

POLS 265: Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2017, CRN: 28678

Instructor: Aaron Gold

Location: Estabrook (EST) 200

Date and Time: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:05 – 9:55 am

Office Hours and Location: Monday, 10:15 – 11:15 am (McClung 1017)

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Course Description and Purpose

International relations (IR) is the study of the interactions between states. This course is an introduction into the academic study of IR. Students will receive an introductory overview in international relations theory, interstate conflict (wars between states), intrastate conflict (civil wars, terrorism), international political economy, international trade, foreign direct investment, international law, conflict-management, and human rights.

Program-Level Learning Objectives that the Course Supports

Students will gain basic knowledge and understanding of international relations and its subfields: theory, conflict, and international political economy. They will learn how to think critically and analyze a diverse set of problems through theoretical frameworks, history, empirical evidence, and the application of real-world events.

Expectations

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 fifteen percent of your final grade. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before class and be prepared to discuss them if called on.

Required Textbook

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

Graded Assignments

- **Exam #1 (Midterm):** 35%
- **Exam #2 (Final):** 35%
- **Three Critique Papers** 15%
- **Attendance/Participation** 15%

Exam #1 (Midterm)

The exam will be an in-class exam of short answer and essay questions. Some questions will be a few word answers; others will require a few sentences. 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 March 3, 2017.**

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 Friday, May 5, 2017 in EST 200 (our classroom) from Noon – 2:30 pm**

Three Critique Papers

Each student is required to complete three critique papers. Each paper is worth five percent of your total grade. The papers should be two pages double-spaced (see detailed format below). 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. 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?

Format for critique papers

I am very particular about paper formatting. This is to ensure every student is writing the same amount and no one is being cheated. I am very good at detecting papers that do not have this format so please follow the directions. The papers should be **two full pages**. Do not start off your paper with multiple lines for your name, date, class, etc. Put those things in your title page. If it is not a full two pages I will take off points. That means if you write a page and a half or if you have one more line until you reach two pages I will take off points. These will not be graded for grammar or spelling, but if yours is particular egregious I will take off points. Every paper should have the following:

- Two full pages double-spaced
- Title page
- Times New Roman or Garamond font
- Size 12-point font
- One-inch margins
- Page number (same font)
- Pages should be stapled

Attendance/Participation (15% 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. This means the highest grade you will be able to receive is an 85, B. It is your responsibility to come to class and communicate with me if you have an excused absence.

Extra Credit (+3 points maximum on your final grade)

Extra credit can be turned in anytime, but is due on April 28, 2017, the last day of. 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. If you write 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. Examples include President Obama's Farewell Address, President Trump's Inauguration, and President Trump's State of the Union Address. Please ask me before doing or going to an event that is not posted.

Format for Extra Credit

Same format as the critique papers.

- Two full pages double-spaced
- Title page
- Times New Roman or Garamond font
- Size 12-point font
- One-inch margins
- Page number (same font)
- Pages should be stapled

Grading Scale

93.00-99.99	A
90.00-92.99	A-
87.00-89.99	B+
83.00-86.99	B
80.00-82.99	B-
77.00-79.99	C+
73.00-76.99	C
70.00-72.99	C-
67.00-69.99	D+
63.00-66.99	D
60.00-62.99	D-

Blackboard and Communication of Announcements

I will post your grades on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check your grades periodically in order to keep up with your progress in this class. I will also communicate announcements through Blackboard.

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. Things happen: you get sick, someone you love passes away, a family member is in need; 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.

Policy on Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty

Defined in *Hilltopics*, “plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit.” I expect every student to live up to the UT Honor Code (as amended in 1995). I have caught instances of plagiarism and cheating before, and I am good at detecting it. Please do not make the mistake of cheating. The use of studyblue.com (or similar websites) for anything other than sharing notes or blank study guides will be treated as plagiarism. If a completed study guide or an email chain with answers is put online, the class will not have a study guide for the subsequent exam and the poster(s) will be referred to the Dean of Students for suspension or expulsion.

Disability Assistance

Any student who feels that they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Requests for the use of the Testing Center must be made at least one week prior to the exam. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-974-6087 in 2227 Dunford Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Writing and Class Assistance

The writing center is an excellent resource for students on campus. I suggest you make an appointment although they do accept walk-ins.

The Student’s Role in Improving Teaching and Learning through Course Assessment

At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.

University Civility Statement

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other's well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: <http://civility.utk.edu/>.

Alteration of this 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.

