

INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations

(CRN 34278)

University of Georgia, Fall 2017

MWF 09:05 - 09:55

Caldwell Hall 203

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Overview and Objectives

How can we best understand international phenomena? Who are the major actors in international politics? Why do states go to war? Does nuclear proliferation lead to conflict or peace? What are the costs and benefits of free trade?

This course attempts to answer questions such as these by introducing students to the study of international relations (IR). The main goal is to provide students with analytical tools for understanding certain events and interpreting their effects. The course begins with an overview of various theoretical lenses used to interpret the behavior of major actors. Then the course will touch on the makings of foreign policy and the linkage between domestic politics and IR. Based on these foundations, the second half of the course will visit specific issue areas and topics such as human rights, terrorism, international trade, etc., as well as spending a week running simulations of real-world issues.

Required Materials

There is one required book for the course. All other readings will a) be available online (through the link provided on this syllabus), or b) be uploaded to our class webpage on eLC (journal articles).

* Goldstein, Joshua S, and Pevehouse, Jon C. *International Relations 10th Edition, 2013-2014 Update*. Pearson. ISBN 9780205971367

Readings should be completed in preparation for the day of class on which they are assigned. Lectures and discussions will complement and supplement (not replace) the reading materials.

Course Requirements

There are 6 graded components to the course.

(1) Attendance and Participation (10%) (2) Quiz (15%)

(3) Reflective Essays (15%)
(5) Midterm Exam (20%)

(4) Group Presentation (15%)
(6) Final Exam (25%)

Attendance and participation (10%)

Each student will get three (3) unexcused absences, without impacting their attendance grade. If you are using one of these, you do not need to notify the instructor. After that, 2%p (from your total grade) will be deducted for each additional unexcused absence.

If you need to miss a class meeting for a documented reason (doctor's appointment, illness, college-sanctioned events, etc.), please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Provided with the necessary documentation, these absences will not count against your attendance and participation grade.

Participation is crucial to achieving the objectives of the course. Each of us will have different perspectives, and sharing one's views with others will help all of us broaden our horizons and deepen our understanding about the topics discussed in class. Students are encouraged to make valuable contributions to class discussions. Participation will be assessed both in quality and quantity.

Quiz (15%)

There will be 3 unannounced quizzes during the semester. The quizzes are most likely to cover materials from the week's readings, but may also include materials from previous lectures, readings, and presentations from your peers. Out of the three quizzes, the lowest score will be dropped, and the mean of the other two will make 15% of your total grade. Make-up quizzes will only be given to students who had a documented (excused) absence on the day of the quiz. The student has one week from the date of absence to contact the instructor and schedule a make-up quiz.

Reflective Essays (15%)

Each student will write two reflective essays during the semester. The first essay should contain a brief summary (1-2 paragraphs) and reflections (of your own) about an article of their choice from the readings in this course. Reflections may include whether you liked/disliked the article (and why), strengths and weaknesses of the argument, application to actual events, etc. I strongly recommend students to choose from an academic journal article, not from a book chapter or online posts so that one can effectively demonstrate his/her ability to think critically.

The second essay should be written after the week of simulations (scheduled in Week 14 in this syllabus). Each group of students will be assigned to a particular actor and a role in the simulation, and we will use class time to run a mock version of the negotiations. Students will reflect on why you and your group decided to perform certain actions or take certain stances, and how those behaviors connect to the things we learned over the semester.

Each reflective essay will account for 7.5% of your total grade, and should not exceed 3 pages, double spaced. The first essay (reflecting on a journal article) is due before class begins on the day we are

scheduled to go over that article, and the second essay (reflecting on our week of simulations) will be due before class begins on 11/27 (Monday). Both essays should be uploaded electronically (Word or PDF) through eLC. Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Group Presentation (15%)

As mentioned briefly in the overview, the second part of our course will visit various topics in international relations. During this part of the course students will be asked to form groups of 3 or less. For each week (after the midterm), two groups will give presentations on a related topic of their choice. Each group is strongly encouraged to schedule an appointment with the instructor prior to the date of presentation and discuss the “game plan” for the presentation. A group’s presentation should not exceed 20 minutes (including the Q&A from the audience).

