

Introduction to International Politics – INTS 1700-1 (Spring 2021)

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Thursdays from 12:30 am -2:30 pm MST (Zoom)

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:50 am MST (Zoom)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the core concepts and theories of international politics, as well as the methods researchers use to investigate those theories and adjudicate competing explanations. International politics generally attempts to explain conflict and cooperation within and across the international system. To that end, this course focuses on states and why they choose to engage in trade, build alliances, and go to war, among other behaviors. However, non-state actors, whether violent extremist groups like al Qaeda or altruistic organizations like Save the Children, also play a critical role in shaping world events, and so will also be objects of study.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to help students achieve three core objectives. First, students will learn about important historical events and trends relevant to international politics. Second, students will study the core topics, theories, and methodologies of international relations. Third, students will apply this knowledge to important issues of international politics, developing arguments to explain why events have unfolded as they did. The causes of war, the spread of human rights, international economics and development, environmental politics, international organizations, terrorism, and many other topics are all worthy candidates for analysis.

Required Texts

- Essentials of International Relations (hereafter abbreviated EIR), 8th Edition (2018) – Heather McKibben, Karen Mingst, Ivan Arreguín-Toft
 - Students should buy this text, though a single copy will remain on reserve at the Anderson Academic Commons. It can be bought at the university bookstore or via other vendors.
 - Students may wish to purchase EIR's 6th or 7th edition, in which case page numbers may differ from those formally assigned.

- Oxford Handbook of International Relations (hereafter abbreviated OHIR) – Reus-Smit, Christian, and Duncan Snidal, eds. 2010. 1 edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - This text is available electronically through Anderson Academic Commons (AAC). Students who are confident that they will pursue international politics in the future (especially into graduate school) may wish to purchase a hard copy for use in the future.
- Other readings are noted on the syllabus and will be made available via Canvas.

Remote Learning

This course will be conducted entirely online. Lectures will be conducted over Zoom, and access details are available in Canvas. In the event that Zoom crashes, we will attempt to re-connect via Skype where the instructor (Skype id: chris.wiley.shay) will convene a meeting.

All lectures will be recorded and made available to students until the end of the academic quarter. Once the course has ended, all recordings will be deleted.

Grading

Students' final grades will be based on performance in four areas: reading quizzes, two papers, and a mid-term exam. Specific assignments and their relative contribution to your final grade follow:

- Reading quizzes – 25%
 - Four reading quizzes will be administered during the course. Each will be multiple-choice, open-note, and must be taken outside of class meeting times. Collaboration is permitted but discouraged. Students may re-take each quiz as many times as desired without penalty. Each completed quiz amounts to 25% of the assignment's total score.
- Paper I – 25% (Due May 4)
 - You will be prompted to analyze international politics using the grand theories discussed during the first weeks of the course. Successful papers will demonstrate a strong grasp of the logic underlying those theories, and the author's ability to apply them to historical or contemporaneous events. Further instructions (including a grading rubric) will be provided by the beginning of week 3.
- Mid-term Exam – 25% (Due May 20)
 - The mid-term will be open-note but collaboration is forbidden. Students will choose two essay questions to answer from a longer list of possible questions. Each question will give students an opportunity to draw from a relatively narrow selection of material covered during the course. Further instructions will be provided by the beginning of week 4.

- Paper II – 25% (Due June 10)
 - Students will select an international actor (either a government, and inter-governmental organization, or an international non-governmental organization) and analyze its behavior using materials covered during the course. Students should identify the actor’s goals, the challenges preventing it from achieving those goals, and solutions to those challenges. Students should demonstrate the ability to approach a challenge from different angles or perspectives. Further instructions will be provided by the beginning of week 8.

Assignment & Exam Policy

All assignments and exams must be completed by or on designated due dates. Make-up mid-term exams will be permitted (without penalty) only under extraordinary circumstances, such as in the case of documented medical or family emergencies. The reading quizzes and mid-term exam will be administered using Canvas. Likewise, papers I and II will be submitted through Canvas and verified using the SafeAssign system (which searches for potentially plagiarized passages). Throughout this course, students must abide by the University of Denver’s Honor Code and Student Conduct Policies. Breaches of the honor code may result in disciplinary action.

Papers I and II can be submitted late, though final scores will be penalized. Papers one calendar day late will incur a 10% penalty. Papers will accrue an additional 5% penalty each additional day until the paper is submitted or a maximum penalty of 50% accrues.

