

INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations

Candler Hall 115
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 am to 10:45 am

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: 2:00 - 4:00 pm Tuesday/Thursday and other times by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

When are countries likely to go to war? Why do groups use terrorism to try to get what they want? Why does the Chinese economy impact American politics? Could environmental treaties help stop pollution? These questions, and many like them, are becoming impossible to ignore in an increasingly globalized world. This class serves as a first step in understanding the scientific study of international politics. We will focus on scientific explanations of war, terrorism, political economy, civil society, human rights, and environmental protection in order to gain better theoretical insights into the current world political environment. After this class, you will have not only an understanding of the major players in world politics but a base understanding of the social scientific processes which govern the international political system. As such, this class is **not** a history class or a class on current events. Though current and historical events will be discussed, your grade will not depend on your rote memorization of these events. Instead, the focus will be on understanding the underlying interests of the actors in the international system, the arenas in which they interact, and the rules which govern their interactions. This focus on basic principles will provide you with a rich practical knowledge of international politics.

We will begin the semester by focusing briefly on the social scientific method and the major actors in world politics. After this introduction, the class will be divided into three major sections: (1) War and Peace, (2) International Political Economy, (3) Emerging Areas in World Politics. The first section will focus on scientific explanations for the occurrence of international, civil war, and terrorism and the various instruments that can be used to stop violence. The second section will focus on the study of globalization, international trade, investment, and monetary relations. The final section will include discussions on the growing number of scientific studies of international law, international advocacy and non-governmental actors, human rights, and the environment. After this class, you will be prepared for upper level courses on each of these major topics or you could use your knowledge to gain entry-level positions with various government and international organizations.

Grading

Your course grade is calculated from the following components:

- 25% - Test 1 - **October 5th, in class**
- 25% - Test 2 - **Tuesday, December 12th 8:00 am to 11:00 am**

- 5% - War and Terrorism Group Presentation - **September 28th, in class**
- 15% - War and Terrorism Short Paper - **due September 28th, in class**
- 5% - IPE/Transnational Group Presentation - **November 30th, in class**
- 15% - IPE/Transnational Short Paper - **due November 30th, in class**
- 10% - Participation/Quizzes

Tests

Each exam will be closed note, closed book. You will have the complete time period to work on the exam. Each test will be multiple choice and short answer, consisting of between 40 and 50 questions. If you would prefer to take an essay test, I have no problem providing one for you. Just let me know at least a week prior to the exam day. A review sheet will be made available at least two days before each exam.

Group Presentations

Before both the midterm and the final, we will have small group presentations that provide backgrounds on events that relate to our course discussion. Before the midterm, we will have group presentations relating to terrorist groups and major armed conflicts. Before the final, we will have group presentations on issues of transnational activism and political economy. A list of suggested topics for the presentations, detailed instructions, and a rubric for the assignment are available on the UGA eLearningCommons page for this course. You can choose your own group, between 3-5 people.

Individual Papers Related to Group Presentation

For the portion of the group presentation that you were responsible for, you will turn in a 5-7 page paper where you outline the information you have found on this topic and how your findings relate to the topics we have covered in the course. A rubric for this assignment is available on the UGA eLearningCommons page for this course. These papers will be due prior to the group presentations.

Participation

I have also allotted 10% of your grade to participation and informed discussion. Simply attending the class but not participating in class discussions will not be sufficient. I will take attendance and will record whether you are willing and able to participate in the course discussion and answer questions about the readings. At certain times throughout the semester, an in-class quiz may be used for that day's participation points. You will be allotted 2 course absences. After that, any excused absence will require documentation. If documentation of an excused absence is provided, you will be required to take a make-up quiz (during office hours) to verify your understanding of the materials that you missed.

