

POL SCI 175-202

Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2018

ONLINE

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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 provide lecture notes 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

This is an online course, and so it is necessary that you have a reliable internet connection for the duration of the semester. All course materials (with the exception of the textbook) are available online. All graded assignments, including exams or quizzes will be taken online through D2L.

In this course you will complete weekly reading assignments, take 13 short quizzes on the weekly readings, write five discussion posts, and complete three writing assignments. Details of these expectations are provided below. This three credit class is expected to include weekly preparation and completion of quizzes, taking about 38 hours. 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 107 hours of your time.

D2L ACCESS

This class runs off a companion website available on D2L. I will use this site to disseminate information regarding the course such as reminders about assignments and lecture notes. I will also collect your writing assignments, and post grades and D2L.

You may direct all questions regarding the performance of D2L to the University Help Desk (229-4040). It is important to note that due to this being an online-only course, lack of access to D2L is NOT an acceptable excuse for failure to complete the required work. If you have problems with access, you must contact me immediately and include your Help Desk ticket number or verification of D2L service outage. I expect you to check the D2L course site often for announcements and other materials, and to be sure to check your UWM email as well.

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.

Since this is an online class and some students may not be able to meet in person, I can meet via Skype or Google Hangouts when necessary. If you require such a meeting, you must contact me in advance and set up a specific time for the call. Typically such meetings are not possible during open office hours.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

I expect that you will prepare for each weekly quiz by reading the lecture notes and assigned material from the textbook. The 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/worldpol3>. 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 short periods of time 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.

QUIZZES

Beginning in the second week, you will be required to take a quiz on the material covered each week. There are thirteen (13) total quizzes, each worth five points. The quizzes are taken through the D2L “Quizzes” tab. These quizzes have a time limit, and although you may use notes, be sure to finish the quiz before the timer runs out. There is one quiz for each required chapter in the text book, and you must complete the quiz by Saturday at 11:59 PM each week. You are required to take all thirteen of these quizzes, and your lowest grade will automatically be dropped. This means that since the quizzes are worth five points each, all together the twelve quizzes that are not dropped are worth 60% of your final grade in the course.

Each quiz will have fifteen (15) questions drawn at random from a question bank on D2L. This means that it is possible that each student will take a slightly different quiz in the same week. This is to discourage cheating. Each question is worth one point, meaning that if you get more than six questions incorrect, you have failed the quiz. The weekly quizzes *cannot be retaken* - remember that your lowest grade is dropped at the end of the semester. You should spend some time studying the material before taking the quizzes to give yourself the best possible chance to get a good grade.

Questions for the quizzes will come directly from one of two locations (with the possibility of appearing in both places). First, I create most of the questions from the material in the book, such as definitions or important ideas. Second, I create questions from my lecture notes, which are available to you on D2L, and *must be opened before that week’s quiz can be accessed*. Underlined terms are good candidates for definitional questions, and I try to include a question on the “big ideas” of the week where possible. Based on the possible questions each week, failure to read the chapter *and* the lecture notes will make it nearly impossible to pass the quiz.

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 discussing it with me**. For the other two essays you will NOT have this opportunity and the grade will be final. I am happy to communicate with you prior to the deadline, and read your essay and ensure you have done the assignment correctly.

Essays must be uploaded as a document to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 11:59 PM on Saturday (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.

PARTICIPATION POSTS

Participation in class discussions is also required. You will complete five discussion posts over the semester, typically due by 11:59 PM on Saturday (due dates listed in the schedule below). For each post, I will start a thread under the “Discussions” tab in D2L. In order to get your participation points for a post, you will need to first answer the question I pose by creating a new thread in the appropriate discussion forum. Make sure that you are contributing to the discussion by answering my prompt when you write your post. Then, you will write two replies on threads started by your classmates, making sure to respond to their take on the prompt.

