

# INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2022

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| <b>Instructor:</b> | Shanshan Lian  | <b>Time:</b>  | T Th 9:35 am – 10:50 am (CRN: 30700) |
| <b>Email:</b>      | <a href="mailto:shanshan.lian@uga.edu">shanshan.lian@uga.edu</a> | <b>Place:</b> | Journalism 501                       |

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## Office Hours

- **Office Hours:** Candler Hall B01 – 11:00 am to noon on Tuesdays
- **Online Office Hours:** Zoom – 11:00 am to noon on Tuesdays
- **Other Times:** By appointment

## 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, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz. 2021. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions. WW Norton. ISBN: 0393675092.

**Please Note:** You are welcome to use the [e-book](#) or an earlier edition of the book if it is easier/more economical for you. The e-book is \$44.95 from the WW Norton website.

## Course Format

This course is in-person. All materials, including the slides and the additional materials, are available online through UGA's eLearning Commons (ELC) portal.

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 set of slides on the topic, which will be uploaded onto ELC by the end of each week
3. A set of additional materials/video links you could explore for further information on the topic

You will have to complete a topic a week. For each module, the assignments, quizzes and discussion boards, will be due by Tuesday (September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6). For discussion boards, you are welcome to work ahead. Any way you want to tackle the discussion board work is fine with me! As long as each discussion board assignment is completed before the deadline, you can work whenever and wherever works for you best!

I am here to help however I can. Please feel free to email at any time ([shanshan.lian@uga.edu](mailto:shanshan.lian@uga.edu)). I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours. I am happy to schedule a time to chat in person or over video.

## Grading

- 60% - Four quizzes (one for each module) - Due on September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6, respectively.
- 30% - Four discussion board contributions (one for each module) - Due on September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6 **by 11:59 pm (EST)**, respectively.
- 10% - Attendance (5%) and participation (5%)

## Quizzes

At the end of each module, there will be a short (around 20 questions) multiple choice quiz for you to complete. The four quizzes will take place in Journalism 501 within regular class periods during the semester (September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6). The quizzes are **noncumulative**. Reaching the textbooks, attending classes, and going over the 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. I will grade these contributions after the module closes. **A rubric can be found on eLC.**

## Extra Credits

I offer a few extra credits this semester. We will talk more about the two assignments in class.

### Assignment 1: Concept Explanation Assignment (Due Date: November 15 by 11:59 pm)

Pick a concept, topic, framework, idea, or explanation that you have learned about in class this semesters.

You are tasked with creating something to teach someone who **did not** take this class about the concept you choose. You are free to pick any medium you would like – **except a standard written paper** – to teach the concept. In selecting your concept, you are free to go big (e.g., focus on a broad idea like institution) or super narrow (e.g., democratic peace).

My hope is that you will be creative and have fun in the process. Some examples include (but are not limited to): podcasts, vlogs, news like video, photo exhibit, other types of writing (poem, short story, etc.), art piece (physical, digital, etc.), animation.

### Assignment 2: Online Survey

There are two surveys, one at the start of the semester and the other at the end of the semester.

## Attendance

I will take attendance every class. There are **2 unexcused absences**. I do not need to know the reason for these absences. **Any unexcused absences after the 2 freebies will result in a half point deduction from your final attendance grade for each absence.**

Excused absences are given when I receive one of the following: an official UGA excuse, a medical note, or a student-athlete responsibility. Documentation is required for all of these (For more information, please see the [Class Attendance Policies](#)).

## Participation

Participation is worth 5% of your final grade. Keep in mind that a not-so-great attendance record can erase participation, because it's hard to participate if you are not around. **Even perfect attendance without active participation does not guarantee a good participation score.** What is more, **disruptive behaviors will result in one point deduction.** The details can be found on the table below.

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 5 points | Student attends classes and regularly participates in class discussions. Student contributions critically engage with the material and with class peers.                                |
| 4 points | Student attends classes and regularly participates in class discussions. Student contributions critically engage with the material.   |
| 3 points | Student attends classes and regularly participates in class discussions. Student contributions involve examples from personal life but they lack critical engagement with the material. |
| 2 points | Student attends classes and occasionally participates in class discussions.   |
| 1 points | Student attends classes but does not participate in the discussions.  |
| 0 points | Student does not attend breakout section.   |

## Grading Scale

Your final grade will be calculated on the following 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

### Important Due Dates

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Quiz 1 .....             | September 13, 9:35 am – 10:50 am (EST) |
| Discussion Board 1 ..... | September 13, by 11:59 pm (EST)        |
| Quiz 2 .....             | October 11, 9:35 am – 10:50 am (EST)   |
| Discussion Board 2 ..... | October 11, by 11:59 pm (EST)          |
| Quiz 3 .....             | November 8, 9:35 am – 10:50 am (EST)   |
| Discussion Board 3 ..... | November 8, by 11:59 pm (EST)          |
| Quiz 4 .....             | December 6, 9:35 am – 10:50 am (EST)   |
| Discussion Board 4 ..... | December 6, by 11:59 pm (EST)          |

### Make-up Quiz

Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be presented to the instructor and accepted prior to the quiz when feasible. Grades are due immediately after the course is over; late or missing assignments at this time may cause difficulties in grade reporting. For more information about legitimate excuses, please refer to the [UGA class attendance policy](#).

## Discussion Board Submission

If you miss a due date for a 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](mailto: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](#).

## University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

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 [the website of Office of Instruction](#).