Out of the 15%, 10% of your grade will be based on the group presentation. More specifically, it will be based on the content, stimulation of interest, and how the group handles the Q&A session. The other 5% will come from peer evaluations. Within the group, each member will turn in a peer evaluation form (which will be provided by the instructor), assessing other group members' contributions and their cooperativeness.

Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm exam will be held on 9/29 (Friday) during class hours. The exam will be in two parts: short answers (10 points), and an essay (10 points). There will be 10 short answer questions each worth 1 point, which will look for key terms or concepts from the material we cover. The essay question will also be worth 10 points, and will look for a critical assessment (from your own) on a topic we cover in class. In the exam, students will answer one question (there will be two questions to choose from). The same make-up policy applies to the midterm exam as it did to the quizzes.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be held on 12/8 (Friday) from 08:00 to 11:00. The final exam will be cumulative, but with much more emphasis on the content covered after the midterm exam. Most of the questions from the pre-midterm part will come directly from the midterm exam. The final will also be in two parts: short answers (15 points), and essay (10 points). There will be 15 short answer questions each worth 1 point, and one essay question worth 10 points (also with multiple questions to choose from).

Grading Scale

Letter grades will correspond to the following 0-100 scale:

93.00 to 100 = A	90.00 to 92.99 = A-
88.00 to 89.99 = B+	83.00 to 87.99 = B
80.00 to 82.99 = B-	78.00 to 79.99 = C+

72.00 to 77.99 = C
60.00 to 69.99 = D

70.00 to 71.99 = C-
59.99 and below = F

Class Discussions and Mutual Respect

Class discussions will be an important component to a productive semester for all of us. However, discussions about certain positions or policies might get heated. During class discussions, please remember to be civil. You are expected to be a good citizen in this class, both toward other class participants and the instructor. Disrespectful behavior or statements to others will not be tolerated.

Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones, music players, and other noise-making devices must be silenced and put away during class. Frequent disruptions may negatively impact your participation grade. Laptops are allowed for note-taking purposes only (not for surfing the web). The instructor reserves the right to alter these policies if the set of rules are violated.

University Honor Code / Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty", and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" which is accessible at (<http://www.uga.edu/honesty>). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation.

Classroom Accommodations

The university is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Students in need of special accommodations need to request such services from the Disability Resource Center located at Room 114, Clarke Howell Hall (for more information, visit www.drc.uga.edu) and should make an appointment with the instructor with appropriate paperwork from DRC within the first two weeks of classes.

Important Dates

8/18 (F): Last day of drop/add period
9/29 (F): Midterm Exam
10/27 (F): Fall break (No class)
11/27 (M): Classes resume
12/8 (F): Final exam, 08:00 - 11:00

9/4 (M): Labor Day (No class)
10/19 (R): Withdrawal Deadline
11/20 - 24 (M-F): Thanksgiving break (No class)
12/5 (T): Friday schedule, Last day of class

Course Schedule

* The schedule below is a tentative plan for the course, and is subject to change. The instructor will publicly announce any changes to the syllabus via eLC or email communications.

** The required book for the course (Goldstein and Pevehouse) will be referred to as G&P below.

Week 1. An Introduction to Studying IR

Date	Theme	Reading(s)	Note
8/14 (M)	Welcome	Syllabus	
8/16 (W)	What is IR?	G&P Ch. 1 pp. 1-19	
8/18 (F)	Brief history	G&P Ch. 1 pp. 21-38	Drop/add period ends

Week 2. Realist Theories

8/21 (M)	Key concepts	G&P Ch. 2 pp. 42-54	
8/23 (W)	Dilemmas in detail	Jervis, R. (1978), "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma". <i>World Politics</i> , 30(2), pp. 167-214 (read through 167-186, skim the rest)	On eLC
8/25 (F)	Realism and the world	G&P Ch. 2 pp. 54-70	

Week 3. Liberal and Social Theories

8/28 (M)	Liberal theories	G&P Ch. 3 pp. 84-94	
8/30 (W)	Neo-liberal institutionalism	Keohane, R., & Martin, L. (1995), "The Promise of Institutional Theory". <i>International Security</i> 20(1), pp. 39-51	On eLC
9/1 (F)	Social theories	G&P Ch. 3 pp. 96-122	

