INTL 6200 (CRN: 22007 / FALL 2021)

Pre-Seminar in International Relations

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Thursdays, 12:45 p.m.–3:30 p.m., in Military Building, Room 1.

Office hours: On Zoom by appointment (https://ryanpowers.youcanbook.me/).

Course Description

This course is a graduate-level field seminar on international politics. In this course, we will review the dominant approaches to studying international relations and the application of those approaches to a wide variety of substantive issue areas (war, human rights, environment, trade, migration, etc). We will put particular emphasis on critically evaluating the theoretical arguments advanced by IR scholars and the evidence that they marshal in support for those arguments. Throughout, our goal will be to practice reading international relations scholarship with an eye towards translating and applying its insights to contemporary international policy problems. This course is a requirement for the Masters in International Policy (MIP) and a prerequisite for a number of other MIP courses, but should also be of interest to advanced undergraduates in Political Science and International Affairs.

COVID-19 Considerations

Vaccine

I strongly encourage you to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if you have not already done so. The vaccine is safe, effective, and free. I was vaccinated as soon as I was eligible. You can learn more about the vaccine and make an appointment on the University Health Center website.
Mask policy

I will be wearing a mask during our meetings. I strongly encourage you to do the same. On July 30, 2021, the University System of Georgia, which sets the COVID-19 policies for UGA, issued new guidance on masks: “[E]veryone is encouraged to wear a mask or face covering while inside campus facilities.” This is consistent with current CDC recommendations to wear masks indoors even if vaccinated in areas of “substantial or high transmission.” The entire state of Georgia is considered to be an area of “high transmission” as of August 10, 2021.

Course Materials

There are no required textbooks for this course. Those readings that are not readily available online or via the library will be posted on the eLearning Commons.

Grading and Expectations

Grade Composition

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class attendance and participation: 25%
- Three response papers: 25%
- Discussion lead: 10%
- Literature Review: 30%
- Final Presentation: 10%

Grading 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

Participation
Your participation in class discussions is vital to our success this semester.
By the start of each class meeting, you should have 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 be 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. Failing to actively participate in class discussions will result in a participation grade penalty for the day.

Assignments
Assignments should be submitted online to the eLearning Commons.

• **Response Essays.** You will write three response essays over the course of the semester in which you critically evaluate one or more of a given week's assigned readings. A successful response essay will quickly summarize the major claims of a given reading, discuss how those claims are evaluated empirically, and then identify several strengths or weaknesses of the argument and/or the empirical evidence used to support that argument. Each essay should be about 1,000 words and conclude with at least two ideas for in-class discussion questions. Response papers are due at 6 p.m. the evening before we discuss the readings about which you have written. They should be uploaded to the eLearning Commons and your suggested questions should be posted to the discussion board.

• **Discussion Lead.** You (and perhaps a colleague or two) will lead the class discussion one week during the semester. You will be responsible for writing discussion questions and moderating our review and critique of each of the readings. You will sign up for a discussion slot on the first day of class.

• **Literature Review.** You will write a 15 page literature review on an international relations topic of your choice. The review should provide a broad overview of the scholarly literature published on your topic. While your focus should be on research published in last 25 years or so, you may find it useful to engage some of the foundational works published in earlier periods. As part of your overview, I expect you to critique the dominant theories and most prominent empirical tests. The paper should conclude by outlining the most important outstanding questions/challenges in the topic area. I will distribute a detailed rubric in first weeks of the course. *Hint: Select your the readings for your response essays with an eye towards your literature review; they may serve as “first drafts” of portions of your literature review.*
If you are taking INTL 6000 or INTL 6010, I encourage you to align your literature review topic with your INTL 6000 policy report and/or your INTL 6010 research design assignment.

- **Final Presentation.** You will give a 10 minute presentation summarizing your literature review to your colleagues in class at the end of the semester. Your focus should be on the outstanding questions in the topic area.

**University Policies**

**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/](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.

**University Policies on COVID-19**

The language in this section is provided by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning.

**Face coverings**

Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

**How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine?**

University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the [UHC Patient Portal](https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine). Learn more here: [https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine](https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine).

The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, please go to: [https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine](https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine).
In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15 campuses statewide and you can locate one here: https://www.usg.edu/vaccination.

**What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?**

Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling (706) 542-1162 (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see, https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies.

**What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19?**

If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, you are required to report it through the DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey. We encourage you to stay at home if you become ill or until you have excluded COVID-19 as the cause of your symptoms. UGA adheres to current Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) quarantine and isolation guidance and requires that it be followed. Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

**Guidelines for COVID-19 Quarantine Period**

Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine upon exposure unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 themselves. All others should follow the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendations: Students who are not fully vaccinated and have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 10 days. Those quarantining for 10 days must have been symptom-free throughout the monitoring period and continue self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms for a total of 14 days.

You should report the need to quarantine on DawgCheck (https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu) for assistance. Students, faculty and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

**Well-being, Mental Health, and Student Support**

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) 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 to support your well-being and mental health (https://well-being.uga.edu/). Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support (https://caps.uga.edu/). You can get help online with Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) at (https://caps.uga.edu/tao/) or 24/7 by phone (706) 542-2273.
For crisis support go to https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/.
The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators (https://healthcenter.uga.edu/).

Monitoring conditions

Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor’s Office. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit http://coronavirus.uga.edu.

Course Outline

The UGA Course Syllabus Policy requires me to include the following statement: “The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”

1. Thursday, August 19, 2021: Preliminaries

   - Review the Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Survey results posted at: https://trip.wm.edu/data/dashboard. There are questions both on research and on current affairs. Pick one question and be prepared to discuss why you find the results surprising (or predictable!).

2. Thursday, August 26, 2021: Paradigms and Progress


3. Thursday, September 02, 2021: Anarchy and Hierarchy
4. Thursday, September 09, 2021: Conflict


5. Thursday, September 16, 2021: Cooperation


6. Thursday, September 23, 2021: IOs and the Liberal Order
7. Thursday, September 30, 2021: Domestic Politics


8. Thursday, October 07, 2021: Leaders


9. Thursday, October 14, 2021: Environment and Climate Change


10. Thursday, October 21, 2021: Human rights and human security


11. Thursday, October 28, 2021: Nuclear Politics


13. Thursday, November 04, 2021: Trade, Migration, and Investment


12. Thursday, November 04, 2021: Trade, Migration, and Investment


13. Thursday, November 11, 2021: Global Health and Pandemic Politics

- May add one or two papers here; lots of important research being done now.

14. Thursday, November 18, 2021: Emerging Issues and Bridging the Gap

• Lindsay, Jon R. "Stuxnet and the Limits of Cyber Warfare." Security Studies 22, no. 3 (2013): 365–404


17. Thursday, December 09, 2021: Literature Review Due (upload in eLC)