Writing Style Exercises (opportunities for extra credit)

Students will have an opportunity to engage in writing style exercises for Papers I and II. By opting into this exercise, students may earn a small amount of extra credit on the assignment by following three simple rules:

- 1) Students must never use passive voice.
- 2) Students must never use any form of the word ‘is’ (including ‘to be,’ ‘was,’ etc...) excepting the future tense (‘will’).
- 3) Students must declare that they are opting into the exercise at the beginning of the assignment.

These constraints are designed to help students develop a professionalized writing style (IE: one that is concise and declarative). Because these constraints are difficult to work under without practice, students who opt into the exercise will be graded more leniently in terms of writing-style and clarity.

Class Policies

In addition to submitting all assignments, all students should complete assigned readings, attend lectures (via Zoom), and engage in class discussion. Each of these components is a critical part

of the learning process. Students are also welcome to read the optional materials, though this is not required.

I ask all students to note Aristotle's famous quote, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Within these parameters, I invite students to challenge ideas expressed by myself, assigned authors, and other students. Additionally, students have a right to express their ideas in an environment of mutual respect, free from intimidation and ridicule. Disrespectful or distracting behavior, such as ad hominem attacks against fellow students, will not be tolerated.

Syllabus Disclaimer

Note that I reserve the right to make reasonable alterations to this syllabus so long as timely notice can be provided to students. For instance, I may alter the course schedule and readings based on students' preferences and interests.

Unrelatedly, it is important to read syllabi (including this one) carefully, as they contain crucial information provided for the benefit of students. Students often save themselves and their instructors a great deal of time when they carefully read their syllabi at the beginning of a course. Students are encouraged to signal their diligence by sending me (via email or Canvas's messaging system) a picture of any particularly bizarre-looking animal or plant.

Honor Code and Student Conduct

Students must avoid committing academic misconduct. Specifically, students must avoid the following:

- Plagiarism – Do not claim others' work or ideas as your own. Avoid plagiarism by citing the authors whose work or ideas you have discussed.
- Cheating – Do not use any resources prohibited by the instructor, or those that a reasonable person would consider inappropriate, to complete assignments. Do not draw on other students' work (or non-students, for that matter) when collaboration is not permitted.
- Double submission – Do not submit the same work for more than one course without expressed permission.
- Fabrication – Do not portray false or fabricated data as valid. Likewise, do not invent false sources or research to support your arguments.

For more information please visit DU's Honor Code and Student Conduct Handbook at: http://www.du.edu/studentlife/studentconduct/media/documents/sc_policiesprocedures_2015-16.pdf

Accommodations for Disability

Any student in need of an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me at the beginning of the academic quarter to discuss specific needs. Students must also contact the Disability Services Program (located on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall; 1999 E.

Evans Ave.) to arrange accommodations. For more information, please refer to the Disability Service Program's website at <http://www.du.edu/disability/dsp> or the Handbook for Students with Disabilities.

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1A	1-Apr	Introduction: Mapping the Field of International Politics (EIR) Chapter 2: The Historical Context of Contemporary IR, pp 19-70 <i>Note: This text provides a reasonable (if incomplete) overview of modern world history. This is not a history course, but a reasonable grasp of recent world history is crucial for understanding international relations.</i>
Week 2A	6-Apr	The Science of International Politics: Theory and Empirics Copi, Irving. 1979. Symbolic Logic. 5th edition. New York: Pearson. <i>Note: Few students will have encountered this type of material before, so many may find it challenging. Fear not and follow along as best you can.</i> (EIR) Chapter 1: Approaches to International Relations Optional Readings: (OHIR) Joseph S. Nye, Jr., "International Relations: The Relevance of Theory to Practice" (Chapter 37) Jentleson, Bruce W., and Ely Ratner. 2011. "Bridging the Beltway–Ivory Tower Gap." International Studies Review 13 (1): 6-11 Friedman, Milton. 1953. "The Methodology of Positive Economics," in his Essays in Positive – Economics, 3-43. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Robert W. Cox, "The Point Is Not Just To Explain the World but to Change It", OHIR Ch. 4
Week 2B	8-Apr	Units of Analysis: The State and its Origins (OHIR) David A. Lake, "The State and International Relations" (Chapter 2) Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. The Sovereign State and Its Competitors. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read pp 3-9, 22-33 Optional Readings: (OHIR) Michael Barnett and Kathryn Sikkink, "From International Relations to Global Society" (Chapter 3)
Week 3A	13-Apr	The Security Dilemma: The Dangers We Pose To One Another Ken Booth and Nicholas J. Wheeler, The Security Dilemma: Fear, Cooperation and Trust in World Politics. Read the Introduction pp 1-10 (Stop at "Logics of Insecurity") and Ch. 1. Stop or skim at/after the "Interpreting Nazi Germany" section. Global Politico Podcast, Episode 35, https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/10/02/irans-foreign-minister-has-some-things-he-wants-to-say-to-donald-trump-215669 Optional Readings:

Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (2): 167–214.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/2009958>.

