Mingst, Karen A. and Jack L. Snyder. 2011. *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 4th ed. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN# 978-0-393-93534-9

Suggested Course Materials

Tessman, Brock F. 2007. *International Relations in Action: A World Politics Simulation*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. ISBN# 978-1-58826-464-0

This course involves a heavy reading load. We are concentrating an entire semester's worth of material (and credit) into ten four-hour sessions. The assigned reading will reflect this fact. Please prepare for class by completing the necessary reading *prior* to coming to class, but also do not fall into the mental trap of thinking that if you cannot get all of the reading done then you should not attempt any of the reading. Completing some of the reading is better than not completing any.

Students are also strongly encouraged to read well-respected weekly news sources to stay informed of current events, as this will enhance the application of course material and provide more interesting and informed discussions. Suggested sources include *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, and *Foreign Affairs*.

Take note that all readings are equally important. Even those readings not covered in lectures or not taken from the textbooks can (and will) be used for questions on exams and quizzes. The lectures will not summarize the readings, but will clarify key concepts and introduce material not covered in the readings. All lecture content is fair game for quizzes and exams.

There may be adjustments made to the readings assignments during the course. In that event, an in-class announcement will be made and an updated syllabus posted.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

- **May 31st - Introduction, and Levels of Analysis**
- **June 5th - Theories of International Relations**
 - FLS - pp. xix-xxx (Introduction), 3-38 (Ch. 1), 40-74 (Ch. 2)
 - MS - pp. 2-10 (Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories"), 10-12 (Thucydides, "Melian Dialogue"), 12-15 (Kant, "Perpetual Peace"), 17-19 (Wilson, "The Fourteen Points"), 26-30 (Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Politics" and "Political Power"), 50-64 (Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics"), 64-82 (Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics"),
 - Simulation: Territorial Disputes
- **June 7th - Structure of the International System and State Power**
 - MS – pp. 99-104 (Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power", "Different Methods of the Balance of Power", and "Evaluating the Balance of Power"), 110-126 (Ikenberry et al, "Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences"), 131-150 (Krasner, "Sharing Sovereignty")
 - Haas, Ernst B. 1953. "The Balance of Power: Prescription, Concept or Propaganda?" in *World Politics* 5(4): 442-477.
 - Simulation: Alliance Politics
- **June 12th - International Security**
 - FLS – pp. 83-125 (Ch. 3), 171-189 (Ch. 5 - Alliances)

- MS – pp. 349-374 (Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War"), 322-325 (Clausewitz, "War as an Instrument of Policy"), 326-334 (Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence"), 335-348 (Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma")
 - Simulation: Nuclear Proliferation
- **June 14th - International Security**
 - FLS – pp. 126-168 (Ch. 4)
 - MS – pp. 375-389 (Posen, "A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult but Not Impossible Policy Problem"),
 - OPTIONAL PAPER ASSIGNED
 - Simulation: Ethnic Conflict
- **June 19th - International Political Economy**
 - FLS – pp. 216-294 (Ch. 6-7)
 - MS – pp. 485-492 (Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy"), 516-541 (Wolf, "Why Globalization Works"), 542-553 (Humphreys et al, "What Is the Problem with Natural Resource Wealth?")
 - Simulation: Free Trade vs. Protectionism
- **June 21st - International Political Economy**
 - FLS – pp. 296-362 (Ch. 8-9)
 - Simulation: Currency Crises
- **June 26th - International Organization**
 - MS – pp. 224-232 (Fortna, "Does Peacekeeping Work?"), 292-307 (Keohane, "After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy"), 308-319 (Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions")
 - FLS – pp. 189-212 (Ch. 5 - Collective Security), 366-407 (Ch. 10)
 - OPTIONAL PAPER DUE
 - Simulation: Global Security Organizations
 - **June 28th - International Organization**
 - FLS – pp. 408-443 (Ch. 11)
 - MS – pp. 265-269 (Kissinger, "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction"), 270-273 (Roth, "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction"), 274-291 (Rodman, "Is Peace in the Interests of Justice?")
 - Simulation: International Criminal Courts
- **July 3rd - International Relations and Zombies**
 - Simulation: Environmental Challenges
 - TAKE-HOME EXAM PROVIDED
- **July 8th (Sunday)**
 - TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE VIA EMAIL BY MIDNIGHT

Grading Policy

Final grades are determined as follows:

Daily Reading Quizzes	20%
Attendance and Participation *	40%
Final Exam	40%

* Attendance and Participation includes, but is not limited to, (1) attendance, (2) participation in class discussion, (3) participation in the IR simulation, and (4) participation in online discussion via the eLearning discussion boards.

The grading scale used is as follows:

A+	= 97% and up
A	= 93-96%
A-	= 90-92%
B+	= 87-89%
B	= 83-86%
B-	= 80-82%
C+	= 77-79%
C	= 73-76%
C-	= 70-72%
D	= 65-69%
F	= 64% and lower

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory – missing one class during this 5-week session is equivalent to missing about two weeks of classes during a normal long semester. Students are allowed to miss one class with prior notice and written documentation of the reason for the absence. Subsequent absences *for any reason* may result in not receiving credit for the class due to the limited number of meetings.

Participation requires regular contributions to class discussions; however, quality always trumps quantity. We will set aside the first 10-15 minutes of each class to allow students to discuss current events and how they may relate the course material. Bringing a topic to our attention or offering a substantive contribution to our discussion of an event will aid your participation grade. Additionally, students may increase their participation grade by contributing to online discussion through the eLearning discussion board. Please remember to be respectful in your discussions; uncivil discussion behavior will result in an automatic grade of 0 for participation, and may warrant further action.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz given every class over the reading assigned for that day. Each quiz will last 15 minutes and consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Students must provide their own Scantron sheet (Form 882-E) and #2 pencil for all quizzes. There are no make-up quizzes, except for copiously documented emergencies.

Exams

There will be one take-home exam provided on the last day we meet for class. There are no make-up exams, except for copiously documented emergencies.

To compensate for having only one exam (due to so few class meetings), students will be given an opportunity to complete an optional paper which will reduce the weight of the exam from 40% to 30%, with the remaining 10% being assigned to that paper. Details on the specific requirements of the optional paper will be given later in the semester.

Simulations

The last portion of class will be devoted to running and participating in an international relations simulated scenario drawn from the recommended Tessman book. Active participation in the simulation counts toward the participation grade. Groups will be assigned and rules described within the first week of class.

Grade Appeals

Any student who wishes to challenge a grade on an assignment may do so by submitting a written memo detailing the grade you think you deserve and the logic supporting your request. Within one week of the return of the assignment or the posting of the grade. Please include the original assignment and evaluation with the request.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted.

eLearning

eLearning will occasionally be used to communicate with students and post updated course information. Please be sure you have access to your eLearning account and check it regularly.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy

Use of a cell phone during class is strictly prohibited; please turn your phones off or on silent (*not vibrate*). If it is an emergency, please step outside the classroom to take the emergency call or text. Students are allowed to use personal computers and tablets for taking notes during class. However, if the use of the device becomes a distraction or hindrance to other students (such as by web browsing or playing games), then device use may be prohibited for that class and future classes. Electronic devices may not be used at all during quizzes. **Any use of any electronic device during quizzes will result in a zero for that quiz. Further infractions will result in ejection from the classroom and the enforcement of disciplinary procedures in accordance with university policies and procedures.**

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change without prior notice at the discretion of the Professor.