Key Resources for Students

- Political Science Department Website: <http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/>
- Academic Planning: <http://www.utk.edu/advising>
- Arts and Sciences Advising Services: <http://artsci.utk.edu/advising/>
- Student Success Center: <http://studentsuccess.utk.edu>
- Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs: <http://catalog.utk.edu>
- Hilltopics: <http://dos.utk.edu>
- Course Timetable: https://bannersb.utk.edu/kbanpr/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched
- Library: <http://www.lib.utk.edu>
- Career Services: <http://career.utk.edu>

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction, Theory, and Foundations

Week 1: Introduction to the course and review of the syllabus

January 11:

- No readings

Week 2: Introduction to IR

January 13: Historical introduction

- FLS: Introduction: What is World Politics and Why Do We Study It?
- FLS: Chapter 1: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction
- No outside readings

January 16 – No class because of MLK Day

January 18: Brief introduction to IR theories

- FLS: Chapter 1: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction
- Walt, Stephen M. (1998) International Relations: One World, Many Theories. *Foreign Policy*: 29-46. **Critique Paper #1**

January 20 – No class because of Presidential Inauguration

January 23: Theory-building

- FLS: Chapter 1: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction
- Bueno de Mesquita (1985) Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View.” *International Studies Quarterly* 29(2): 121-136.

Critique Paper #1, Walt (1998) due in class on January 23rd

Week 3: IR theory

January 25: Realism

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

January 27: Liberalism

- FLS: Chapter 2: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions
- Axelrod, Robert & Robert O. Keohane (1985) Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions. *World Politics* 38(1): 226-254.

January 30: Constructivism

- FLS: Chapter 2: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions
- 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

Week 4: Interstate conflict

February 1: Brief introduction to interstate conflict; rationalist explanations I (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**

February 3: Rationalist explanations II (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**

February 6: 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. Do not read, i.e., stop before: “What is the Relationship between Alliances and War?”

Critique Paper #2, Fearon (1995) due in class on February 1st

Week 5: Domestic politics and war I

February 8: Domestic politics, 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.

February 10: 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.

February 13: 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.

Week 6: Domestic politics and war II

February 15: Critiques of the democratic peace (common interests and the capitalist peace)

- FLS: Chapter 4: Domestic Politics and War
- Farber, Henry S. & Joanne Gowa (1997) Common Interests or Common Politics? Reinterpreting the Democratic Peace. *The Journal of Politics* 59(2): 393-417.
- Gartzke, Erik (2007) The Capitalist Peace. *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166-191.

February 17: 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.

February 20: 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.

February 22 and 24 – No class because of conference

Week 7: International institutions and war

February 27: Alliances

- FLS: Chapter 5: International Institutions and War
- Leeds, Brett Ashley, Andrew G. Long, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell (2000) Revaluating Alliance Reliability: Specific Threats, Specific Promises. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(5): 686-69.

March 1: 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.

Week 8: Exam

March 3 – Exam #1 (Midterm)

Week 9: Intrastate conflict I

March 6: 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.

March 8: Civil war II (greed and lovable resources)

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

Week 10: Intrastate conflict II

March 10: 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.

March 13, 15 and 17 – No class because of Spring Break

March 20: 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**

Critique Paper #3, Pape (2003) due in class on March 20th

III. International Political Economy

Week 11: International trade

March 22: Introduction to international trade

- FLS: Chapter 7: International Political Economy
- Reich, Robert (1990) Who Is Us? *Harvard Business Review* 68(1): 53-64.
- Krugman, Paul R. (1993) What Do Undergrads Need to Know About Trade? *The American Economic Review* 83(2): 23-6.

March 24: Patterns of trade restrictions

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

March 27: 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.

Week 12: International financial relations

March 29: 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

March 31: 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.

April 3: 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.

Week 13: Development

April 5: Factors contributing to inequality

- FLS: Chapter 10: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations
- Reading TBD

April 7: 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

Week 14: International law I

April 10: International law

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- No readings

April 12: International norms

- FLS: Chapter 11: International Law and Norms
- Finnemore, Martha (1993) International Organizations as Teachers of Norms: The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and Science Policy. *International Organization* 47(4): 565-97.

April 14 – No class because of Spring Recess

Week 15: International law II

April 17: 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.

April 19: 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.

April 21: 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.

Week 16: Conflict-management and Human rights

April 24: Settlement of intrastate conflicts (commitment problems)

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

April 26: 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.

April 28: 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.
- **Last day of class. Last day to turn in extra credit.**

FINAL EXAM on Friday, May 5, 2017 in EST 200 (our classroom) from Noon – 2:30 pm