



Introduction to International Politics

POLS 2361-002

Course Info



M W F 2:00-2:50 pm



Holden Hall 038

Instructor Info



Dongan Tan



Office Hrs: Mon 3:00-6:00 pm



Holden Hall 079



dongan.tan@ttu.edu

About Me

I joined the Department of Political Science at Texas Tech University in 2019. I mainly taught undergraduate courses in Statistics (POLS 3314) and International Politics (POLS 2361). I hold majors in International Relations and Public Administration, and a minor in Statistical Methods. My research focuses on globalization's impact on economic and military sanctions, as well as their economic and political consequences. I am passionate about teaching and am committed to providing you with a stimulating and engaging learning experience.

Overview

International politics is a fascinating and constantly evolving field that explores the interactions between nations, non-state actors, and international organizations. In this course, we will examine the fundamental concepts, theories, and issues that shape the contemporary global system.

Through lectures, readings, discussions, and assignments, we will analyze international relations through the framework of "interests, interactions, and institutions." We will explore a wide range of topics, including the nature of power and security, war and peace, international political economy, transnational politics, and global challenges. By the end of the course, you will have gained a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances of international politics and developed critical thinking and analytical skills to analyze global issues.

Learning Objectives

- Identify and explain key concepts and theories in international politics, including sovereignty, power, and globalization. (Exams & Assignments)
- Evaluate different methods of conflict resolution and diplomacy, such as negotiation, mediation, and military intervention. (Exams & Assignments)
- Understand the economic interconnectedness of states through the international political economy. (Exams & Assignments)
- Assess the role of international organizations and institutions in global governance and transnational issues. (Exams & Assignments)
- Develop critical thinking skills to analyze international events and assess the implications of policy choices. (Exams & Assignments)
- Apply the "interests, interactions, and institutions" framework to analyze real-world events. (Exams & Assignments)
- Gain familiarity with game theory applications and bargaining models. (Exams & Assignments)

Reading Material

Required Textbook

Frieden, J.A., Lake, D.A., & Schultz, K.A. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 5th Edition. W.W. Norton & Company. ("FLS")

Other

Any required journal articles and book chapters will be provided on Blackboard under the [Readings](#) tab in the course menu.

Course Format

The course will primarily consist of lectures, but additional methods like open discussions, videos, group activities, and similar tools may be used to enhance the learning experience. Active participation from students is important for the success of these interactive teaching methods.

Course Requirements

20%	Exam I
20%	Exam II
20%	Exam III
20%	Exam IV
10%	News Analysis
10%	Bargaining Model Analysis

Readings

Daily reading assignments are listed in the syllabus. Students are required to complete all reading assignments PRIOR to attending the class for which they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading assignments will be essential for success in this class and will facilitate lectures and discussion. Although the overall theme between daily reading assignments and lectures will be the same, the exact material may not be. There will be reading assignments that are not covered in class and class lectures that are not covered in the readings. Students are responsible for all information covered by readings and lectures on the exams.

Exams - 80%

Four (4) exams - 20% each

Four (4) exams will be administered during the semester. Each exam accounts for 20% of the final grade. The exams will be administered through Blackboard and will take place during regularly scheduled class dates/times. But, given that the exams are administered through Blackboard, you will not take them in the classroom. For exam days, you should ensure that you have access to a reliable computer, internet access, and a quiet location conducive to test taking. See the course schedule on the next page for exam dates. Exam dates are subject to change if events dictate the need. Exams are a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

News Analysis - 10%

News analysis assignments are worth 10% of the final grade. These assignments offer an opportunity for students to apply the "interests, interactions, and institutions" framework to analyze real-world events. To complete a news analysis assignment, you will be provided with a link to a contemporary news story on Blackboard. You are required to read the article and answer some questions. Once the assignment is activated, it will remain available for 24 hours. However, once you begin the assignment, you will have two (2) hour to complete it. There are no make-ups for news analysis assignments.

Bargaining Model Analysis - 10%

Bargaining model analysis assignments make up 10% of the final grade and allow you to apply the concepts of bargaining models and game theory covered in the class. These assignments will be conducted through Blackboard. Each assignment will include an article and an animation that explains a specific bargaining model. After reading and watching the materials, you will be required to answer some questions. The bargaining model analysis assignment will be active for 24 hours, and once you begin the assignment, you will have two (2) hour to complete it. There are no make-ups for bargaining model analysis assignments.

Attendance and Participation

Although I do not have an explicit attendance policy, missing lectures will be a detriment to students expecting to do well in the course because (1) students may not fully grasp concepts outlined in the readings and lecture provides one opportunity to gain a better understanding and (2) lecture will contain information not available in the readings. Further, I do not post or hand out my lecture notes or slides; thus, attendance is critical for getting the information necessary to do well on the exams. Tardiness will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right to deny admission to any student arriving after the start of class, particularly if that student is chronically tardy.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for the course is as follows. Curving is at the discretion of the instructor.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

