

POL SCI 175-001

Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2018
M,W 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Bolton B60

Instructor: Nicholas R. Davis
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Office: Bolton 656
Office Hours: M,W 9:50 – 10:50 AM
By appointment: <https://nrdavis.youcanbook.me>

Course Description

This course provides students with a general overview of international relations. Students need not be familiar with international relations, or even political science, as this course will begin with the basics and cover a variety of topics of interest to a broad range of students. We will cover the historical context of international relations, and you will learn about the essential concepts, ideas, actors, and phenomena to better understand global politics. Our focus will be on how the actor interests, interactions, and institutions structure global politics.

We will engage in the study of international relations in this class using a positivist political science approach. As such, you will be exposed to theoretical ideas thought to explain topics in global politics such as conflict, economic interaction, and international law. We will then assess these theoretical ideas using a variety of empirical tools (basic game theory, analysis of historical information, examination of statistical evidence) common in political science.

There are two general goals of this course. First, the readings in the textbook and the lectures I provide are intended to expose you to many of the important concepts, theories, and building blocks necessary to understand contemporary global politics. Second, this course is aimed at introducing the theories and analytical tools used in empirical political science to many students who have no familiarity with this field of study. It is my sincere hope that the material in this class leads you to think differently about politics and ask the type of questions that can be further explored in other courses offered in political science.

Over the course of this semester, you will read and I will lecture about several topics in international relations, divided into four units. The first unit will cover the foundations of political science and the study of international relations. The second unit examines aspects of war and peace such as international conflict, civil war, and terrorism. The third unit covers international political economy, including trade, finance, and development. The fourth and

final unit covers transnational politics including international law, human rights, and the environment.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

This course fulfills the Social Science General Education Requirement (GER) through its focus on: a) the study of intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development; and b) the study of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures, and interrelationships.

This course meets these requirements through our examination of the varied personal, social, and international forces that shape individual and collective political behavior and international relations. We will also examine the institutions and actors which shape global politics.

Course Requirements

In this course you will prepare for and attend lectures, take four exams, and complete three writing assignments. Details of these expectations are provided below. This three credit class meets twice weekly for 75 minutes, for a total of 38 hours of required lecture time including all exams. Required readings should take approximately 45 additional hours over the course of the semester, and the essays are expected to take approximately 24 hours in total. All told, this class is estimated to take at least 108 hours of your time.

D2L ACCESS

There is a companion website to the course available on D2L. I will use this site to disseminate information regarding the course such as reminders about exams and assigned tasks. I will also upload non-textbook readings on D2L, collect your writing assignments, and post grades. You may direct all questions regarding the performance of D2L to the University Help Desk (229-4040). I expect you to check the D2L course site often for announcements and other materials.

You must complete a short quiz on D2L dealing with the content of this syllabus. The quiz can be attempted an unlimited number of times, cannot hurt your grade, and must be completed with a 100%. No content on D2L will unlock, nor will you be able to receive any grades until this quiz is completed. You will have access to the syllabus under the Overview tab of the Content section. The point of the quiz is to ensure that you understand the guidelines and requirements for the class so that there is no possibility for confusion later.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

You must be sure to check your UWM email often, as this is a primary channel of communication that I will use throughout the semester. Do not email me with a non-university email as often this will result in my overactive spam filter not allowing the message through. Failure to check your UWM email account or use this method to communicate with me is not an excuse for missing important deadlines or being unaware of important information.

When sending emails to myself or other students, I expect that you will be professional, courteous, and write in complete sentences. Any email correspondence that does not include a salutation (i.e. "Hello,") and some identification of who you are (i.e. "Thanks, A. Student") **will not receive a response**. You should get in the habit of writing emails in a professional manner, since instructors, employers, or clients will react much better to well-written correspondence.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

I expect that you will prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned material from the textbook. The required textbook for this course is:

Frieden, Jeffrey A.; Lake, David A.; Schultz, Kenneth A. 2015. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 3rd ed. W W Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-93809-8

You can purchase this book through the UWM/ecampus site, although I strongly urge you to explore rental options from Amazon or elsewhere. There is no reason to buy a brand new copy if you can get a good used copy or if you are comfortable with a rental or an ebook, which typically are as much as half the cost. You absolutely must have a copy of this book to succeed in the course, however.

