

INTL 3200 (CRN: 30700 / Fall 2025)

Introduction to International Relations

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Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursday, 9:35 a.m.–10:50 a.m. in Peabody Hall 0115.
Office hours: By appointment (<https://ryanpowers.youcanbook.me/>).

Teaching Assistant: Minjung Jun (Minjung.Jun@uga.edu)

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* (Fifth Edition) by Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. I have not requested the campus bookstore to stock it because the book is almost always less costly used, online, or as an ebook. You

could also get by with the fourth 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:

- Participation (via TopHat): 20%
- Midterm 1: 25%
- Midterm 2: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

Attendance

Attendance is vital to your success this semester. You should come to lecture 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 19, 2025 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: <https://goo.gl/ThqEAm>).

All noise-making electronics should be silenced and, where possible, set to "Do Not Disturb" for the duration of our class meetings.

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. Exams will be completed on ELC.

- **Participation.** We will have TopHat activities throughout the semester to record attendance and participation.
- **Midterm exams.** There will be two midterm exams. They will be administered during our normal class meetings. I expect them to take the entire class meeting. The exams will be multiple choice and graded via scantron. 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 9** 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

Course Policies

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 will 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.

The language above was drafted by SPIA Dean Matt Auer.

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/>. 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 14, 2025: Introduction and Summary of Expectations
- Tuesday, August 19, 2025: International Relations as a Social Science (FLS Introduction)
- Thursday, August 21, 2025: A Brief History of International Relations (FLS Chapter 1)
- Tuesday, August 26, 2025: Actors, Interests, and Strategy in World Politics (FLS Chapter 2)

2. Political Violence

- Thursday, August 28, 2025: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part I (FLS Chapter 3)
- Tuesday, September 02, 2025: Inter-state War: Why States Fight Each Other – Part II (Lake 2010)
- Thursday, September 04, 2025: Domestic Politics and War (FLS Chapter 4)
- Tuesday, September 09, 2025: Alliances: Why States Fight *for* Each Other (FLS Chapter 5)
- Thursday, September 11, 2025: Alliances: Collective Security
- Tuesday, September 16, 2025: Civil War: Why Wars Occur Within States (FLS Chapter 6)
- Thursday, September 18, 2025: Civil War: International Politics of Rebellion
- Tuesday, September 23, 2025: Terrorism (Kydd and Walter 2006)
- Thursday, September 25, 2025: Counter Terrorism and COIN
- Tuesday, September 30, 2025: Final Thoughts on Political Violence and Midterm Review
- Thursday, October 02, 2025: **Midterm Exam I**

3. Economic Integration

- Tuesday, October 07, 2025: Overview of IPE
- Thursday, October 09, 2025: International Trade I (FLS Chapter 7)
- Tuesday, October 14, 2025: International Trade II
- Thursday, October 16, 2025: International Finance I
- Tuesday, October 21, 2025: International Finance II (FLS Chapter 8)
- Thursday, October 23, 2025: Money (FLS Chapter 9)
- Tuesday, October 28, 2025: Midterm Review (FLS Chapter 10)
- Thursday, October 30, 2025: **Midterm Exam II**

4. Selected Issues in International Politics

- Tuesday, November 04, 2025: Domestic Politics and Economic Integration
- Thursday, November 06, 2025: Development
- Tuesday, November 11, 2025: International Law (FLS Chapter 11)
- Thursday, November 13, 2025: Human Rights (FLS Chapter 12)
- Tuesday, November 18, 2025: Global Environment (FLS Chapter 13)
- Thursday, November 20, 2025: Weapons of Mass Destruction (FLS Chapter 14)
- Tuesday, November 25, 2025: Weapons of Mass Destruction (FLS Chapter 14)
- Thursday, November 27, 2025: Final Exam Review
- Tuesday, December 9, 2021: **Final Exam** (8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)