Class Schedule - Note that this schedule is subject to modification by the instructor			
Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	25-Aug	Class Intro	
MODULE 1: Foundations			
2	28-Aug	Key Concepts	Singer
	30-Aug	Key Concepts	
	1-Sep	Historical Background	FLS Chapter 1
3	4-Sep	NO CLASS - LABOR DAY	
	6-Sep	Historical Background	
	8-Sep	Theory and Evaluation	Snidal
4	11-Sep	Theory and Evaluation	
	13-Sep	Analytical Framework	FLS Chapter 2
	15-Sep	Analytical Framework	
5	18-Sep	Catchup	
	20-Sep	Exam 1	
MODULE 2: War and Peace			
	22-Sep	Why Are There Wars?	FLS Chapter 3
6	25-Sep	Why Are There Wars?	
	27-Sep	Domestic Politics and War	FLS Chapter 4
	29-Sep	Domestic Politics and War	
7	2-Oct	International Institutions and War	FLS Chapter 5
	4-Oct	International Institutions and War	
	6-Oct	Civil War and Terrorism	FLS Chapter 6
8	9-Oct	Civil War and Terrorism	
	11-Oct	Catchup	
	13-Oct	Exam 2	
MODULE 3: International Political Economy			
9	16-Oct	IPE: Trade	FLS Chapter 7
	18-Oct	IPE: Trade	
	20-Oct	IPE: Financial Relations	FLS Chapter 8
10	23-Oct	IPE: Financial Relations	
	25-Oct	IPE: Monetary Relations	FLS Chapter 9
	27-Oct	IPE: Monetary Relations	
11	30-Oct	IPE: Development	FLS Chapter 10
	1-Nov	IPE: Development	
	3-Nov	Catchup	
12	6-Nov	Exam 3	
MODULE 4: Transnational Politics			
	8-Nov	International Law and Norms	FLS Chapter 11
	10-Nov	International Law and Norms	
13	13-Nov	Human Rights	FLS Chapter 12
	15-Nov	Human Rights	
	17-Nov	Global Environment	FLS Chapter 13
14	20-Nov	Global Environment	
	22-Nov	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	
	24-Nov	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	
15	27-Nov	Global Challenges	FLS Chapter 14
	29-Nov	Global Challenges	
	1-Dec	Catchup	
16	4-Dec	Exam 4	

Communication

The best way to contact me is either through email or by appointment. Making an appointment ensures that I have set specific time aside for you. I will respond to most emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends. Only after not hearing from me in 48 hours, again excluding weekends, should you resend your inquiry. I will not respond to emails that ask questions that could be easily answered by reading the syllabus or the course website; I will not respond to students who ask questions that were answered repeatedly in class.

Make-up Policy

Missed exams will be excused and made up after the fact in case of illness or personal emergency *only with proper documentation*. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency arises that prevents you from taking the exams. This must be done before the exam is scheduled to take place. In other words, if you choose to wait until after the exam takes place to notify the instructor of your absence on exam day you will receive a zero.

Exams missed due to university events or religious holidays may also be excused, provided that the student informs me of the absence *at least two weeks in advance*. Vacation and social engagements will not be excused. Absolutely *no* excuse will be accepted for late assignments or missed exams unless they are formally approved by the university. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Additionally, the documentation must explicitly state that the student was unable to attend class on the date in question.

Students must provide proper documentation and make up the missed assignment (exam) within two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Failure to do so will result in a zero. Make-up exams may differ significantly in both structure and content from the original exam.

There are *no* make-ups for news analysis and bargaining game assignments. If a student misses an assignment, they will receive a zero for that assignment.

Lecture Notes

Students are responsible for all lecture notes. Under most circumstances, the instructor will not provide notes to students, nor will the instructor post lecture notes or slides on the internet. If a lecture is missed, excused or not, students are responsible for acquiring those lecture notes from another student in the class.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own class and/or course work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching, and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures grades are earned honestly. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers. [Texas Tech University ("University") Quality Enhancement Plan, Academic Integrity Task Force, 2010]. For more information on the definitions of and penalties for cheating and plagiarism, please consult the following website: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>

Classroom Civility

Texas Tech University is a community of faculty, students, and staff that expect cooperation, professionalism, and civility during the conduct of all forms of university business, including the conduct of student-student and student-faculty interactions in and out of the classroom. The classroom is a setting in which an exchange of ideas and creative thinking should be encouraged and where intellectual growth and development are fostered. Students who disrupt this classroom mission by rude, sarcastic, threatening, abusive, or obscene language and/or behavior will be subject to appropriate sanctions according to university policy (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics/matadorchallenge/ethicalprinciples.php>).

Distractions in the classroom adversely affect everyone's learning and my performance as an instructor. The use of electronic devices in this class is limited to laptops for academic purposes only. They are to be used to take notes, and not to play games, watch videos, engage in social media, etc. All cell phones should be turned off. There should be no texting messages during class.

Religious Observances

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student can be excused for the time necessary to travel. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should *make that intention known in writing* to the instructor prior to the absence. This policy applies to examinations and in-class assignments scheduled for that day. It does not apply to assignments that should be completed ahead of time, such as reports. These should simply be completed and submitted prior to the day in question.

ADA Policy

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note: instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services in West Hall or call 806-742-2405. For more information, please consult Student Disability Services: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/sds/>

Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Violence Statement:

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other Title IX violations are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/titleix/>. Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are: TTU Student Counseling Center, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (Provides confidential support on campus.) TTU 24-hour Crisis Helpline, 806-742-5555, (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.) Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, 806-763-7273, voiceofhopelubbock.org (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.) The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office, 806-742-2110, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/rise/> (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.) Texas Tech Police Department, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttpd/> (To report criminal activity that occurs on or near Texas Tech campus.)

LGBTQIA Statement

I identify as an ally to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) community, and I am available to listen and support you in an affirming manner. I can assist in connecting you with resources on campus to address problems you may face pertaining to sexual orientation and/or gender identity that could interfere with your success at Texas Tech. Please note that additional resources are available through the Office of LGBTQIA within the Center for Campus Life, Student Union Building Room 201, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/lgbtqia/>, 806.742.5433.