Your active participation is very important. Always feel free to state your opinions in a way that invites discussion. No outside knowledge of international relations or political science scholarship, of history, or of current events will be necessary for effective class participation. Discussion of other scholarship, history, and current events will certainly be welcome when they are relevant, but **careful reading** of the materials assigned for this course and **concentrated thinking** about the ideas raised in class will be a sufficient basis from which to contribute profitably to class discussion. The first step toward participating in class is attending class and reading the course materials prior to the day they are assigned.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be calculated on the following scale:

- 94 to 100 - A
- 90 to 93 - A-
- 87 to 89 - B+
- 84 to 87 - B
- 80 to 83 - B-
- 77 to 79 - C+
- 74 to 77 - C
- 70 to 73 - C-
- 67 to 69 - D+
- 64 to 67 - D
- 60 to 63 - D-
- 59 and below - F

Useful Information and University Policies

Attendance and Missing Class

I realize you are adults with rich and full lives outside of class. However, as stated above, the participation points for this class require your attendance. Tests and assignments are also taken and/or due in class. Making up any assignment or participation points requires proper documentation.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

The following is taken verbatim from <https://curriculumsystems.uga.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus>:

“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” found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.”

Changes to the Syllabus Could Occur

The following is taken verbatim from <https://curriculumsystems.uga.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus>:

“The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”

Disability Services

The following is taken verbatim from <https://drc.uga.edu/faculty/sample-access-statements>:

“If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>”

The following is taken verbatim from <https://online.uga.edu/documents/ugasyllabusguidelines.pdf>:

“Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.”

Useful Campus Resources

There are many campus resources that can help you with your academic performance and assist you during the semester. I urge you to check out the Division of Academic Enhancement and the Writing Center.

Some material in this course contains references to violence. You are always welcome to excuse yourself during class for any reason and I urge you to take your mental health seriously. There are campus resources to help.

Course Textbook

There is a required textbook for this course:

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 3rd Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

I expect you to have completed each day's reading **before** the class when it appears on the syllabus.

Class Outline

August 15th: Intro to Course

Lecture Title: Why should I care about international relations? (Or, why should I pay attention if I don't have to?)

Readings: *None Required*

Goals of the Lecture: Outline the class, define world politics/international relations

Questions: What are the goals of this class? When are the tests and assignments due? Is this an easy "A"? I already watch CNN/Fox News - why do I need this course anyway?

August 17th: Foundations, Part 1 - Scientific Method and Ways of Looking at International Relations

Lecture Title: Let's Put the Science in Political Science

Readings: Pages xx-xxxiii

Goals of the Lecture: Provide background knowledge on social science and political science methodology, discuss international relations as a subdiscipline

Questions: What is the difference between a political scientist and a political pundit? How is political science organized as an academic discipline? What is international affairs? What can social science answer? And, why do you call countries "states"?

August 22nd: Foundations, Part 2 - Historical Background

Lecture Title: World History in 75 Minutes

Readings: Pages 2-39

Goals of the Lecture: Provide background of international historical events that matter for current makeup of international relations

Questions: Why does the map look like it does? What factors led to the world today?

August 24th: Foundations, Part 3 - 3 I's Framework: Interests, Institutions, and Interactions - Overview

Lecture Title: Learning about International Relations without Memorizing a UN Flow Chart

Readings: Pages 42-81

Goals of the Lecture: Identify major actors in international relations and their motivations and constraints

Questions: Who is important in world politics? Who should I focus on?

August 29th: Foundations, Part 4 - 3 I's Framework: Interests, Institutions, and Interactions - Focus on Interactions

Lecture Title: Learning about International Interactions Can Help You Get a Used Car Cheaper

Readings: Pages 82-87

Goals of the Lecture: Basic understanding of cooperation and bargaining games

Questions: Why do certain people always win at chess? How can I make sure someone cooperates with me?

August 31st: Interstate War, Part 1 - Bargaining Model of War

Lecture Title: Is There a Pattern to When Wars Take Place?

Readings: Pages 88-135

Goals of the Lecture: Define war (international and civil), define terrorism, outline how war is different than just interstate conflict, rationalist explanations for war, define commitment, indivisibility, incomplete info

Questions: What is war? Why should we study it? What is the difference between an international and a civil war? Are all conflicts war? Is one person's freedom fighter another person's terrorist? If war is costly, why would a rational country ever go to war? How is information important in war? Why is it hard to commit to peace? Why couldn't countries ever just divide up the land and compromise?