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 the [University Council](#):

”The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”

## Prohibition on Recording Lecture

The following is taken verbatim from [LINK](#):

”In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course.
- Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.
- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.”

## FERPA Statement

The following is taken verbatim from the [Syllabus Checklist](#):

"The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the [registrar's explanation](#). FERPA allows disclosure of directory information (name, address, telephone, email, date of birth, place of birth, major, activities, degrees, awards, prior schools), unless requested in a written letter to the registrar."

## Disability Services

The following is taken verbatim from the [Disability Resource Center](#):

"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 the [Disability Resource Center](#)"

The following is taken verbatim from the [document of Syllabus Creation](#):

"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."

I want to help all students succeed in this course!

## Mental Health and Wellness Resources

The following is taken verbatim from the [University Council](#):

"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 the [website of Student Care and Outreach](#). 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](#) or [crisis support](#). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit [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."

## Coronavirus Information for Students

I can offer accommodations for students with positive COVID-19 tests. Students who test positive SHOULD BE accommodated.

I'll accommodate students who test positive for COVID as I would have accommodated ill students prior to the pandemic. I will assist students who may need to isolate per CDC guidelines, students with Disability Resource Center (DRC)-recommended accommodations, or other circumstances that may require a student to occasionally miss a class. For all other students, classes must continue to be offered in an in-person format.

Please email me ([shanshan.lian@uga.edu](mailto:shanshan.lian@uga.edu)) when you need the accommodation.

## Useful Campus Resources

There are many campus resources that can help you with your academic performance and assist you during the semester. I urge you to check out the [Division of Academic Enhancement](#) and the [Writing Center](#)

Some material in this course contains references to violence. I 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

*Week 1: August 18*

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

#### Topic 2: Introduction to Social Science & Historical Background

*Week 2: August 23 - August 25*

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

#### Topic 3: Foundations for Understanding International Relations

*Week 3: August 30 - September 1*

- Required Reading: Chapter 2 (Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 3: The 3 I's Framework - Interests, Interactions, and Institutions - One Framework to Understand Many Events
- 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

*Week 4: September 6 - September 8*

- Required Reading: Chapter 2 (Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018) - Reread Special Topic: A Primer on Game Theory
- Slides: Topic 4: Interactions - Just the Basics
- Recommended Readings/Links:

- WEBSITE: <http://www.gametheory.net/>

## Module 2: Understanding International Conflict

### Topic 5: Bargaining Model of War

*Week 5: September 13 - September 15 (Quiz 1 and Due Date of Discussion Board Posts for Module 1 on Tuesday)*

- Required Reading: Chapter 3 (Why Are There Wars?) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 5: Important Points to Remember on the Bargaining Model of 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

*Week 6: September 20 - September 22*

- Required Reading: Chapter 4 (Domestic Interests and War) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 6: Domestic Interests and War
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - OUTSIDE READING: Reiter, Dan. "Democratic peace theory." Oxford University Press, 2012.

### Topic 7: International Institutions and War

*Week 7: September 27 - September 29*

- Required Reading: Chapter 5 (International Institutions and War) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 7: Alliances and Collective Security Organizations
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - VIDEO: [Parity on the frontline: women take increasing role in peacekeeping](#)

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

*Week 8: October 4 - October 6*

- Required Reading: Chapter 6 (Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 8: Nonstate Actors and Violence - Civil War and Terrorism
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - 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

*Week 9: October 11 - October 13 (Quiz 2 and Due Date of Discussion Board Posts for Module 2 on Tuesday)*

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

### Topic 10: International Financial Relations

*Week 10: October 18 - October 20*

- Required Reading: Chapter 8 (International Financial Relations) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 10: International Finance
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - WEBSITE: <https://www.bls.gov/fdi/overview.htm>

### Topic 11: International Monetary Relations

*Week 11: October 25 - October 27*

- Required Reading: Chapter 9 (International Monetary Relations) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 11: International Monetary Relations
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - VIDEO: [Imports, Exports, and Exchange Rates: Crash Course Economics 15](#)

### Topic 12: Development

*Week 12: November 1 - November 3*

- Required Reading: Chapter 10 (Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 12: Development
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - VIDEO: [Guns, Germs, and Steel](#)

## Module 4: "New" Challenges to World Politics

### Topic 13: International Law and Norms

*Week 13: November 8 - November 10 (Quiz 3 and Due Date of Discussion Board Posts for Module 3 on Tuesday)*

- Required Reading: Chapter 11 (International Law and Norms) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)

- Slides: Topic 13: International Law and Norms
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - 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**

*Week 14: November 15 - November 17 (Due Date of Concept Explanation Assignment on Tuesday)*

- Required Reading: Chapter 12 (Human Rights) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 14: Human Rights
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - 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**

*Week 15: November 22 - November 24 (Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class on Thursday)*

- Required Reading: Chapter 13 (The Global Environment) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 15: Environment
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - VIDEO: [What is Palm Oil - BBC](#)

**Topic 16: Challenges to the World Order**

*Week 16: November 29 - December 1*

- Required Reading: Chapter 14 (Challenges to the World Order) from Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (2018)
- Slides: Topic 16: What Comes Next?
- Recommended Readings/Links:
  - VIDEO: [China: Power and Prosperity](#)

**Quiz 4 and Discussion Board Posts for Module 4**

*Quiz 4 and Due Date of Discussion Board Posts for Module 4 are on Tuesday, December 6.*