

POLS 150: World Politics
Department of Politics
Sewanee: The University of the South

Dr. Aaron Gold

Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:30 pm
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Fall (Advent) 2019

Location: Walsh-Ellett Hall 210
Date and Time: MWF 10-10:50 am

Course Description

This course is an introduction into the academic study of international relations. The goal is to give students a theoretical and substantive basis for understanding and analyzing the enduring questions of international politics. Students will receive an introductory overview in international relations theory, international conflict between and within states, international political economy, international trade, foreign direct investment, international law, conflict-management, and human rights.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, students will gain basic knowledge and understanding of international relations, its subfields, and core questions. They will learn how to think critically, analyze and then evaluate how various theoretical models explain the interactions between states. Students will learn how to assess the scholarly community's findings and theoretical explanations for the main questions surrounding international politics.

General education objectives

Students will learn how to describe theoretical paradigms, apply theoretical concepts to empirical phenomena, think critically, and analyze competing theories and empirical evidence.

Required Textbook

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (2016) *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, Fourth Edition*. New York, W.W. Norton & Company.

Classroom Policies and Expectations

No tobacco products, food, beverages (except water in a closed container), or gum are allowed. Profanity and prejudicial slurs will not be tolerated. Use of cell phones or smart phones or other electronic devices for non-course-related communication during class is prohibited. Students are expected to attend every class period and be on time. Missing **four or more** classes without an excused absence will result in a zero for your attendance and participation grade, which is five percent of your final grade. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before class and be prepared to discuss them.

Statement of Accommodations

The University of the South is committed to fostering respect for the diversity of the University community and the individual rights of each member of that community. In this spirit, and in

accordance with the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the University seeks to provide students with disabilities with the reasonable accommodations needed to ensure equal access to the programs and activities of the University. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with Student Accessibility Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. If you have already requested accommodations, it is your responsibility to present your instructor with a copy of your academic accommodations letter from Student Accessibility Services, which is located in the Dean of Students Office (931.598.1229). *Accommodations will not be provided without this documentation, and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.* Additional information about accommodations can be found at <https://new.sewanee.edu/campus-life/playing/wellness-commons/university-wellness-center/student-accessibility-services/>. If you have questions about physical accessibility, please inform your instructor so that we can ensure an accessible, safe, and effective environment.

Honor Code

You agreed to follow the Honor Code when you matriculated. All forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, are violations of the Honor Code and will be treated as such. If you ever have a question about an assignment or need additional help, please ask for assistance rather than jeopardize your academic career.

Student Wellness Center

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as stress, strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance misuse, mood changes, difficulty concentrating, and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Free counseling, psychological, and psychiatric services are available at the University Wellness Center, and treatment does work. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at <http://www.sewanee.edu/student-life/university-wellness-center/counseling-and-psychological-service-caps/>.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center, located on the main floor of duPont Library, provides objective peer support to Sewanee students who seek assistance with their writing projects. The student tutors can help at any stage in the writing process, including topic development, rough drafts, final drafts, and revisions. Students should bring a copy of the professor's written instructions to the meeting. The Writing Center will not accept papers that are dropped off.

The Center for Speaking and Listening

The Center for Speaking and Listening, located on the main floor of duPont Library, provides peer support to Sewanee students who seek assistance with their presentations.

Research Help Center

The Research Help Center in duPont Library is available for all of your research paper, project, and presentation needs. Our librarians can help with each stage of the research process, including topic selection and narrowing, outlining, finding resources, interpreting academic resources,

avoiding plagiarism, and integrating research into your paper or presentation. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments with a research expert are strongly encouraged. You can find more details and sign up for appointments at library.sewanee.edu/researchhelplibrarians.

Title IX matters

Sexual misconduct is a violation of federal Title IX law and University policy. Disclosure of sexual misconduct to University faculty, staff, or student leaders (i.e. proctors) is not confidential and these individuals are required to make reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX Coordinator. To report incidents of sexual misconduct, please file a report at ReportSexualMisconduct.sewanee.edu or contact the Title IX Coordinator (Dr. Sylvia Gray, titleix@sewanee.edu). For more information on mandatory reporting please see the Mandatory Reporter Policy. For resources on support or confidential disclosure, please refer to the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Grading

The requirements for this course include a participation grade (5%), four critique papers (30%), a midterm (30%), and final exam (35%).

