

INTL 3200 (CRN: 22007) / Fall 2018

Introduction to International Relations

Ryan Powers

ryan.powers@uga.edu

<http://ryanpowers.net>

Office: 310 Candler Hall

Office hours: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. and by appointment.

Class meetings: 9:05–9:55 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday in 115 Candler Hall

Course Description

This course is an undergraduate-level introduction to international politics. The course is designed with two objectives in mind. First, this course will introduce students to the nuts and bolts of the international system. By the end of the course, students will be able to answer the following questions: Who are the important actors in the international system? What are their interests? And how do they pursue them? Second, this course will introduce students to the *study* of international politics. We will review and critique the dominant explanations for international conflict and cooperation across a wide range of issue areas (security, human rights, trade, environment, and more). By the end of this course, students will have practice identifying the strengths and weaknesses of both theoretical arguments and empirical applications in international relations scholarship.

Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course: *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (Third Edition) by Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. It is available at the campus book store, but may be less costly used, online, or as an ebook. Please be sure to purchase the third edition. All other readings will be posted to the course website.

Grading and Expectations

Grades

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class attendance and participation: 20%
- Simulation: 10%
- *Dr. Strangelove* response: 10%

- Midterm 1: 20%
- Midterm 2: 20 %
- Final exam: 20%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation in class discussions is vital to our success this semester. I will take attendance at each class meeting and note whether or not you have actively participated in class. Active participation requires that you ask questions, contribute to class discussions, and take part in our group activities. Failing to actively participate in class discussions will result in a participation grade penalty for the day. You may miss *one* class meeting without a grade penalty. After that, you must let me know of absences in advance and provide documentation excusing your absence to avoid a grade penalty.

You should come to class having read the assigned work closely enough to actively participate in a detailed and critical discussion of the arguments and evidence presented by the authors. I also expect you to come to class already familiar with the major international news stories of the day. You get access to both *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* as part of your student activities fees. Other great international affairs coverage is available from *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, and *BBC World News*.

Note that brown M&M's are strictly prohibited from all class meetings. Send me an email by August 24, 2018 explaining why both Van Halen and myself have such particular tastes when it comes to M&M's and you will receive a 5 point bonus on your participation grade (Hint: goo.gl/ThqEAm).

The use of electronic devices during our class meetings is not prohibited, but is *strongly* discouraged. All noise-making electronics should be silenced and, where possible, set to "Do Not Disturb" for the duration of our class meetings. There is substantial evidence that the use of electronic devices during instruction negatively affects educational outcomes in the classroom.

Assignments

Assignments should be submitted online to the eLearning Commons. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of one-half letter grade per day.

- **Simulation.** Near the beginning of the semester, we will run the Anarchy and Economics simulation. Each student will assume the role of a state leader with unilateral control over economic and security policy. You will make choices about how to allocate your state's resources in order to maximize both prosperity and security. Your grade for this assignment will depend on how well you accomplish those goals during the simulation.
- **Dr. Strangelove Response.** You will write a three-page, double spaced response to *Dr. Strangelove*. An assignment sheet with detailed instructions will be distributed via eLC, but in broad terms, the response paper will ask you to identify

concepts from our discussion of inter-state war and explain how they were illustrated in the movie. This response paper is due **September 10, 2018**.

- **Midterm exams.** There will be two midterm exams. They will be closed book and administered during our normal class meetings on **October 1, 2018** and on **November 5, 2018**. I expect them to take the entire class meeting. The exams will be comprised of a number of multiple choice questions, several short answer questions, and one short essay. The first exam will cover all material between the first class meeting and the first exam, while the second exam will cover all material covered since the first exam. I will grade the first exam and return it to you prior to the withdrawal deadline.
- **Final exam.** The final exam will be cumulative, but will emphasize material covered since the second midterm. It will be administered during our university-assigned final exam period: **8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. on December 8, 2018**. It will *most likely* take place in 115 Candler Hall, but there is a chance we will be assigned a different room. I will confirm the final exam location via email and on eLC later in the semester.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be calculated on the following scale:

- 94–100: A
- 90–93: A-
- 87–89: B+
- 84–87: B
- 80–83: B-
- 77–79: C+
- 74–77: C
- 70–73: C-
- 67–69: D+
- 64–67: D
- 60–63: D-
- Less than 59: F

Accommodations

In accordance with UGA policy, “[s]tudents 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.” More information about accommodations that are available to students with disabilities is available from the [Disability Resource Center](#).

Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct

I expect you to do your own work and to abide by all university policies on academic integrity and professional conduct. In part, these policies state:

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://honesty.uga.edu/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.

Course Outline

Required reading, if any, is listed in parentheses. FLS = Frieden, Lake, and Schultz. The UGA Course Syllabus Policy states: “The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.” **Update (8/20/2018): Note change in simulation scheduling.**

1. Preliminaries

- Monday, August 13, 2018: Introduction (Optionally skim: FLS Chapter 1)
- Wednesday, August 15, 2018: Actors, Interests, and Strategy in World Politics – Part I (FLS xx–xxvii, FLS Chapter 2)
- Friday, August 17, 2018: Actors, Interests, and Strategy in World Politics – Part II
- Monday, August 20, 2018: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part I (FLS Chapter 3)

2. Political Violence

- Wednesday, August 22, 2018: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part II
- Friday, August 24, 2018: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part III (Lake 2010)

- Monday, August 27, 2018: **Anarchy and Economics Simulation** (Simulation Handout)
- Wednesday, August 29, 2018: View *Dr. Strangelove* – Part I
- Friday, August 31, 2018: View *Dr. Strangelove* – Part II
- Monday, September 3, 2018: Labor Day – No Class
- Wednesday, September 5, 2018: Domestic Politics and War – Part I (FLS Chapter 4)
- Friday, September 7, 2018: Domestic Politics and War – Part II
- Monday, September 10, 2018: Domestic Politics and War – Part III (Reiter and Stam 2002, Chapters 1 and 2)
 - ***Dr. Strangelove* response paper due**
- Wednesday, September 12, 2018: Alliances: Why States Fight *for* Each Other (FLS Chapter 5)
- Friday, September 14, 2018: Alliances: Collective Security (Voeten 2005)
- Monday, September 17, 2018: Civil War: Why Wars Occur Within States (FLS Chapter 6)
- Wednesday, September 19: Civil War: International Politics of Rebellion
- Friday, September 21: Terrorism – Part I (Kydd and Walter 2006)
- Monday, September 24: Terrorism – Part II
- Wednesday, September 27: The Future of War (Freedman 2017, Part 3)
- Friday, September 28, 2018: Final Thoughts on Political Violence and Midterm Review
- Monday, October 1, 2018: **Midterm Exam I**

3. Global Integration

- Wednesday, October 3, 2018: International Trade – Part I (FLS Chapter 7)
- Friday, October 5, 2018: International Trade – Part II
- Monday, October 8, 2018: International Finance – Part I (FLS Chapter 8)
- Wednesday, October 10, 2018: International Finance – Part II
- Friday, October 12, 2018: International Monetary Relations – Part I (FLS Chapter 9)
- Monday, October 15, 2018: International Monetary Relations – Part II
- Wednesday, October 17, 2018: Development: Why aren't all countries rich? (FLS Chapter 10)
- Friday, October 19, 2018: Development: Does foreign aid work?
- Monday, October 22, 2018: International Institutions – Part I (Abbott and Snidal 1998)

- Wednesday, October 24, 2018: International Institutions – Part II (Mearsheimer 1994, Keohane and Martin 1995)
- Friday, October 26, 2018: Fall Break — No Class
- Monday, October 29, 2018: Domestic Politics and Economic Integration – Part I (Rodrik 2017, PP TBA)
- Wednesday, October 31, 2018: Domestic Politics and Economic Integration – Part II
- Friday, November 2, 2018: Final Thoughts on Global Integration and Midterm Review
- Monday, November 5, 2018: **Midterm Exam II**

4. Transnational Politics and Emerging Issues

- Wednesday, November 7, 2018: International Law – Part I (FLS Chapter 11)
- Friday, November 9, 2018: International Law – Part II
- Monday, November 12, 2018: Human Rights – Part I (FLS Chapter 12)
- Wednesday, November 14, 2018: Human Rights – Part II
- Friday, November 16, 2018: Global Environment – Part I (FLS Chapter 13)
- Monday, November 19–23, 2018: Thanksgiving Break – No Class
- Monday, November 26, 2018: Global Environment – Part II (Victor 2011, Introduction)
- Wednesday, November 28, 2018: WMD and WMD Proliferation (FLS Chapter 14 and Waltz 2012)
- Friday, November 30, 2018: The Future of the Global Order (Chaudoin et al 2010)
- Monday, December 4, 2018: Final Exam Review
- Monday, December 8, 2018, 8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.: **Final Exam**