Week 3B

15-Apr IR Theories I: The Realisms

(OHIR) William C. Wohlforth, "Realism" (Chapter 7)

Walt, Stephan M. 2016. "What Would a Realist World Have Looked Like?" *Foreign Policy*, January 8, 2016. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/01/08/what-would-a-realist-world-have-looked-like-iraq-syria-iran-obama-bush-clinton/>.

Optional Readings:

Waltz: "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics."

Thucydides. "The Melian Dialogue."

Victor Davis Hanson, *A War Like No Other: How the Athenians and Spartans Fought the Peloponnesian War*, Introduction.

Week 4A

20-Apr IR Theories II: The Liberalisms

(EIR) Chapter 3: Contending Perspectives, 86-92 (Liberalism section)

Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions," *World Politics* 38 (October 1985): 226-254.

Optional readings:

Stephen Walt, "Liberals are musicians, realists are jocks," *Foreign Policy.com* (October 2011)

Michael W. Doyle, 1983, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (access at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2265298.pdf>)

Kenneth A. Oye, 1985, "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies", *World Politics* (access at

[jstor.org/stable/pdf/2010349.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A01f7f9ca9de75f874dc6c3e33eb64e6a](https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2010349.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A01f7f9ca9de75f874dc6c3e33eb64e6a))

Arthur A. Stein, "Neoliberal Institutionalism", OHIR Ch. 11

Week 4B

22-Apr IR Theories III: Constructivism

(EIR) Chapter 3: Contending Perspectives, 95-100 (Constructivism section)

Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46 (2): 391–425.

Optional readings:

Finnemore and Sikkink: "Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics." (Read from the beginning of the article until the beginning of the section "Constructivist Analysis in Comparative Politics.")

Michael Barnett, "Social Constructivism", in *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*.

James L. Gibson, 2005, "The Truth about Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa", *International Political Science Review* (access at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/30039021.pdf>)

Week 5A

27-Apr IR Theories IV: Radical Approaches (Marxist and Critical Theories)

(EIR) Chapter 3: Contending Perspectives, 92-95 ('Radical Perspective' section)

Stephen Hobden and Richard Wyn Jones, "Marxist Theories of International Relations", in *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*.

Cohn, Carol. 1987. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." *Signs* 12 (4): 687–718.

Optional readings:

Thomas Zeitzoff, 2018, "What Violent Rhetoric Does and Does Not Do", *Political Violence at a Glance* (access at: <http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2018/08/17/what-violent-rhetoric-does-and-does-not-do/>)

Christopher Shay, 2016, "The Jevons Paradox and the Economy of Drone Strikes", *Political Violence at a Glance*. (Available at: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2016/06/24/the-jevons-paradox-and-the-economy-of-drone-strikes/>). **IMPORTANT:** read the comments and reflect on who the author was writing for, and for what purpose.

Week 5B 29-Apr War and Security I: Interstate Armed Conflict and Its Causes

(EIR) Chapter 8: War and Strife, 249-263, 289-302

Fearon, James D. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization*, vol. 49, no. 3, 1995

Note: Read 379-386 carefully and skim the remainder. Many students will likely find this reading very difficult. That is to be expected, and not a problem.

Optional reading:

Bennett and Stam, *Behavioral Origins of War*, Chapter 1 (page 1-14) and Conclusion (200-222).

Hegre, Håvard. 2014. "Democracy and Armed Conflict" in *Journal of Peace Research*. Read pp 159-162 and the conclusion (focus on interstate conflict rather than internal conflict)

Benjamin E. Goldsmith, 2017, "Peace by Trade", in *Debating the East Asian Peace*

Marie Allansson, Erik Melander & Lotta Themner, 2017, "Organized violence, 1989–2016", in *Journal of Peace Research*

Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (2): 167–214. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2009958>.

Waltz, Kenneth N. 2001. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. Revised edition. New York: Columbia University Press. (Read the introduction).

Week 6A 4-May War and Security II: Civil War and Insurgency

(EIR) Chapter 8: War and Strife, 263-289

Reiter, Dan. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1, no. 1 (2003): 27–43.

