

Introduction to International Relations

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Fall, 2022

Overview

This course provides a broad exploration of the field of international relations (IR). We cover key theoretical concepts in IR and discuss how empirical evidence and key historical events relate to and inform theory. The course is organized around specific substantive questions such as: why do states choose more costly armed conflict to settle disputes rather than negotiations?; why are levels of economic development among states so unequal?; how do international institutions affect conflict and cooperation?; what logic is behind the use of terrorism by political actors?; and, why do states experience civil war? Most weeks in the course, we will explore one big topic. Each week, we will generally first read the textbook chapter, which provides a nice overview and references to key pieces of literature. For the second lecture, we will read some news items or other supplementary pieces to complement the textbook.

Textbook

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, & Kenneth A. Schultz. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 4th Edition* New York: W.W. Norton. (FLS)

Grading

- Inquisitive Participation (10%): Each chapter of the textbook has an accompanying interactive online quiz associated with it that consists of approximately 20 questions. You are expected to take the quiz after you have read the material but before class.
- Six Quizzes (30%): Six in-class quizzes of 6-8 questions will be given during the course.
- Four 2-Page Memos (40%): Four short memos, no more than 2 pages each, will be due during the semester. There are two kinds of short papers and you will write two of each. The first kind of memo will be a summary and critique of the main argument or idea behind an article that is not on the syllabus but fits in with the material we cover. Your task is to: first, summarize and explain the main argument or finding in the article, and second, provide a brief critique of this point using material from the textbook or from my lectures. The second kind of memo will be a short policy brief, where you provide a brief summary of how the material we learned about a specific scenario in international relations facing a policy-maker (e.g., whether economic concessions convince the North Korean government to give up their nuclear weapons program) should inform two possible policy responses. I will provide a prompt that will outline the policy problem and two proposed approaches to it. Your task is to think through how well (or poorly) these two options will work using the concepts, theory, and empirical data that we have covered in the course.
- Final Exam (20%): The final exam will consist of two sections: identification of key concepts in short written answers and short essay. These identification concepts and essay questions will come directly from the readings and lectures.

Course Schedule

Each week has a topic for lecture and discussion, with the reading assignment associated with it also listed. Please read the assigned reading *prior* to the day of class it is listed under.

Week 1: Introduction to the Study of International Relations.

- FLS: Introduction; Chapter 1; Chapter 2; FLS: ; David C. Kang. 2020. "International Order in Historical East Asia: Tribute and Hierarchy Beyond Sinocentrism and Eurocentrism." *International Organization* 74(1): 65–93.

Week 2: War and Peace.

- FLS: Chapter 3; Stephen Van Evera. 1984. "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War." *International Security* 9(1): 58–107.

Week 3: War and Peace: Domestic Politics.

- FLS: Chapter 4; Christopher Gelpi and Peter D. Feaver. 2002. "Speak softly and carry a big stick? Veterans in the political elite and the American use of force." *American Political Science Review* 96(4): 779–793.

Week 4: War and Peace: International Institutions.

- FLS: Chapter 5; Havard Hegre, Lisa Hultman, and Havard Mokleiv Nygard. June 28, 2018. "U.N. peacekeeping really can be effective. Here's how we tabulated this." *Washington Post*

Week 5: War and Peace: Non-State Actors and War.

- FLS: Chapter 6

Week 6: International Political Economy: International Trade.

- FLS: Chapter 7; Joanne Gowa and Raymond Hicks. 2017. "Commerce and Conflict: New Data about the Great War." *British Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 653–674.

Week 7: International Political Economy: International Financial Relations.

- FLS: Chapter 8

Week 8: International Political Economy: International Monetary Relations.

- FLS: Chapter 9

Week 9: International Political Economy: Development.

- FLS: Chapter 10; Angus Deaton. 2008. "Income, Health, and Well-Being around the World: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22(2): 53–72.

Week 10: Transnational Politics: International Law.

- FLS: Chapter 11; Paul K. Huth, Sarah E. Croco and Benjamin J. Appel. 2011. "Does international law promote the peaceful settlement of international disputes? Evidence from the study of territorial conflicts since 1945." *American Political Science Review* 105(2): 415–436.

Week 11: Transnational Politics: Human Rights.

- FLS: Chapter 12; Hunjoon Kim and Kathryn Sikkink. 2010. "Explaining the deterrence effect of human rights prosecutions for transitional countries." *International Studies Quarterly* 54(4): 939–963.

Week 12: Transnational Politics: The Environment.

- FLS: Chapter 13; Katharine J. Mach, Caroline M. Kraan, W. Neil Adger, Halvard Buhaug, Marshall Burke, James D. Fearon, Christopher B. Field et al. 2019 "Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict." *Nature* 571(7764): 193–197.

Week 13: Emerging Issues in IR.

- FLS: Chapter 14