

INTL 3200e: Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR:

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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.

The class is divided into four major sections (1) the framework of international relations and background information, (2) understanding conflict, (3) understanding international political economy, and (4) emerging areas of world politics. 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.

Course Textbook

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz. 2018. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions. WW Norton. ISBN: 0393675092.

Please Note: You are welcome to use the e-book (<https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol4>) or an earlier edition of the book if it is easier/more economical for you. The e-book is \$39.95 from the WW Norton website.

Online Course Format

This course is completely online! All materials are available online through UGA's eLearning Commons (ELC) portal. The course is asynchronous; you can work on the materials on your own schedule throughout the week.

The course consists of four modules. Each module consists of four topics. Each topic will include:

1. A chapter/portion of a chapter in the Frieden, Lake, and Schultz textbook.
2. A short video (around 10-15 minutes) of me explaining the key concepts of the week;
3. A longer set of slides for you to go through at your own pace;
4. A set of additional materials/video links you could explore for further information on the topic.

You will have to complete a module a month. The module assignments will be due by Sunday (February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2) night at 11:59 pm (Eastern Standard Time). One way to complete the course would be to focus on a topic each week. You could then take the quiz and contribute to the discussion board on the last weekend for each module. Or, you could wait until the last weekend of each module and complete the assignment in that week and then take the quiz and contribute to the discussion board on the weekend. You are welcome to work ahead.

Any way you want to tackle the module work is fine with me! As long as each assignment is completed before the deadline, you can work whenever and wherever works for you best!

I am here to help however we can. Please feel free to email at any time (shanshan.lian@uga.edu). I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours. I am happy to schedule a time to chat on the phone or over video.

Grading

Your course grade is calculated from the following components:

- 60% - Four quizzes (one for each module) - Due on February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2 by 11:59 pm (EST), respectively.
- 40% - Four discussion board contributions (one for each module) - Due on February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2 by 11:59 pm (EST), respectively.

Quizzes

At the end of each module, there will be a short (around 20 questions) multiple choice quiz for you to complete. These quizzes will be graded automatically within eLC. Reaching the textbooks, watching the short videos, and going over the longer set of slides for each of the module's four topics should prepare you for each quiz. The quizzes are open note and open book.

Discussion Board Contributions

There will be a discussion board for each module. We will start off the discussion board with some questions about the topics for that module. For each module, you will contribute at least one thoughtful response to the discussion board question that references the course materials. We will grade these contributions after the module closes. A rubric can be found on eLC.

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

Late Quiz/Discussion Board Submission

This course is completely asynchronous, meaning that you can work at your own pace throughout each week. This should help you manage the course materials and avoid any missed due dates. If you miss a due date for a quiz or discussion board, I will allow all students one “freebie” or late submission request: you can have extra 24 hours for the assignment. Please simply email the instructor (shanshan.lian@uga.edu). Grades are due immediately after the course is over; late or missing assignments at this time may cause difficulties in grade reporting.

Beyond the one free late submission request, please refer to the UGA class attendance policy:

<https://provost.uga.edu/policies/academic-affairs-policy-manual/4-06-class-attendance/>.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

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

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

We expect that the Student Honor Code will guide your efforts in this course. A lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy does not explain a violation. Please direct any questions 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/content_page/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."

We want to help all students succeed in this course!

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

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

"If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App."

Some material in this course contains references to violence. We urge you to take your mental health seriously. There are campus resources to help.

Course Outline

Module 1: Framework and Background Information

Topic 1: Intro to Course *January 13- January 17*

- Required Reading: Syllabus, Introduction Chapter from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz
- Video: Topic 1: Introduction to the course
- Slides: Topic 1: Introduction to the course
- Recommended Readings/Links: None

Topic 2: Introduction to Social Science & Historical Background *January 18- January 24*

- Required Reading: Introduction and Chapter 1 (What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 2: 5 Key Points on Social Science Research & 10 World Events to Remember
- Slides: Topic 2: Social Science and World History in a Nutshell
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: A History of the World in 5 Minutes
 - VIDEO (a bit irreverent): history of the entire world, i guess

- VIDEO: An Animated Introduction to Social Science

Topic 3: Foundations for Understanding International Relations *January 25- January 31*

- Required Reading: Chapter 2 (Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 3: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions - One Framework to Understand Many Events
- Slides: Topic 3: The 3 I's Framework
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Zombies, G20 and International Relations
 - VIDEO: Metaphor of the Living Dead: Daniel Drezner at TEDxBinghamtonUniversity

Topic 4: More on Interactions - Bargaining, Cooperation, and Game Theory *February 1- February 7 (Due Date of the Assignment for the First Module)*

- Required Reading: Chapter 2 (Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018) - Reread Special Topic: A Primer on Game Theory
- Video: Topic 4: Interactions - Just the Basics
- Slides: Topic 4: Understanding Major Interactions in International Relations
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - WEBSITE: <http://www.gametheory.net/>
 - VIDEO: Game Theory: The Science of Decision-Making

Module 2: Understanding International Conflict

Topic 5: Bargaining Model of War *February 8- February 14*

- Required Reading: Chapter 3 (Why Are There Wars?) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 5: Important Points to Remember on the Bargaining Model of War
- Slides: Topic 5: How International Relations Studies War
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: The Bargaining Model & War: A Tutorial
 - OUTSIDE READING: Reiter, Dan. "Exploring the bargaining model of war." *Perspectives on Politics* 1, no. 1 (2003): 27-43.

