

INTL 3200 Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2019

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### **Objectives**

This class is intended to lay the analytic foundation for a study of international politics. The course is anchored to questions like Why war? What are the goals of states? When is international cooperation possible? What is the role of governments in shaping the global economy? Together we will explore proposed answers to these questions (and many others). With a critical eye, we will compare and contrast competing explanations.

### **Requirements**

#### Individual Work

There will be three (3) unannounced in-class examinations. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will cover readings and lecture material, and combine essays (lecture material) and multiple choice (readings).

#### Group Work

#### TBD

There will be no make-up quizzes without medical documentation explaining the absence.

There is no attendance policy for this class. However note, again, that exams will not be announced in advance.

Cheating or plagiarism constitutes grounds for course failure.

A 100-93

A- 92-90

B+ 89-87

B 86- 83

B- 82-80

C+ 79-77

C 76-73

C- 72-70

D 69-60

F 59 and below

### **Readings:**

There is one text for this class: *International Relations* by Goldstein (10th). While a standard introductory text in most respects, it is unique in that the focus is upon the relationship between a state's strategic environment and its ability to pursue foreign policy objectives. It thus serves as a good complement to material presented in class. The text is available at the bookstore for your purchase. However, used copies may be less expensive elsewhere.

There are also a number of official government documents archived online that support the in-class simulation.

Below outlines a timetable for the completion of the assigned readings. *Please have the material read before the class date identified below.* The reading burden for this course is not heavy. I intend this deliberately. There are no excuses for not completing the readings in a timely fashion. That is my 'carrot', the incentive for you to stay current with the readings. The 'stick' rests both in the fact that your careful and considered completion of the assigned readings is essential for success in this course, and that the examinations are structured to ensure this.

Note that the lectures will introduce new material, but the order of topics will generally coincide with the readings.

### **Schedule:**

May 15: Introduction

May 16: Theorizing about International Politics

- G. Ch.1

May 17: Important Actors

- G. Ch.7

May 20: Anarchy & States Goals

May 21: Power

- G. Ch.2 & 6

May 22: Power (continued)

- G. Ch.3

May 23: Decision Making

- G. Ch.4

May 24: Strategic Games

- (No readings)

**\*\*\*May 27: Memorial Day – No Class\*\*\***

May 28: Cooperation/Integration

- G. Ch.10

May 29: Domestic Influences

May 30: War

- G. Ch.5

May 31: War (continued)

June 3: Trade

- G. Ch.8

June 4: Trade (continued)

- G. Ch.9

June 5: Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation/Environment/Development

- G Ch.11, 13