Exam #1 (Midterm)

The exam will be an in-class exam of short answer and essay questions. There will be two essay options from which you will pick one. You will receive a study guide at least a week before the exam. **The midterm exam will be on October 14, 2019.**

Exam #2 (Final)

The final exam will be the same format as the midterm. It will not be cumulative. It will only cover topics after the midterm exam. **The final exam will be on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 9 am in our classroom.**

Four Critique Papers

Paper #1 (Waltz):	Due on 9/13 at 11:59 pm on Blackboard
Paper #2 (Fearon):	Due on 9/27 at 11:59 pm on Blackboard
Paper #3 (Pape):	Due on 11/1 at 11:59 pm on Blackboard
Paper #4 (Finnemore and Sikkink):	Due on 11/25 at 11:59 pm on Blackboard

Each student is required to complete four critique papers. The papers should be at least 600 words minimum (two pages double-spaced). These critique papers are designed for you to read, think critically, and then analyze key works in IR scholarly research. First, in no more than a few sentences very briefly summarize the author's main theoretical argument. The rest of the paper should be your critique. The vast majority of your paper should be an analytical critique. This is not a descriptive exercise. Papers that merely summarize and detail the author's argument will not receive a passing grade. Much of the IR scholarly research is supplemented by rigorous statistical and game theoretic analyses; however, focus on the author's key theoretical arguments and avoid critiquing decisions about methodological choice and empirical strategy. Use the following questions to help you write your paper:

- 1) What are the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical argument?
- 2) Does the argument rest on theoretical assumptions that are valid?
- 3) What are the implications of the author's argument? (He/she argues X, therefore we should observe Y, but is that logical?)
- 4) Is there empirical evidence for the author's empirical claims? If not, what evidence contradicts the author's argument?
- 5) Are there policy implications?
- 6) What are the areas or questions for future research?

Critique Papers and Extra Credit Formatting Guidelines

- 1) Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double-spaced
- 2) Limit: 600 words minimum (approximately 2 pages double-spaced). Write the word count on top.
- 3) References: In-text citations only (no footnotes or endnotes).

Participation (5% of your final grade)

This is mainly a lecture-based class, but you will be called on and asked to participate. You are expected to read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. If you miss **four or more classes without an excused absence** you will be given a zero for your attendance grade. It is your responsibility to come to class and communicate with me if you have an excused absence. We will also conduct simulations that will be a part of your participation grade.

Extra Credit (+2 points maximum on your final grade)

Extra credit can be turned in anytime, but is due on December 11, 2019, the last day of classes. Extra credit opportunities include going to school-sponsored programs, lectures, and watching videos of important international leaders on current issues. Afterwards, you will write two pages, double-spaced on your critical reaction. Your extra credit assignments will not be graded for grammar and spelling, but as having been done. Follow the same format as your critique papers (see above: "Critique Papers and Extra Credit Formatting Guidelines"). If you write 600 words (two pages double-spaced) you will receive full credit. If you turn in one and a half pages I will not count it as extra credit and I will ask you to re-do it. This is to ensure every student is writing the same amount. Throughout the semester, I will post the extra credit opportunities and I will announce them at the beginning of class. You may also write an extra credit assignment on an international event. Please ask me before doing or going to an event that is not posted. You may not do the same extra credit assignment for more than one of my classes.

Notice on School-Sponsored, Medical, Weather-Related, Family Emergency, or Other Excused Absences

My personal philosophy, one that I believe very strongly in, is that you should be treated like adults. If something happens and you are not able to make it to class I will be more than happy to work with you; however, you need to communicate with me and keep me informed of your situation. Life happens: you get sick, someone you love passes away, a family member is in need, you have an interview. I consider myself to be very understanding so if you are not able to bring me a note right away, it is okay; just please keep me informed the best you can through email and then later when you are able to, please bring or send me an excused note. If it is a

medical note, **please cross out your personal information.** If you bring me an excused note you will be allowed to make up the work that you missed. For long-term situations, I am more than happy to work with you. Remember that four unexcused absences results in a zero for your participation grade.