Topic 6: Domestic Interests and War *February 15- February 21*

- Required Reading: Chapter 4 (Domestic Interests and War) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
 - Video: Topic 6: How Domestic Politics Can Contribute to War (or Not)
 - Slides: Topic 6: Domestic Interests For and Against War
 - Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Democratic Peace Theory - A short Introduction
 - OUTSIDE READING: Reiter, Dan. "Democratic peace theory." Oxford University Press, 2012.

Topic 7: International Institutions and War

February 22- February 28

- Required Reading: Chapter 5 (International Institutions and War) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
 - Video: Topic 7: Alliances and Collective Security
 - Slides: Topic 7: Can International Actors Help Stop War?
 - Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: UN chief on International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2020
 - VIDEO: Parity on the frontline: women take increasing role in peacekeeping
 - VIDEO: Nato explained - in 90 seconds

Topic 8: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

March 1- March 7 (Due Date of the Assignment for the Second Module)

- Required Reading: Chapter 6 (Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
 - Video: Topic 8: Violence When One Actor May Not Be A State
 - Slides: Topic 8: Nonstate Actor Violence: Civil War and Terrorism
 - Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Terrorism Time Lapse
 - VIDEO: How fake handbags fund terrorism and organized crime
 - BLOGPOST: Was what happened in Charleston terrorism?
 - BLOGPOST: Inspired or Directed? Why This Distinction Matters in Recent Terrorist Attack in Orlando

Module 3: Understanding International Political Economy

Topic 9: International Trade

March 8- March 14

- Required Reading: Chapter 7 (International Trade) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 9: 3 Big Points from International Trade
- Slides: Topic 9: International Trade
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - WEBSITE: <https://ourworldindata.org/trade-and-globalization>
 - WEBSITE: <https://www.export.gov/National-US-Trade-Data>
 - VIDEO: International Trade and Supply Chains

Topic 10: International Financial Relations

March 15- March 21

- Required Reading: Chapter 8 (International Financial Relations) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)

- Video: Topic 10: International Investments in a Nutshell
- Slides: Topic 10: International Financial Relations
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - WEBSITE: <https://www.bls.gov/fdi/overview.htm>
 - VIDEO: Top 15 Countries by Foreign direct investment, net inflows (1969-2018)

Topic 11: International Monetary Relations

March 22- March 28

- Required Reading: Chapter 9 (International Monetary Relations) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 11: International Monetary Relations - 4 Things to Know
- Slides: Topic 11: International Monetary Relations
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Imports, Exports, and Exchange Rates: Crash Course Economics #15
 - VIDEO: What is Exchange Rate: Explained with Animation

Topic 12: Development

March 29- April 4 (Due Date of the Assignment for the Third Module)

- Required Reading: Chapter 10 (Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 12: A Quick Overview of Why Some Countries Are Poor and Some Are Rich and What We Can Do About It
- Slides: Topic 12: Development
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Guns, Germs, and Steel
 - VIDEO: Making it as international development & humanitarian aid professional | Stephen Ladek | TEDxUWCCR

Module 4: "New" Challenges to World Politics

Topic 13: International Law and Norms

April 5- April 11

- Required Reading: Chapter 11 (International Law and Norms) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 13: A Quick Primer on International Law and Norms
- Slides: Topic 13: International Law and Norms
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: International Law explained by Hesham Elrafei | What are the sources of International Law?
 - OUTSIDE READING: Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. "International norm dynamics and political change." *International organization* 52, no. 4 (1998): 887-917.
 - PODCAST: The Rights Track: Do NGOs Matter?

Topic 14: Human Rights

April 12-April 18

- Required Reading: Chapter 12 (Human Rights) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 14: Human Rights- Why It Matters
- Slides: Topic 14: Human Rights
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Kathryn Sikkink - Human Rights in the 21st Century
 - BLOGPOST: <https://www.vox.com/2019/6/7/18656568/usa-human-rights-report-police-shooting-voter-suppression> (Uses data from UGA Project The Human Rights Measurement Initiative)

Topic 15: The Global Environment

April 19- April 25

- Required Reading: Chapter 13 (The Global Environment) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 15: Why The Environment Is A Global Concern
- Slides: Topic 15: Global Environment
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: What is Palm Oil - BBC
 - VIDEO: Why politicians have failed to tackle climate change I The Economist

Topic 16: Challenges to the World Order

April 26- May 2 (Due Date of the Assignment for the Fourth Module)

- Required Reading: Chapter 14 (Challenges to the World Order) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Video: Topic 16: What Comes Next?
- Slides: Topic 16: Challenges to the World Order
- Recommended Readings/Links:
 - VIDEO: Understanding the Economic Shock of the Covid-19 Crisis
 - VIDEO: China: Power and Prosperity

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