September 5th: Interstate War, Part 2 - Domestic Interests and War

Lecture Title: Leaders, Special Interests, and War: Perhaps Some People Do Want More War & Democratic Peace Theory: The Closest Thing to A Law We Have in the Social Sciences

Readings: Pages 136-183

Goals of the Lecture: Explain the role that leaders, domestic politics, military, and special interests have in decisions to go to war and in the fighting of the war, explain how regime type impacts war

Questions: Is there really a "wag the dog" effect? Are testosterone filled men more likely to go to war? Are military leaders more likely to fight? Can ordinary citizens really impact their country's decision to go to war? How? How does this relate to the rationalist explanations of war? Do democracies fight wars more or less than nondemocracies? Should we encourage democracy for peace? How does this relate to the rationalist explanations of war?

September 7th: Interstate War, Part 3 - Alliances

Lecture Title: Allies and Enemies: Are they Mutually Exclusive?

Readings: Pages 184-207

Goals of the Lecture: Understand the role alliances have in international war onset, fighting, and termination

Questions: Why ally? Are alliances good or bad for peace? Do alliances work to stop war or do they just bring in more countries into a war? What is the alternative of alliances? How does this relate to the rationalist explanations of war?

September 12th: Interstate War, Part 4 - UN, Collective Security Organizations, and Peacekeepers

Lecture Title: UN Involvement and Peacekeeping & Treaties and IGO Involvement: Let's Agree to Disagree

Readings: Pages 206-233

Goals of the Lecture: Discuss the role treaties and IGOs play in war termination, understand why peace-keeping may help

Questions: Can treaties help stop war? How does the UN try to stop war? Is it successful? Why would you want to send peacekeepers to a conflict? Do they help?

September 14th: Terrorism, Civil War, and Insurgency, Part 1 - Why People Rebel (Overview)

Lecture Title: Let's Start a Rebellion: How to Get Your Friends Off the Couch

Readings: Pages 234-264

Goals of the Lecture: Outline what rebellion is and how it can look, discuss motivations for rebellions

Questions: What does a rebellion look like? What motivates a terrorist/insurgent?

September 19th: Terrorism, Civil War, and Insurgency, Part 2 - How Does Ethnicity Factor In? (Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflicts)

Lecture Title: Civil Wars and the Factors that Lead to Them

Readings: No New Readings

Goals of the Lecture: Outline what ethnicity is and how ethnicity could matter for conflict, focus on civil war motivations

Questions: What leads to a civil war? Does ethnicity cause war?

September 21th: Terrorism and Insurgency, Part 3 - History & Strategy of Terrorism

Lecture Title: Terrorism over Time and the Logic of Attacks

Readings: Pages 264-289

Goals of the Lecture: Outline how the nature of terrorism changed over time and how different attacks are for different strategic reasons

Questions: Is terrorism changing? Why do certain attacks happen? What do terrorists want?

September 26th: Terrorism and Insurgency, Part 4 - Counterterrorism & Counterinsurgency

Lecture Title: How Do You Fight Terrorists and Insurgents?

Readings: No New Readings

Goals of the Lecture: Define counterterrorism and counterinsurgency, discuss the various approaches to stop terrorism and insurgency and whether the various approaches are successful

Questions: How do you stop a terrorist or insurgent? Can stopping a terrorist cause more terrorists?

September 28th: War and Terrorism Presentations - Individual Papers Due in Class

October 3rd: War and Terrorism Presentations & Review for Test 1

October 5th: Test 1

October 10th: International Trade, Part 1 - Why Trade?

Lecture Title: International Political Economy: Another Source of International Conflict, Sometimes with Blood

Readings: Pages 290-313, 334-339

Goals of the Lecture: Outline the study of IPE and what political science adds to the understanding of international economics, outline different theories for trade preferences

Questions: Wait a second - shouldn't economists study this? What is international political economy? Why is it political? What is trade, finance, and monetary relations? Why would someone want free trade?

October 12th: International Trade, Part 2 - International Interactions about Trade

Lecture Title: Who Gets What They Want From International Trade: Winners and Losers

Readings: Pages 313-333

Goals of the Lecture: Discuss how trade preferences can translate into policy, who wins and loses

Questions: Who gains and loses from free trade? When do leaders respond to what the public's preferences over trade? How does regime type and domestic institutions factor in to trade protection?

