

PSCI 3328
International Relations
FALL 2017

Instructor: Vito D'Orazio

Time and Location: T, Th 10:00-11:15am, GR 2.530

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Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30-10:00am, GR 3.318

Course Goals and Overview

This is the introductory political science course on international relations. This course has three major goals: (1) to learn what it means to study international relations (and political science more generally) *scientifically*; (2) to understand general theories for international behavior and apply those theories to real-world events; (3) to develop and expand your knowledge base on important topics in international relations, including civil and international conflict, international economics and development, and human rights and the global environment.

These three learning objectives will be assessed throughout the course's homework assignments, the midterm, and the final exam. Each of these are writing assignments, and the goal for each student is to demonstrate an analysis and synthesis of course materials.

Course Requirements

You are required to complete one reading assignment before every class, with the exception of the day of the midterm and the day of the international trade game. There will be eleven graded homework assignments, a midterm, and a final exam.

Final Grade Composition

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Eleven Homeworks | 30% (3% each, 1 bonus) |
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 35% |
| Attendance & Participation | 10% |

Attendance and participation (10%)

These are the easiest points you can get. Show up, be attentive, and participate to get full credit.

Short homework assignments (30%)

There will be eleven short homework assignments to be submitted through eLearning by midnight **the day before class**. For each assignment (unless otherwise noted): summarize the reading (1-3 sentences), raise two thoughtful questions, and discuss your reaction to the reading (3-5 sentences). For example, by midnight of August 23, read *One World, Rival Theories*, complete the assignment, and submit through eLearning.

Note that there are eleven homework assignments, but that you cannot receive more than 30 points toward your final grade. Thus, if you complete all eleven assignments and your scores sum to 31, 32, or 33, you still only receive 30 points toward your final grade.

Midterm Exam (25%)

The midterm exam is an open book, in-class exam. You will be provided with three essay questions and will write a *one page* essay on *one* question of your choice. Essays should include in-text citations of course readings. If you cite readings that are not required, include their citation in a reference list at the end of your essay. The reference list will not count towards your one page limit. A perfect essay will have a clearly stated thesis that is supported with facts and examples using the vocabulary of the class. It will demonstrate both analysis and synthesis of course materials.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam is an open book exam. You will be provided with three essay questions, will choose two, and will write a *one page* essay on each. Essays should include in-text citations of course readings. If you cite readings that are not required, include their citation in a reference list at the end of your essay. The reference list will not count towards your one page limit. A perfect essay will have a clearly stated thesis that is supported with facts and examples using the vocabulary of the class. It will demonstrate both analysis and synthesis of course materials.

Grade Scale

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

See <http://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic> for additional information about university grading policies.

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: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Required Texts

- Frieden, J. A., Lake, D. A., and Shultz, K. A. (2016). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Norton, 3rd edition
 - Available at UTD bookstores
 - You may buy or rent an electronic copy at nortonebooks.com
- Uriarte, M. (2016). *The White Donkey: Terminal Lance*. Little, Brown and Company
 - Available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or other retailers
- Additional readings are available through the library and will be made available online. Students are not required to print materials.

Course Outline

Part I – The International System

Day 1: Introductions and Syllabus August 22

- FLS: Introduction

Day 2: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism (Grand Theory) August 24

- Snyder, J. (2004). One world, rival theories. *Foreign Policy*, (145):52
- Homework 1

Day 3: Power Transition Theory and China August 29

- Schweller, R. L. and Pu, X. (2011). After unipolarity: China's visions of international order in an era of us decline. *International Security*, 36(1):41–72

Day 4: Grand Theory and Territorial Expansion in China August 31

- Taylor Fravel, M. (2010). International relations theory and china's rise: Assessing china's potential for territorial expansion. *International Studies Review*, 12(4):505–532
- Homework 2

Day 5: Grand Theory and Foreign Policy**September 5**

- 2016 Democratic or Republican Party Platform
- Homework 3: The Party Platform Assignment

Each student will extract and summarize three foreign policy positions (one paragraph each) from her or his assigned party platform (Democratic, Republican, or Libertarian, I decide). Please submit these summaries as your homework assignment, and be prepared to discuss in class.