The publisher offers an ebook version for about \$45.00, available here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol13>. Rentals from Amazon appear to be even less than that. Access to the online resources for this book is not required.

Each semester there is at least one student who tries to avoid getting the textbook. Each semester, this student does not pass the class. Typically, before the end of the first unit this student gives up on the course, because it is not possible to do well on the quizzes without reading the chapter each week.

If you cannot afford the book in any of its available formats (including used or rental options) you must let me know immediately. I will place a copy of the book on course reserve, but this is only a temporary fix as you can only check the book out for a short period of time (two hours) and cannot leave the library with it. There are two sections of this class, and there is no guarantee that the reserve copy will be available for you when you need it.

EXAMS

There are four exams in this course, each worth 15% of your final grade. Each exam will be 45 multiple choice questions, covering the material from the preceding unit. The first three exams will be taken in class at the end of each unit (see schedule below) and the fourth exam will be taken during the university-assigned final exam time: 12:30–2:30 PM, Friday May 18th. Please note that you will need to bring your student ID to each exam, as the testing center requires a valid student ID number for each exam in order to record your grade.

If you have a university-approved excuse for missing an exam, you have 24 hours to contact me in order to have the opportunity for a make-up exam. If you do not contact me within this time and provide documentation of your absence, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. If you tell me in advance, I will let you take a slightly different version of the exam *before* the rest of the class. This can be scheduled during a mutually agreeable time outside of class.

Questions for the exams will come directly from one of two locations (with the possibility of appearing in both places). First, I create many of the questions from the material in the book, such as definitions or important ideas. Second, I create questions from my lecture slides, which will be made available to you on D2L. Key terms are good candidates for definitional questions, and I also include questions on the “big ideas” of the unit. Failure to read the textbook *and* study the lecture notes will make it nearly impossible to pass the exams.

CRITICAL ESSAYS

There are three written assignments in this course, each worth 10% of your final grade. Each essay will be between 1.5 and 2 double-spaced pages. The purpose of these essays is to formulate an argument (thesis) and credibly defend your perspective by providing evidence from the readings. Being “right” is not important; being *clear*, *concise*, and *leveraging the readings* to argue a point is essential.

The guidelines document for formatting the essays and the rubric I use to grade them are posted on D2L. Failure to follow the formatting rules for will result in non-passing grade for the essay, as evidenced by the rubric. For the first essay, you will have the opportunity to restructure the document for full points **only after meeting with me**. For the other two essays you will not have this opportunity and the grade will be final. I am happy to meet with you prior to the deadline to read your essay and ensure you have done the assignment correctly.

Essays must be uploaded as a document to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 5:00 PM on Friday (due dates listed in the schedule below). The document must be one of the following file types: .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .pdf – note that Apple Pages cannot be read by D2L. Unreadable files will receive no points. Grades will be assigned via a rubric, available on D2L. Late essay assignments can at most only earn the class average.

The UWM Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.uwm.edu>) provides peer tutoring to help students develop their writing skills. If you encounter difficulty with the written assignments in this course and would like to work with the Writing Center to revise and improve your work, we can create a structure for you to do so.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION

Attendance and participation counts for 10% of your final grade. Attendance is mandatory; I will take attendance each day either at the beginning or end of class. We have a great deal of material to cover this semester, and so missing even one class can put you at a disadvantage on the exams. For every two classes you miss unexcused, your participation grade will drop an entire letter grade.