Each discussion post is worth two participation points. You will be graded on content and impact, and can receive half-point intervals ranging between 0 and 2 points. One point will be awarded for your original answer to the prompt, and a half point for each reply to a classmate. I will downgrade posts which are too difficult to read, are off topic, or do not follow the guidelines listed in the “professionalism” section below. It is important to note that material outside that presented in the readings or lecture notes is not required. If you do include outside information, **it must be from a respectable source and include a citation**. Failure to cite outside material will result in a loss of all points for that post.

There is a thread under the “Discussions” tab on D2L where you can post general questions for either me or your classmates to answer. I will check in on that thread periodically, but for faster responses I encourage you to reach out to me by email. However, you should note that I will not accept email correspondence as a substitute for class participation.

Grading Policies

Consistent with the above requirements, course grades will be calculated as follows: twelve quizzes at 5% each (60%), three essays at 10% each (30%), and five 2% participation posts for the remaining 10% (total 100%).

Final Grade Calculation

Twelve quizzes, 5% each	60%
Three essays, 10% each	30%
Five participation posts 2% each	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will appear on D2L, typically in five business days or less. Course 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 quiz or essay you should contact me immediately. After the last official day of classes in the semester 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

Unfortunately, it is necessary for me to mention that when you communicate with me, other students, and/or write your discussion posts you must be civil and professional. Posts which are not written in complete sentences will be downgraded, but posts which are abusive, profane, or a personal attack on another student ***will not be tolerated***. If this occurs, you will lose participation points for the post and be warned. If it occurs again, you will lose all participation points for the semester and I will report you to the Dean of Students. Discussion posts are a chance for you to show how smart and engaged you are with the course. No trolls allowed.

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>

IMPORTANT REGISTRAR 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.

Course Schedule

The topics covered and chapter readings required for each week appear below. Unlike some online courses, the material in this class will unlock at 6:00 AM on Monday of each week. This means that if you need to access the material and quiz before it unlocks, you must ask for special permission. Note that the quizzes are due each Saturday at 11:59 PM, and the other specific deadlines are listed here. The “Course Schedule” feature (under “Content”) in D2L will contain the quiz and other deadlines for the course as well.

Topics and Deadlines

Date	Topic	Reading(s)	Quiz
01/22 – 01/27	Introduction Post 1 due Saturday 01/27 by 5:00 PM <i>I. Foundations</i>	pp <i>xx–xxxiii</i>	Syllabus
01/29 – 02/03	Historical Introduction	Chapter 1	Quiz 1
02/05 – 02/10	Interests, Interactions, Institutions Post 2 due Saturday 02/10 by 5:00 PM	Chapter 2	Quiz 2
<i>II. War and Peace</i>			
02/12 – 02/17	Why are there Wars?	Chapter 3	Quiz 3
02/19 – 02/24	War, Domestic Politics Essay 1 due Saturday 02/24 by 11:59 PM	Chapter 4	Quiz 4
02/26 – 03/03	War, International Institutions	Chapter 5	Quiz 5
03/05 – 03/10	Civil War and Terrorism Post 3 due Saturday 03/10 by 5:00 PM	Chapter 6	Quiz 6
<i>III. International Political Economy</i>			
03/12 – 03/17	International Trade	Chapter 7	Quiz 7
03/19 – 03/24	No Class (<i>SPRING BREAK</i>)		None
03/26 – 03/31	International Finance Essay 2 due Saturday 03/31 by 11:59 PM	Chapter 8	Quiz 8
04/02 – 04/07	Monetary Relations	Chapter 9	Quiz 9
04/09 – 04/14	Development Post 4 due Saturday 04/14 by 5:00 PM	Chapter 10	Quiz 10
<i>IV. Transnational Politics</i>			
04/16 – 04/21	International Law	Chapter 11	Quiz 11
04/23 – 04/28	Human Rights Essay 3 due Saturday 04/28 by 11:59 PM	Chapter 12	Quiz 12
04/30 – 05/05	Environmental Politics	Chapter 13	Quiz 13
05/07 – 05/11	Globalization Post 5 due Thursday 05/11 by 5:00 PM	Chapter 14	None