

Political Science 1400-03: International Relations

Spring 2018

Online

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311 Professional Building

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Office Hours: M/W 1:00 to 3:30pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This class is an introduction to the scientific study of international politics. We will discuss explanations of the causes of war—both domestic and international—political economy, human rights, and environmental politics. In addition, we will discuss how more “traditional” subjects of international relations intersect and can help us understand domestic politics. Although we will reference current events as a tool to understand the scientific findings of international relations, this is not a current events course.

The semester is broken down into four general sections. First, we will discuss how the field of Political Science approaches the study of international politics. Second we will focus on the causes and effects of armed conflict, both international and domestic. Third, we will deal with topics of political economy, such as international finance and trade. Finally, we will cover transnational issues that will bring together our explanations for domestic and international political decisions. Throughout the course, we will discuss published research in addition to the information in the textbook—to both support our general discussion and illustrate how research about international politics is performed.

Online Material

Because this class is conducted entirely on the course Canvas site, reading and understanding the assigned textbook chapter and E-text article is especially important. To help with this, I will post weekly review outlines for the material. Please do not hesitate to ask me questions about this material directly. Posting these questions on the course Canvas discussion board, and responding to the questions of other students will count toward your participation grade. Finally, during my listed office hours, I will be available to answer questions through the Chat section of the course Canvas page if students are unable to request help in person.

Exams will be available all day on the Friday of the week they are assigned on the syllabus. However, once begun, you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam, and only have one attempt.

Course Textbook

There are two required books for this course. The first is the general textbook. The second is an e-reader that is necessary for exams and participation in course discussions. There should be no need to purchase the E-text individually, instead it should automatically provide access when you log into the course Canvas page. I will refer to it as “E-text” in the Class Outline.

Textbook: Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 3rd ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-91238-8

International Relations E-text: 2016. Norton.

Canvas

All communication for this course will be conducted via the course’s Canvas site—this is also where students will set-up and access the assigned E-Reader—and University email. Following University policy, I will not respond to any student email that is sent from a non-University email address. Any supplementary material, assignments, or changes to the course structure will be made available on this site. Each student should ensure that they have access to these materials and are able to receive emails through their student account.

Grading

Exam 1: (25%)

Exam 2: (25%)

Weekly Quizzes: (25%)

Canvas Discussion Posts: (25%)

Exams: Each exam will be multiple choice, consisting of 50 questions worth two points each. They will appear on Canvas on the Friday of the date on the syllabus. A review sheet, and Canvas discussion entirely for the purposes of review, will be made available prior to each exam.

Weekly Quizzes: On the Friday of each week, except on the weeks of each exam, I will post a short five question quiz to take on Canvas. Questions will cover material contained in the readings. You will have two attempts to take the quiz.

Discussion Posts: Each week, I will post discussion questions on Blackboard. Students are expected to respond to at least one question by Sunday night of that week. In addition students are expected to professionally respond to at least one response of another student or answer at least one question posed by a fellow student in the available discussion forums. Students themselves will also receive credit for posts applying the course material to current events or asking questions of their own (they must be beyond simple ”explain/define topic X”).

Grading Scale

97-100: A+ 87-89: B+ 77-79: C+ 67-69: D+ 59 and below: F
94-97: A 84-87: B 74-77: C 64-67: D
90-93: A- 80-83: B- 70-73: C- 60-63: D-

Information and University Policies

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Classroom Conduct

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Title IX and Mandatory Reporting

University of Missouri policies and federal law prohibit all forms of sex discrimination in education, including discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

Because we care about our community, Mizzou employees are required to report all incidents of sex discrimination to the Title IX Office. The Title IX Office connects students with resources and helps them decide whether they wish to file a complaint of discrimination. To learn more, contact title9@missouri.edu or (573) 882-3880, or go to www.title9.missouri.edu. Students may also contact the Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for counseling and other support: rsvp@missouri.edu or (573) 882-6638, or go to www.rsvp.missouri.edu. Both the Title IX Office and the RSVP Center can provide accommodations to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues. The Title IX Office and the RSVP Center will respect your privacy.

Disability Services

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

Copyright on Lecture and Course Materials

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Class Outline

Part 1: The Science of Politics

Week 1, January 16-19: A Basic History of International Politics

Textbook: Intro and Chapter 1

Week 2, January 22-26: The Science of International Politics

Textbook: Chapter 2

E-reader: David Lake - "Why 'isms' are Evil; Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress."

Part 2: Domestic and International Conflict

Week 3, January 29-February 2: The Causes of War

Monday, September 7: No Class, Labor Day. Textbook: Chapter 3

E-reader: Navin A. Bapat - "A Game Theoretic Analysis of the Afghan Surge."

Week 4, February 5-9: Domestic Politics and War

Textbook: Chapter 4

E-reader: Drury, Overby, and Ang - "'Pretty Prudent' or 'Rhetorically Responsive:' The American Public's Support for Military Action."

Week 5, February 12-16: International Institutions and War

Textbook: Chapter 5

E-reader: Russett, Oneal, and Davis - "The Third Leg of the Kantian Tripod for Peace: International Organizations and Militarized Disputes, 1950-85."

Week 6, February 19-23: Civil Conflict and Terrorism

Textbook: Chapter 6

E-reader: Townsen and Reeder - "Where Do Peacekeepers Go When They Go?" **Friday, February 23: Exam One**

Part 3: Political Economy

Week 7, February 26-March 2: International Trade

Textbook: Chapter 7

E-reader: Drury, Kriekhaus, and Yamamoto - "How Democracy Facilitates South Korean Interest in Free Trade Agreements."

Week 8, March 5-9: International Financial Institutions and Interactions

Textbook: Chapter 8

E-reader: Skonieczny - "Constructing NAFTA: Myth, Representation, and the Discursive Construction of U.S. Foreign Policy."

Week 9, March 12-16: International Monetary Institutions and Interactions

Textbook: Chapter 9

E-reader: Peksen and Drury - "Economic Sanctions and Political Repression: Assessing the Impact of Coercive Diplomacy on Political Freedoms."

Week 10, March 19-23: Economic Development

Textbook: Chapter 10

E-reader: Scott and Steele - "Sponsoring Democracy: The United States and Democracy Aid to the Developing World, 1998-2001."

Part 4: Transnational Issues

Week 11, March 26-30:

No Class: Spring Break

Week 12, April 2-6: The Reality of International Law

Textbook: Chapter 11

E-reader: None

Week 13, April 9-13: Human Rights

Textbook: Chapter 12

E-reader: Murdie and Davis - "Shaming and Blaming: Using Events Data to Assess the Impact of Human Rights INGOs." and Drury and Peksen - "Women and Economic Statecraft: The Negative Impact International Economic Sanctions Visit on Women."

Week 14, April 16-20: Environmental Politics

Textbook: Chapter 13

E-reader: None

Week 15, April 23-27: The Future of International Politics

Textbook: Chapter 14

E-reader: Simmons - "International Studies in the Global Information Age."

Week 16, May 7 - 11:

Final Exam Available