You will need to set up a meeting with me during office hours or another mutually agreeable time before the first exam in order to get full points for participation this semester. This meeting will be just a few minutes, and allows you to ask any questions about the course and for me to learn a little about you as well. To set up a meeting time outside of office hours, you can use this link at any time during the semester: <https://nrdavis.youcanbook.me>

In a class this size, it is often difficult to sustain discussion and at the same time get through the required material. I would like students to try to ask at least one thoughtful question during each of the four units. If discussion gets in the way of the required lecture material, I will refer students to meet with me after or outside of class. I encourage you to reach out to me by email if you have questions that cannot be asked or answered in class due to time constraints as well. However, I will not accept email correspondence as a substitute for class attendance/participation.

Grading Policies

Consistent with the above requirements, course grades will be calculated as follows: four exams at 15% each (60%), three essays at 10% each (30%), and attendance and participation for 10% (total 100%).

Final Grade Calculation

Four exams, 15% each	60%
Three essays, 10% each	30%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will appear on D2L, typically in five business days or less. All grades will be calculated using the scale below. Rounding and grade curves are at my discretion. You are responsible for ensuring that you have received grades for all completed work. If you do not see a grade

for a completed exam or essay you should contact me immediately. After the last class meeting I will not entertain any questions about missing work or grades on work completed during the semester.

Grading Scale

100–93	A	87–83	B	77–73	C	67–63	D
92–90	A–	82–80	B–	72–70	C–	62–60	D–
89–88	B+	79–78	C+	69–68	D+	59– 0	F

PROFESSIONALISM

You will be expected to behave professionally in this class. That is to say, you will be expected to arrive on time and to attend all meetings. You will be prepared for each class and actively participate in discussion. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to: reading non-class material, conversing during lectures, insulting classmates or the instructor, or leaving early. I also will not tolerate students who do not put forth every effort.

During class you will not be allowed to use electronic devices for anything other than academic activities. This means no social media, Youtube, etc. It is disruptive to other students and rude to the instructor and will not be tolerated. Should I encounter you misusing electronic devices during lecture, I reserve the right to take away your attendance/participation points for the day. If the behavior is distracting to other students you will be asked to surrender the device for the duration of the class or leave the room.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Any student who cheats or commits any other act of academic dishonesty will fail this course and be referred to the appropriate UWM authorities. The UWM policy on academic misconduct is available at http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm. **I take plagiarism and academic misconduct very seriously.** Not knowing that you were committing academic misconduct is not a valid defense; it is my understanding that you will learn the rules or ask me. Consider this your only warning.

Indiana University–Bloomington has an excellent resource for those who are unsure what constitutes plagiarism. I urge you to read through this web page and familiarize yourself with what is considered plagiarism: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. Another useful resource is <http://www.plagiarism.org>, which has several resources, including a service to check your paper for plagiarism.

Keep these links handy and as you complete your writing assignments for this and any other course. If you are unsure if you might be plagiarizing, review the examples they provide, and if necessary ask me. As the Indiana web page instructs, you must give credit whenever you

use the ideas, opinions, written or spoken words, facts, or materials generated by another person when that information is not public knowledge. This includes information from the textbook that you might want to use in an essay.

GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURES

A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm>

INCOMPLETES

A notation of “incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf>

Other University Policies

Information regarding several standing policies of UWM is available at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf> Some several relevant sections are detailed below.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who needs special accommodations due to a documented disability should please contact me as soon as possible. Required forms are available at <http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/zforms.html>.

Please inform me within the first three weeks of class if there is a scheduling conflict between your sincerely held religious beliefs and taking an exam or meeting the academic requirements of this course. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

Information regarding the policies of UWM on students called to active military duty may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/academics/military.cfm>

DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT

Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated. It poisons our common work and learning environment and threatens the careers, educational experience, and wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf>

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Information regarding the policies of UWM on this issue may be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm>

Course Schedule

The topics covered and readings required for each class period appear on the next page. Readings from the textbook are marked by a chapter number and page numbers. When I list the page number on which you should stop, I intend for you to read through the end of the section on that page. I will post the first reading on D2L (from the introduction to the textbook) in case you have a problem getting the book by the first day of class. Note that there can be readings assigned from multiple chapters depending on the topic(s) covered.