Optional readings:

Ashutosh Varshney, 2001, "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond" in *World Politics*

Maria J. Stephan and Erica Chenoweth, 2008, "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict" in *Security Studies*. Read pp 6-15, 40-44, and read about at least one case study (pp 25-40)

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, 2004, "Greed and grievance in civil war", *Oxford Economic Papers*

Hegre, Håvard. 2014. "Democracy and Armed Conflict" in *Journal of Peace Research*. (Focus on intrastate conflict rather than international conflict)

Week 6B 6-May War and Security III: Resolving Armed Conflict

Edward N. Luttwak, 1999, "Give War a Chance", in *Foreign Affairs*

Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War." *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (2): 269–92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0020-8833.2004.00301.x>. Skim methodological discussions.

Optional readings:

Joakim Kreutz, "How and When Armed Conflicts End: Introducing the UCDP Conflict Termination Dataset." (2010) *Journal of Peace Research* 47(2):243-250.

Timothy D. Sisk, 2008, "Power Sharing after Civil Wars: Matching Problems to Solutions" in *Contemporary Peacemaking: Conflict, Peace Processes and Post-war Reconstruction* (Eds: John Darby and Roger Mac Ginty)

William Zartman, 2008, "The Timing of Peace Initiatives: Hurting Stalemates and Ripe Moments" in *Contemporary Peacemaking: Conflict, Peace Processes and Post-war Reconstruction* (Eds: John Darby and Roger Mac Ginty)

Barbara F. Walter, 2004, "Does Conflict Beget Conflict? Explaining Recurring Civil War", in *Journal of Peace Research*

Week 7A 11-May International Organizations: Coordinating Cooperation?

(EIR), Chapter 7: International Organizations..., 204-245

Keohane, Robert O. 1998. "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" *Foreign Policy*, no. 110: 82–96. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1149278>.

Optional readings:

Ethan A. Nadelmann, 1990, "Global Prohibition Regimes: The Evolution of Norms in International Society", in *International Organizations, Introduction to the UN System* (skim)

Week 7B 13-May International Political Economy I

(EIR) Chapter 9: International Political Economy, 309-325, 335-349

Gilpin, Robert. 1987. *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Read "The Nature of Political Economy"

Optional readings:

Frankel. "The Nature of Globalization."

Glaser, Charles L. 2013. "How Oil Influences U.S. National Security." *International Security* 38 (2): 112–46. https://doi.org/10.1162/ISEC_a_00137.

Week 8A 18-May International Political Economy II: The Resource Curse

Hendrix, Cullen, and Marcus Noland. *Confronting The Curse: The Economics and Geopolitics of Natural Resource Governance*. Columbia University Press, 2014. (Read only the introductory and concluding chapters, as provided.)

Week 8B 18-May International Democratization

Charles Kurzman, 1998, "Waves of democratization", in *Studies in Comparative International Development*

Larry Diamond, 2008, "The Democratic Rollback: The Resurgence of the Predatory State" in *Foreign Affairs*

Optional reading:

Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, with David Altman et al., 2011, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: A New Approach", in *Perspective on Politics*

Jan Teorell, 2010, Ch. 4: The Impetus from Abroad: International Determinants (pp 77-99) in *Determinants of Democratization: Explaining Regime Change in the World, 1972-2006*.

- Week 9A** **20-May** **Transnational Issues: The Environment, Global Health and Development**
(EIR) Chapter 11: Transnational Issues..., 384-428 (skim the section on Transnational Crime)
Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162 (3859): 1243-48.
- Optional readings:
Victor, Kennel, and Ramanathan. "The Climate Threat We Can Beat."
Matthews. "Redefining Security."
- Week 9B** **May 25** **May 25: Gender in IR**
Tickner, Ann. *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security*
Bjarnegård, Elin, Karen Brounéus, and Erik Melander. "Honor and Political Violence: Micro-Level Findings from a Survey in Thailand." *Journal of Peace Research* 54, no. 6 (November 1, 2017): 748-61. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343317711241>.
- Week 10A** **27-May** **Human Rights and Transnational Advocacy**
(EIR) Chapter 10: Human Rights, 350-381
- Optional reading:
Howard and Donnelly. "Human Rights and International Law."
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Keck and Sikkink. "Transnational Activist Networks."
Ethan Kapstein, "The New Global Slave Trade," *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec 2006), 103-108
- Week 10B** **1-Jun** **Major IR Issues I: Protest and Nonviolent Resistance**
Chenoweth, Erica, and Maria J. Stephan. *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*. Columbia University Press, 2011. (Chapter 1)
- Week 11A** **6-Jun** **Major IR Issues II: The Thucydides Trap**
Kirshner, Jonathan. "Handle Him with Care: The Importance of Getting Thucydides Right." *Security Studies* 28, no. 1 (January 1, 2019): 1-24. .