

INTL 3200 (CRN: 30707) / Fall 2019

Introduction to International Relations

Dr. Ryan Powers

ryan.powers@uga.edu

<http://ryanpowers.net>

Office: 310 Candler Hall

Office hours: By appointment (<https://ryanpowers.youcanbook.me/>).

Class meetings: 9:30–10:45 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday in Gilbert Hall 0035.

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* (Fourth Edition) by Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. The fourth edition is available at the campus book store, but may be less costly used, online, or as an ebook. You could also get by with the third edition if you find that for a good price. 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, 2019 explaining why both Van Halen and I 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 social science 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 17, 2019**.

- **Midterm exams.** There will be two midterm exams. They will be closed book and administered during our normal class meetings on **October 15, 2019** and on **November 14, 2019**. 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 10, 2019** in our normal classroom.

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." **Reading should be completed prior to the class meeting for which it is assigned.**

1. Preliminaries

- Thursday, August 15, 2019: Introduction and Summary of Expectations (No assigned reading)
- Tuesday, August 20, 2019: **Anarchy and Economics Simulation** (Simulation handout)
- Thursday, August 22, 2019: International Relations as a Social Science (FLS Introduction)
- Tuesday, August 27, 2019: A Brief History of International Relations (FLS Chapter 1)
- Thursday, August 29, 2019: View *Dr. Strangelove*
- Tuesday, September 03, 2019: Actors, Interests, and Strategy in World Politics (FLS Chapter 2)

2. Political Violence

- Thursday, September 05, 2019: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part I (FLS Chapter 3)
- Tuesday, September 10, 2019: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part II (Lake 2010)
- Thursday, September 12, 2019: Domestic Politics and War – Part I (FLS Chapter 4)
- Tuesday, September 17, 2019: Domestic Politics and War – Part II (Reiter and Stam 2002, Chapters 1 and 2)

– *Dr. Strangelove* response paper due

- Thursday, September 19, 2019: Alliances: Why States Fight *for* Each Other (FLS Chapter 5)
- Tuesday, September 24, 2019: Alliances: Collective Security (Voeten 2005)
- Thursday, September 26, 2019: Civil War: Why Wars Occur Within States (FLS Chapter 6)
- Tuesday, October 01, 2019: Civil War: International Politics of Rebellion
- Thursday, October 03, 2019: Terrorism (Kydd and Walter 2006)
- Tuesday, October 08, 2019: Counter Terrorism and COIN
- Thursday, October 10, 2019: Final Thoughts on Political Violence and Midterm Review
- Tuesday, October 15, 2019: **Midterm Exam I**

3. Economic Integration

- Thursday, October 17, 2019: International Trade – Part I (FLS Chapter 7)
- Tuesday, October 22, 2019: International Trade – Part II
- Thursday, October 24, 2019: International Finance (FLS Chapter 8)
- Tuesday, October 29, 2019: International Monetary Relations (FLS Chapter 9)
- Thursday, October 31, 2019: Development: Why aren't all countries rich? (FLS Chapter 10)
- Tuesday, November 05, 2019: Development: Does foreign aid work?
- Thursday, November 07, 2019: Domestic Politics and Economic Integration (Rodrik 2017)
- Tuesday, November 12, 2019: Final Thoughts on Global Integration and Midterm Review
- Thursday, November 14, 2019: **Midterm Exam II**

4. Selected Issues in International Politics

- Tuesday, November 19, 2019: International Law (FLS Chapter 11)
- Thursday, November 21, 2019: Human Rights (FLS Chapter 12)
- Tuesday, November 26, 2019: Global Environment (FLS Chapter 13)
- Thursday, November 28, 2019: **Thanksgiving Break – No Class**
- Tuesday, December 03, 2019: WMD and WMD Proliferation (FLS Chapter 14 and Waltz 2012)
- Tuesday, December 10, 2019: **Final Exam** (8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)