

International Politics
Political Science L32 103B/
International and Area Studies L97 104B

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Introduction:

This course explores the principles that shape interactions and outcomes in the global political system and illustrates these principles with examples drawn from history and contemporary world events. It revolves around two enduring questions facing international relations scholars: (1) why, and under what conditions do states fight with one another, and (2) why, and under what conditions do states cooperate? The goal of this course is to help you develop the analytical skills necessary to think systematically about international events.

Some Administrative Guidelines:

Students will be expected to attend all lectures and to refrain from talking about things that are not course-related

Students who cannot participate in examinations at the scheduled times for medical reasons must produce valid medical excuses (with documentation). Part from medical reasons, I allow very few make up exams because it is not fair to the other students

Textbook:

International Relations, 8/E, by Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse

Hard and Fast Rules:

Plagiarism. If an idea is not yours, you must cite the source. There are some exceptions to this (i.e., commonly known facts, etc.). If you are unsure about whether to cite somebody, ask us. Plagiarism in the form of using Internet “term papers” or papers written for this course in past semesters will result in a zero grade (not simply an “F”) for the assignment as well as possible disciplinary action.

Grade complaints. I don’t consider them. I have great confidence in our ability to evaluate your performance in an objective manner. If I see a systematic problem in the exams, I will correct for them. If you feel that the grade was an administrative error, of course, we can fix that (you must inform us in person; no grade-related issues will be entertained over email). In all other cases, your grade will stand. If you are not happy with that grade, you will have the opportunity to do an additional project that will be factored into your final course grade.

Course Requirements:

First In-Class Blue Book Examination (March 7): 40%
Second In-Class Blue Book Examination (April 23): 50%
Attendance: 10%

Examinations:

The examinations will be in-class tests. They will consist of short answers/IDs and/or multiple-choice and longer essay-type questions.

Pass/Fail; Credit/No Credit:

The threshold for pass and credit is a C or above. A C- or below is considered failing/no credit. An asterisk (*) denotes a failing grade if the student wishes to elect the course pass/fail. If we convert a letter grade to a number grade, the numerical value is the one in parentheses (an A-/B+ is 89.5; B/B+ is 86.5; B/B- is an 82.5, etc.).

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69*	E 59 and below*
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66*	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72*	D- 60-62*	

* An asterisk denotes a failing grade if the student wishes to elect the course pass/fail

Week 1

January 14 – Introduction
January 16 – Film: *Threads* (no readings)

Week 2

January 21 (MLK Day – no classes)
January 23 – Power Politics (read Chapter 2)

Week 3

January 28 and 30 – Alternatives to Power Politics (read Chapter 3)

Week 4

February 4 and 6 – Foreign Policy (read Chapter 4)

Week 5

February 11 and 13 – International Conflict (read Chapter 5)

Week 6

February 18 and 20 – Military Force and Terrorism (read Chapter 6)

Week 7

February 25 and 27 – International Organization, Law, and Human Rights (read Chapter 7)

Week 8

March 3 – **Review Session**
March 5 – **Mid term Exam**

March 10 – **Spring Break**
March 12 – **Spring Break**

Week 9

March 17 and March 19 – International Trade (read Chapter 8)

Week 10

March 24 and 26 – Money and Business (read Chapter 9)

Week 11

March 31 and April 2 – International Integration (read chapter 10)

Week 12

April 7 and April 9 – Environment and Population (read Chapter 11)

Week 13

April 14 and 16 – The North-South Gap and International Development (read chapters 12, 13)

Week 14

M April 21 – **Review Session**
W April 23 – **Final Exam**