Week 4. Foreign Policy

9/4 (M)		No Class (Labor Day)	
9/6 (W)	Foreign Policy Decision Making	G&P Ch. 4 pp. 127-136	
9/8 (F)	Psychology and FP	Kahneman, D. & Renshon, J. (2009), "Why Hawks Win". <i>Foreign Policy</i> http://foreignpolicy.com/2009/10/13/why-hawks-win/	Finalize group assignments

Week 5. Domestic Politics and IR

9/11 (M)	Domestic politics	G&P Ch. 4 pp.136-147	
9/13 (W)	Two-level game	Putnam, R. (1988), "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games". <i>International Organization</i> 42(3), pp. 427-460	On eLC
9/15 (F)	Trump and American FP	"America First Foreign Policy" by the White House https://www.whitehouse.gov/america-first-foreign-policy	

Week 6. International Conflict

9/18 (M)	Why war?	G&P Ch. 5 pp.152-160 Fearon, J. (1995), "Rationalist Explanations of War". <i>International Organization</i> 49(3), pp. 379-414	On eLC
9/20 (W)	Conflict of Ideas	G&P Ch. 5 pp. 160-177	
9/22 (F)	Conflict of Interest	G&P Ch. 5 pp.177-188	

Week 7. Midterm Exam

9/25 (M)	WMDs	G&P Ch. 6 pp.209-222 Waltz, K. (2012), "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb". <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 91(4), pp. 2-5	On eLC
9/27 (W)	Review Day		
9/29 (F)		Midterm Exam	

Week 8. International Organizations

10/2 (M)	Institutions	Koremenos, B., Lipson, C., & Snidal, D. (2001), "The Rational Design of International Institutions". <i>International Organization</i> 55(4), pp. 761-799.	On eLC
10/4 (W)	United Nations	G&P Ch. 7 pp. 232-254	
10/6 (F)	Presentations		Groups 1 and 2

Week 9. International Law and Human Rights

10/9 (M)	International Law	G&P Ch. 7 pp. 254-264	
10/11(W)	Human Rights	G&P Ch. 7 pp. 264-276	
10/13 (F)	Presentations		Groups 3 and 4

Week 10. Terrorism

10/16(M)	Terrorism	G&P Ch. 6 pp. 204-209	
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		Pape, R. (2003), "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism". <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(3), pp.343-361	On eLC
10/18(W)	Drones	Bowden, M. (2013), "The Killing Machines: How to Think About Drones". <i>The Atlantic</i> https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/09/the-killing-machines-how-to-think-about-drones/309434/ Chappel, B. (2015), "Researchers Warn Against 'Autonomous Weapons' Arms Race". <i>NPR</i> http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/07/28/427189235/researchers-warn-against-autonomous-weapons-arms-race	
10/20 (F)	Presentations		Groups 5 and 6

Week 11. International Trade and Finance

10/23(M)	Trade and Globalization	G&P Ch. 8 pp. 282-309, pp. 309-319	
10/25(W)	Finance and Currency	G&P Ch. 9 pp. 320-333	
10/27 (F)		No Class (Fall Break)	

Week 12. Inequality and North-South Gap

10/30(M)	Presentations		Groups 7 and 8
11/1 (W)	Inequality	G&P Ch. 12 pp. 424-443	
11/3 (F)	Presentations		Groups 9 and 10

Week 13. International Development

11/6 (M)	Development	G&P Ch. 13 pp. 460-476	
11/8 (W)	Bad Samaritans?	G&P Ch. 13 pp. 476-495 The "Bad Samaritan" debate, watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJXx4hODeOk	
11/10 (F)	Presentations		Groups 11 and 12

Week 14. Simulation Week (topics subject to change)

11/13(M)		Climate Change Negotiations	
11/15(W)		North Korea's Nuclear Program	
11/17 (F)		Public Statements, Wrap-ups, and Feedback	

Week 15. Environment and Population

11/27(M)	Environment	G&P Ch. 11 pp. 386-409	Essays due before class
11/29(W)	Population	G&P Ch. 11 pp. 409-422	
12/1 (F)	Presentations		Groups 13 and 14

Week 16. Wrap-up and Final Exam

12/4 (M)	Wrapping up		
12/5 (W)	Review Day		
12/8 (F)		Final Exam 08:00 – 11:00	