Day 6: Understanding Interests, Interactions, Institutions**September 7**

- FLS: Chapter Two: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

Part II – Conflict**Day 7: Bargaining Theory and International Conflict****September 12**

- FLS: Chapter Three: Why Are There Wars?

Day 8: Bargaining Theory Applied to the Iraq War**September 14**

- Lake, D. A. (2011). Two cheers for bargaining theory: Assessing rationalist explanations of the Iraq war. *International Security*, 35(3):7–52
- Homework 4

Day 9: Domestic Sources of Conflict**September 19**

- FLS: Chapter Four: Domestic Politics and War

Day 10: Regimes and Conflict**September 21**

- Weeks, J. L. (2012). Strongmen and straw men: Authoritarian regimes and the initiation of international conflict. *American Political Science Review*, 106(02):326–347
- Homework 5

Day 11: Institutions and Failed States**September 26**

- Krasner, S. D. (2004). Sharing sovereignty: new institutions for collapsed and failing states. *International security*, 29(2):85–120

Day 12: Institutions and Conflict**September 28**

- FLS: Chapter Five: International Institutions and War
- Homework 6

Day 13: Civil Conflict and Terrorism **October 3**

- FLS: Chapter Six: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

Day 14: Strategies of Terrorism **October 5**

- Kydd, A. and Walter, B. (2006). The strategies of terrorism. *International Security*, 31(1):49–80
- Homework 7

Day 15 **October 10**

- Midterm

Part III – International Political Economy**Day 16: International Trade Game** **October 12**

- International Trade Game

Day 17: International Trade **October 17**

- FLS: Chapter Seven: International Trade

Day 18: Domestic Opposition and International Trade **October 19**

- Margalit, Y. (2012). Lost in globalization: International economic integration and the sources of popular discontent¹. *International Studies Quarterly*, 56(3):484–500
- Homework 8

Day 19: Sanctions and Regime Types **October 24**

- Escribà-Folch, A. and Wright, J. (2010). Dealing with tyranny: International sanctions and the survival of authoritarian rulers. *International Studies Quarterly*, 54(2):335–359

Day 20: International Financial Relations **October 26**

- FLS: Chapter Eight: International Financial Relations

Day 21: Financial Relations: Euro Crisis I **October 31**

- Walter, S. (2016). Crisis politics in europe why austerity is easier to implement in some countries than in others. *Comparative Political Studies*, 49(7):841–873

Day 22: Financial Relations: Euro Crisis II **November 2**

- Bechtel, M. M., Hainmueller, J., and Margalit, Y. (2014). Preferences for international redistribution: The divide over the eurozone bailouts. *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(4):835–856
- Homework 9

Day 23: Development **November 7**

- FLS: Chapter Ten: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations

Day 24: International Economic Institutions **November 9**

- Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., and Robinson, J. A. (2001). The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation. *The American Economic Review*, 91(5):1369–1401

Part IV – Transnational Politics**Day 25: Introduction to Transnational Issues** **November 14**

- FLS: Chapter Twelve: Human Rights

Day 26: Genocide and Rwanda **November 16**

- Power, S. (2001). Bystanders to genocide: Why the united states let the rwanda tragedy happen. *Atlantic Monthly*, 288(2):84–108
- Homework 10

Day 27: The White Donkey **November 28**

- Uriarte, M. (2016). *The White Donkey: Terminal Lance*. Little, Brown and Company

Day 28: Global Environment as a Transnational Issue **November 30**

- FLS: Chapter Thirteen: The Global Environment

Day 29: Managing the Global Environment **December 5**

- Keohane, R. O. and Victor, D. G. (2011). The regime complex for climate change. *Perspectives on politics*, 9(01):7–23
- Homework 11

Final exam date to be determined by the university.