Two dates feature “special topics” which are not covered by the textbook. I will determine whether additional (short) readings will be required for these topics depending on student interest and pace of material at these points in the semester. If additional readings are required, you will be notified well in advance and the material will be posted on D2L.

Topics and Deadlines

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
M 01/22	Course Introduction What is political science? <i>I. Foundations</i>	Review syllabus
W 01/24	Introduction to international relations	pp <i>xx-xxxiii</i> (on D2L)
M 01/29	World politics, 1648 to 1948	Chapter 1, pp 2–23
W 01/31	World politics, 1949 to present	Chapter 1, pp 23–41
M 02/05	Actors and interests in IR	Chapter 2, pp 42–66
W 02/07	Institutions: why rules matter	Chapter 2, pp 67–87

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Course Schedule, *Continued*

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
M 02/12	EXAM 1	
	<i>II. War and Peace</i>	
W 02/14	<i>Special topic:</i> Critical essay instruction Why are there wars?	Chapter 3, pp 88–104
M 02/19	Information, trust, and indivisibility	Chapter 3 pp 105–135
W 02/21	Domestic politics and war	Chapter 4, pp 136–165
F 02/23	Essay 1 due on D2L	
M 02/26	Regime type and war Alliances	Chapter 4, pp 166–183 Chapter 5, pp 184–202
W 02/28	Collective security and the U.N. Nuclear non-proliferation	Chapter 5, pp 203–233 Chapter 14, pp 579–590
M 03/05	War within states	Chapter 6, pp 234–263
W 03/07	Terrorism	Chapter 6, pp 264–289
M 03/12	EXAM 2	
W 03/14	No Class	
	M 03/19 – F 03/24 No Class (<i>SPRING BREAK</i>)	
	<i>III. International Political Economy</i>	
M 03/26	Political economy of trade, migration	Chapter 7, pp 290–313, 372–376
W 03/28	Strategic interaction in IPE	Chapter 7, pp 313–339
F 03/30	Essay 2 due on D2L	
M 04/02	International finance	Chapter 8, pp 340–349, 365–371, and 376–378
W 04/04	International monetary relations	Chapter 9, pp 381–405
M 04/09	International monetary crisis Problems of economic development	Chapter 9, pp 405–418 Chapter 10, pp 420–434
W 04/11	Development patterns, debt	Chapter 10, pp 434–441 Chapter 8 pp 349–365
M 04/16	Politics and policies of development <i>Special topic:</i> IPE of disaster relief	Chapter 10, pp 441–454 <i>To be determined</i>
W 04/18	EXAM 3	
	<i>IV. Transnational Politics</i>	
M 04/23	International law and norms	Chapter 11, pp 456–480
W 04/25	How norms shape interactions Introduction to human rights	Chapter 11, pp 480–488 Chapter 12, pp 490–503

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Course Schedule, *Continued*

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
F 04/27	Essay 3 due on D2L	
M 04/30	Human rights: interests, institutions	Chapter 12, pp 504–530
W 05/02	Politics of the global environment	Chapter 13, pp 532–545, 568–575
M 05/07	Bargaining over the environment	Chapter 13, pp 545–566
W 05/09	Globalization, future trends	Chapter 14, pp 601–626
F 05/18	EXAM 4 (Final) at 12:30 AM in Bolton B60	

ADDITIONAL DEADLINES

You should be aware of these university-wide spring semester dates which apply this course.

Late add deadline	Friday 02/02
Financial Aid census date	Friday 02/02
Last day to drop without W	Friday 02/16
Last day to drop with W*	Sunday 04/08

*After this date, drops and withdrawals require the signature of the instructor and the school/college advising office or student services.