

# INTL 3200 Introduction to International Relations

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Class Hours: T Th, 2:20-3:35pm    Room: Caldwell Hall 102

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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 mitigate climate change? 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 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

Jeffrey A Frieden, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions 5th Edition*. WW Norton, 2022

**Please Note:** You can also use the [e-book](#)

## Course Structure

### Class Structure

#### Grading

Your grade will be determined by:

- 10%: participation and attendance;
- 30%: weekly InQuizitive assignments;
- 30%: 3 quizzes;
- 30%: final group project;

#### Grading Scale

A (93-100)	C+ (77-79.9)
A-(90-92.9)	C (73-76.9)
B+ (87-89.9)	C- (70-72.9)
B (83-86.69)	D (60-69.9)
B-(80-82.9)	FAIL (0-59.9)

#### Readings and InQuizitive

Each week will cover a chapter of the textbook. Before the first class of the week you're supposed to complete the corresponding reading and InQuizitive activity, which is a more interactive sort of quiz designed to help you fix the concepts you just learned. The software is easy to use and will be integrated into eLC. These assignments are collectively worth 30% of your final grade

#### Attendance and participation in class

Attendance will be taken. You are entitled to two absences without any penalties, no questions asked. After two absences I will deduct credit from your attendance and participation grade (10% of your final grade) unless you provide proper justification for it.

Active participation, as required by the moment, will also be expected. As a general framework I will use Tuesday meetings for lecturing and Thursday for more active learning. For lecture days, InQuizitive assignments are supposed to facilitate more of a flipped classroom approach, where any questions and comments you might have on the week's material will be as important as my lecture materials. For more active learning moments, those might include short simulations, debates, news analyses, etc. I will use them to either fix and elaborate on concepts from the material or help you think about your final projects.

## Quizzes

There will be two short quizzes throughout the semester, each testing you on the two parts of the content you just learned. Tentatively these will be done via eLC and will be available as soon the corresponding Part is concluded. Each will be worth 15% of your final grade.

- Q 1- Content: Parts 1 & 2, due October 7, 11:59pm.
- Q 2- Content: Part 3 & 4, due December 2, 11:59pm.

## Final Group Project

For the final project, you will form groups of three or four, and work on a case study of any of the topics covered in the course. You should provide background on the specifics of the case, followed by: some analysis based on what you learned, using the Interests, Interactions, and Institutions framework; and suggestions on what could be done to achieve more cooperation in that scenario.

This project will have the following steps: (1) submitting a 1-2 pages executive summary of what you intend to do (5% of the final grade); (2) a presentation of the project in an already advanced stage, where you will get feedback from me and your colleagues (15% of the grade); (3) the final paper (30%).

## Course Policies

### Academic Integrity and Honesty

The UGA Student Honor Code states: "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 policies and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be assessed here: [honesty.uga.edu](http://honesty.uga.edu). Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as required by university policy.

### Special Accommodations

- Students with disabilities that require accommodation should register with UGA's Disability Resource Center: [drc.uga.edu](http://drc.uga.edu), as well as warn me about those accommodations in the beginning of the semester.
- Students who need accommodation for religious or cultural reasons should check with me as soon as possible.

### Student Resources

- The Office of Student Care & Outreach can provide assistance to students experiencing hardship- 706-542-7774 or by email [sco@uga.edu](mailto:sco@uga.edu)
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services- 706-542-2273

- After Hour Mental Health Crisis: 706-542-2200. Connects you to UGA Police- ask to speak to the CAPS on-call clinician.
- Sexual Violence Prevention- 706-542-SAFE

Please note that faculty and staff are obligated to report any knowledge of sexual assault or relationship violence to UGA's Equal Opportunity Office.

## Course schedule

You should complete the assigned readings by the day indicated on the schedule. This schedule is subject to change over the course of the semester. **The InQuizitive assignments for the corresponding chapter are due before our Tuesday class at that same week**

**Week 1, 08/15 - 08/19:** Syllabus

### Part 1: Foundations

**Week 2, 08/22 - 08/26:** Introduction and Historical Origins

- Introduction & Chapter 1
- InQuizitive only for Chapter 1 required

**Week 3, 08/29 - 09/02:** Interests, Interactions, and Institutions/ Game Theory

- Chapter 2

### Part 2: War and Peace

**Week 4, 09/05 - 09/09:** Causes of War

- Chapter 3
- NO CLASS Thursday (9/8)

**Week 5, 09/12 - 09/16:** Domestic Politics and War

- Chapter 4

**Week 6, 09/19 - 09/23:** International Institutions and War

- Chapter 5

**Week 7, 09/26 - 09/30:** Nonstate Actors and War: Civil War and Terrorism

- Chapter 6

### **Part 3: International Political Economy**

**Week 8, 10/03 - 10/07:** International Trade

- Chapter 7

**Week 9, 10/10 - 10/14:** International Finance

- Chapter 8

**Week 10, 10/17 - 10/21:** International Monetary Relations

- Chapter 9

**Week 11, 10/24 - 10/28:** International Development

- Chapter 10

### **Part 4: Transnational Politics and Emerging Challenges**

**Week 12, 10/31 - 11/04:** International Law and Norms

- Chapter 11

**Week 13, 11/07 - 11/11:** Human Rights

- Chapter 12

**Week 14, 11/14 - 11/18:** The Global Environment

- Chapter 13

**Week 15, 11/21 - 11/25:** Challenges to the Global Order

- Chapter 14

**Week 16, 11/28 - 12/02:** Presentations

**Week 17, 12/05 - 12/09:** Presentations