Right to Alter the Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter and/or amend this syllabus, as necessary. Students will be notified by email and/or Blackboard of any such revisions, alterations, and/or amendments.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction, Theory, and Foundations

8/28: Introduction and review of the syllabus

- No readings

8/30: Introduction to IR theory

- FLS: Introduction: What is World Politics and Why Do We Study It?
- Walt, Stephen M. (1998) International Relations: One World, Many Theories. *Foreign Policy*: 29-46.

9/2: Theory-building

- Bueno de Mesquita (1985) Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View.” *International Studies Quarterly* 29(2): 121-136.

9/4: Historical introduction

- FLS: Chapter 1: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction

9/6: Defensive realism

- Waltz, Kenneth N. (1979) The Anarchic Structure of World Politics. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 12th Edition*. Art, Robert J. and Robert Jervis. New Jersey, 2015. **Critique Paper #1**

9/9: Offensive realism

- Mearsheimer, John J. (2001) Chapter 2: Anarchy and the Struggle for Power. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

9/11: Liberalism

- Axelrod, Robert & Robert O. Keohane (1985) Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions. *World Politics* 38(1): 226-254.

9/13 – Critique Paper #1 (Waltz) due at 11:59 pm on Blackboard

9/13: Constructivism

- Wendt, Alexander (1992) Anarchy is what states make of it. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 12th Edition*. Art, Robert J. and Robert Jervis. New Jersey, 2015.

II. War and Peace

9/16: Interstate conflict, rationalist explanations part one (incentives to misrepresent)

- FLS: Chapter 3: Why Are There Wars?
- Fearon, James D. (1995) Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414. **Critique Paper #2**

- 9/18: Rationalist explanations part two (commitment problems and issue indivisibilities)
- FLS: Chapter 3: Why Are There Wars?
 - Fearon, James D. (1995) Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414. **Critique Paper #2**
- 9/20: Power parity, preponderance and war
- FLS: Chapter 3: Why Are There Wars?
 - Lemke, Douglas and Jacek Kugler (1996) Chapter 1: The Evolution of the Power Transition Perspective. *Parity and War: Evaluations and Extensions of The War Ledger*. Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke (eds.).
 - Read pgs. 1-16. Stop reading before: “What is the Relationship between Alliances and War?”
- 9/23: Domestic politics and war, audience costs, and diversionary war
- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
 - Fearon, James D. (1994) Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes. *The American Political Science Review* 88(3): 577-592.
- 9/25: Democratic peace (normative and structural models)
- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
 - Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett (1993) Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946–1986. *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 624-638.
- 9/27: Democratic peace (institutional model)
- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith (1999) An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace. *American Political Science Review* 93(4): 791-807.
- 9/27 – Critique Paper #2 (Fearon) due at 11:59 pm on Blackboard**
- 9/30: Critiques of the democratic peace (the capitalist peace)
- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
 - Gartzke, Erik (2007) The Capitalist Peace. *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166-191.
- 10/2: Critiques of the democratic peace (the territorial peace)
- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
 - Gibler, Douglas M. (2007) Bordering on Peace: Democracy, Territorial Issues, and Conflict. *International Studies Quarterly* 51(3): 509-532.
- 10/4: Critiques of the democratic peace (the dictatorial peace)
- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
 - Weeks, Jessica L. (2008) Autocratic Audience Costs. *International Organization* 26(1): 35-64.

10/7: Alliances

- FLS: Chapter 5: International Institutions and War
- Walt, Stephen M. (1987). "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning," in *The Origins of Alliances*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, p. 17-32.

10/9: No class

10/12: Peacekeeping and peace enforcement

- FLS: Chapter 5: International Institutions and War
- Hultman, Lisa, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon (2013) United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War. *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 875-891.

10/14 – Exam #1 (Midterm)

10/16: Civil war I (state weakness and other conditions favorable for insurgency)

- FLS: Chapter 6: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism. Pages 234-264
- Fearon, James & David Laitin (2003) Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 91(1): 75-90.