October 17th: Dr. Murdie in Tunisia - Video Assignment (To be announced in class)

October 19th: Dr. Murdie in Tunisia - Video Assignment (To be announced in class)

October 24th: International Investment, Part 1 - Multinational Corporations

Lecture Title: Multinational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Readings: Pages 340-349, 365-379

Goals of the Lecture: Define multinational corporations and international direct investment, discuss the causes and effects of each, also discuss migration

Questions: Are multinational corporations bad for a developing country? What makes foreign direct investment likely? Is this investment good for people living in the country?

October 26th: International Investment, Part 2 - Sovereign Debt and the IMF

Lecture Title: What Happens When The Big Guys are Broke? Sovereign Debt and the IMF

Readings: Pages 349-365

Goals of the Lecture: Outline sovereign lending, the IMF, the politics behind lending, define conditionality, commitment and borrowing

Questions: What is sovereign debt? How does a country get a loan? What is the IMF? Do loans really help?

October 31st: International Monetary Relations

Lecture Title: Three C's: Currencies, Capitalism, and Conflict

Readings: Pages 380-419

Goals of the Lecture: Outline finance policy, domestic political interests in monetary relations, the role international institutions play in monetary policy

Questions: What is an exchange rate? How is it determined? Who wants fixed capital? How do international institutions impact monetary relations?

November 3rd: Development, Part 1 - How Did Countries Get Poor/Rich?

Lecture Title: Why Aren't All Countries Developed? A Tale of Colonialism, Resource Wealth, and the Resource Curse

Readings: Pages 420-434

Goals of the Lecture: Define development and its components, discuss why development is difficult to achieve, outline the role colonialism and resources play in development

Questions: Why isn't every country developed? Is colonialism to blame? Do natural resources help or hurt a country's development?

November 7th: Development, Part 2 - How Do We Help Poor Countries?

Lecture Title: Is There A Happy Ending? Development Policies and Globalization

Readings: Pages 434-455

Goals of the Lecture: Discuss what foreign aid is and the evidence for whether it is working to help stop poverty, discuss alternative ways to help stop poverty

Questions: Do developmental policies work? What's the deal with foreign aid? Is globalization helping?

November 9th: International Law and Norms

Lecture Title: Let's Just Make a World Court!

Readings: Pages 456-489

Goals of the Lecture: Discuss what international law is and how it can/can't work, discuss transnational advocacy

Questions: What is international law? How does it work? Does Amnesty International/Greenpeace really matter?

November 14th: Human Rights

Lecture Title: Human Rights: Is it Just Rhetoric for Birkenstock-Wearing Hippies?

Readings: Pages 490-531

Goals of the Lecture: Define human rights, outline the rise of human rights institutions and the rise of the human rights movement, outline the domestic and international factors which improve human rights, discuss why international treaties do not work for human rights protection

Questions: What is human rights? Why do we focus on them? Are everything human rights? How are they protected? What leads to human rights abuse? What stops it? Do international treaties help? Why would countries want to protect human rights?

November 16th: Environment

Lecture Title: The Environment: If Everyone Needs It, Why Isn't It Protected?

Readings: Pages 490-531

Goals of the Lecture: Define collective action and the tragedy of the commons, outline the domestic and international interests concerning the environment, outline environmental institutions

Questions: Why isn't the environment protected? Which domestic and international interests are for protecting the environment? Which ones are not? Do treaties help?

November 21st and 23rd: Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28th: The Future in International Relations

Lecture Title: What I Learned Out on the Road and Where to Go From Here

Readings: Pages 532-575

Goals of the Lecture: Discuss WMDs, US leadership, and the future in world politics

Questions: Can we stop WMD? What are the new issues on the horizon?

November 30th: IPE and Transnational Politics Presentations - Individual Papers Due in Class

December 5th: IPE and Transnational Politics Presentations & Review for Test 1

Tuesday, December 12, 8:00 - 11:00 am - Test 2