10/18 – No class because of Spring Break

10/21: Civil war II (greed and lootable resources)

- FLS: Chapter 6: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism. Pages 234-264
- Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler (2004) Greed and Grievance in Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers* 56(4): 563-595.

10/23: Terrorism I (immediate and underlying causes)

- FLS: Chapter 6: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism. Pages 264-287
- Crenshaw, Martha (1981) The Causes of Terrorism. *Comparative Politics* 13(4): 379-399.

10/25: Terrorism II (strategies and types)

- FLS: Chapter 6: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism. Pages 264-287
- Pape, Robert A. (2003) The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *The American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361. **Critique Paper #3**

III. International Political Economy

10/28: Introduction to international trade

- FLS: Chapter 7: International Political Economy
- Krugman, Paul R. (1993) What Do Undergrads Need to Know About Trade? *The American Economic Review* 83(2): 23-6.

10/30: Patterns of trade restrictions

- FLS: Chapter 7: International Political Economy
- No outside reading

11/1 – Critique Paper #3 (Pape) due at 11:59 pm on Blackboard

11/1: Embedded liberalism

- FLS: Chapter 7: International Political Economy
- Ruggie, John Gerard (1982) International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order. *International Organization* 36(2): 379-415.

11/4: Investment

- FLS: Chapter 8: International Financial Relations
- Elkins, Zachary, Andrew T. Guzman, and Beth A. Simmons (2006) Competing for Capital: The Diffusion of Bilateral Investment Treaties, 1960-2000. *International Organization* 60: 811-846

11/6: Distributional conflicts and domestic politics

- FLS: Chapter 8: International Financial Relations
- Broz, J. Lawrence (2005) Congressional politics of international financial rescues. *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 479-496.

11/8: The role of the IMF

- FLS: Chapter 8: International Financial Relations
- Dreher, Axel, Jan-Egbert Sturm, and James Raymond Vreeland (200). Global horse trading: IMF loans for votes in the United Nations Security Council. *European Economic Review* 53(7): 742-757.

11/11: Factors contributing to inequality

- FLS: Chapter 10: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations
- Acemoglu, Daron (2003). "Root Causes." *Finance & Development* 40(2): 27-43.

11/13: Development models

- FLS: Chapter 10: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations
- Chang, Ha-Joon (2003) Kicking Away the Ladder: Infant Industry Promotion in Historical Perspective. *Oxford Development Studies* 31(1): 21-33.

IV. Transnational Politics

11/15: International law

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- Morrow, James. D. (2007). When Do States Follow the Laws of War? *American Political Science Review* 101(3): 559-572.

11/18: International norms

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink (1998). "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52(4): 887-918. **Critique Paper #4**

11/20: Compliance with agreements (overview)

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and Paul R. Hensel (2007) International Institutions and Compliance with Agreements. *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 721-37.

11/22: Compliance with agreements (political cover)

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- Allee, Todd L. and Paul K. Huth (2006) Legitimizing dispute settlement: International legal rulings as domestic political cover. *American Political Science Review* 100(02):: 219-234.

11/25 – Critique Paper #4 (Finnemore and Sikkink) due at 11:59 pm on Blackboard

11/25: Compliance with agreements (nature of American hegemony)

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- Ikenberry, John G. (1998/9) Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of the American Postwar Order. *International Security* 23(3): 43-78.

12/4: Settlement of intrastate conflicts (commitment problems)

- Walter, Barbara F. (1997) The critical barrier to civil war settlement. *International organization* 51(3): 335-364.

11/27, 11/29, and 12/2 – No class because of Thanksgiving Break

12/6: Settlement of intrastate conflicts (treaty design)

- Mattes, Michaela and Burcu Savun (2009) Fostering peace after civil war: Commitment problems and agreement design. *International studies quarterly* 53(3): 737-759.

12/9: Human rights

- FLS: Chapter 12: Human Rights
- Moravcsik, Andrew (2000) The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe. *International Organization* 54(2): 217-52.

12/11: Make-up and review day

- Last day of class. Last day to turn in extra credit.

The final exam will be on Saturday, December 14th at 9 am in our classroom.