

POLS-110-11J: Introduction to International Relations Fall 2016

Donald M. Beaudette, Ph.D.

Email: donald.beaudette@emory.edu

Skype: dmbeaudette

Office Phone: 470-444-1800, ext. 126

Office: 110 Seney Hall (Across from the Financial Services window)

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:00

Course Description & Objectives

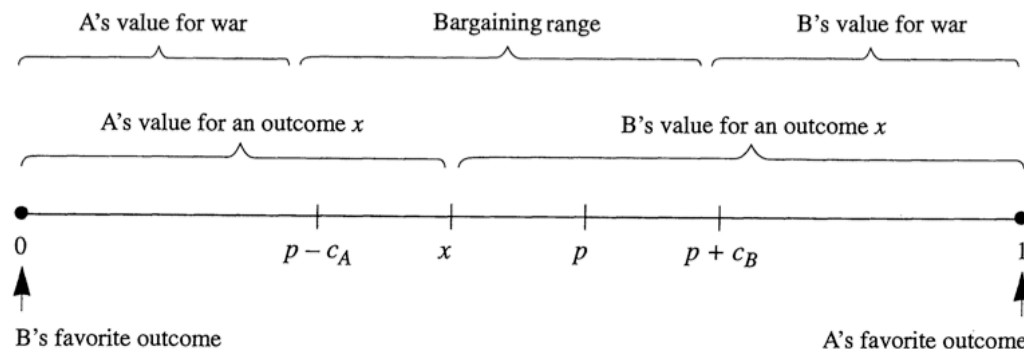
This course is an introduction to the study of international politics. There are no prerequisites. It is a gateway course for more advanced 300- and 400-level international politics courses offered by the Political Science Department both here and on the Atlanta campus.

The course will introduce you to a fundamental theoretical framework for explaining behavior in the international system. Using this framework, we will examine the nature of the international system, the causes of international conflict, and the challenges to establishing international cooperation. We will explore the causes of both international and civil wars. The course also focuses on the role played in international politics by institutions such as democracy, collective security organizations, and alliances. The course then uses these theoretical insights to shed light on special problem areas in world politics, from terrorism and nuclear weapons, to international trade and financial relations, economic development, human rights, and the global environment.

The purpose of this course is to provide an analytical basis for understanding international politics. It is a social science course, not a course on current events or history – even though we will frequently be discussing current and historical international relations events and examples. The emphasis here is on developing analytical skills, so that you can think rigorously and critically about politics and policy choices.

Questions you will be able to answer at the end of this course:

1. What is that line graph (see image below), what does it have to do with international politics, and how can I use it to explain why wars occur?



Source: Fearon (1995, 387).

2. Relatedly, what is a 'war' and how do we differentiate war from other kinds of political violence?
3. Why do wars occur? Why are they so *infrequent*?
4. What is the difference between a preventive war and a preemptive war?
5. What is an alliance and do alliances promote peace or increase the likelihood of war?
6. What is a diversionary war? How common are they?
7. Is it really true that democracies are more peaceful than non-democracies?
8. What is the prisoner's dilemma and what lessons does it teach us about cooperation?
9. Why do some people become terrorists?
10. What should governments do to counter the threat posed by terrorism?
11. How can we explain *global* inequality in terms of the distribution of wealth?

Requirements

Your grade in the course will be based on the following items:

- 15% fidelity checks
- 15% Foreign Policy Proposal and Presentation
- 20% Exam 1 – 29 September
- 20% Exam 2 – 3 November
- 25% Final exam (cumulative) – **Thursday, 8 December, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**
- 5% Class participation and Attendance

Foreign Policy Proposal/Foreign Policy Debate. Students will work with a partner to prepare a short briefing paper and presentation on a major world event relevant to the course material. The list of possible topics and presentation dates can be found on Canvas. Please use the list on Canvas to sign-up for a topic/date as soon as possible.

The briefing paper should be no more than three double-spaced pages in length (12 point font, one inch margins on all sides, author names single spaced in the header on the first page). Your paper should briefly summarize the issue under consideration and should then draw on the assigned readings to present and defend a specific policy response designed to address this issue.

The presentation should use PowerPoint and be approximately 7 – 10 minutes in length. The first two minutes (approximately) should be used to provide a brief introduction to the topic being discussed. The remainder of the presentation should outline and defend the specific policy response developed in your paper to address this. At the conclusion of each presentation, five minutes will be allowed for questions.

At the end of the Q&A period the class will use polling software to vote on the policy proposal. The ballot will ask students to:

- a. Accept the proposal as submitted**
- b. Reject the proposal**

1/3 of your grade for the policy proposal will be based on the quality of the briefing paper (both partners will receive the same grade for this portion of the assignment).

1/3 of your grade for the policy proposal will be based on the quality of your presentation (partners will be graded independently for this portion of the assignment).

1/3 of your grade will be based on your contribution to the Canvas discussion forum for one of your peer's policy proposal. Partners will work independently and graded independently for this portion of the assignment.

Exams. There will be two in-class, closed book exams which are each worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your final grade. All exams will be composed of multiple choice and short answer questions. Only the final exam will be cumulative.

Please take note of the following language from the Office of Academic Affairs regarding the rescheduling of final exams:

- *Students must obtain permission from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to take an exam earlier or later than scheduled. Permission may be granted for medical reasons or for participation in educational programs.*
- *You may NOT receive permission to alter your exam schedule for the following reasons: Taking an earlier flight/ride, vacation schedule, weddings (other than your own), graduation, job schedule or having more than one exam on one day (see conflict exam info below).*
- *Conflict Exam Period - If a student has three (3) exams on the same day, the student may work with his/her professor to reschedule one exam during the Conflict Exam Period.*

Fidelity Checks. Throughout the semester, there will be a *minimum* of six unannounced ‘fidelity checks.’ Each fidelity check will contain a number of multiple choice or short answer style questions about the assigned reading material. There will be no make-ups for these fidelity checks. Your **lowest** fidelity check score will be dropped when calculating this component of your final grade.

Extra Credit

Over the course of the semester, there will be **one** extra credit writing assignment. The details, deadlines, etc. for this assignment will be announced after the mid-term.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to calculate your final course letter grade for the class. There will be **no rounding**. For example, an 89.99 is a B+.

A [93,100]	B- [80,83)	D+ [67,70)
A- [90,93)	C+ [77,80)	D [60,67)
B+ [87,90)	C [73,77)	F [0,60)
B [83,87)	C- [70,73)	

Course Policies

Attendance. Every unexcused absence in excess of the second will result in one ‘minus’ in the final grade for the course (For example: A student with a B+ in the course and with four unexcused absences will receive a B for their final grade, a student with a B+ in the course and with five unexcused absences will receive a B for their final grade and so on.). Students with six or more unexcused absences will be referred to academic affairs for possible withdrawal from the course.

Absences are excused for valid medical reasons *with documentation provided* by the student health center or another healthcare provider (i.e. an email saying ‘Sorry I missed class today. I had a really bad headache.’ will not result in your absence being excused).

Absences can also be excused for participation in school sponsored events (e.g. if you are attending an academic conference or participating in a varsity athletic event) so long as advance notice of the absence is given at least one week prior to the date of the event.

Preparation. This class is designed primarily as a lecture but questions during the lectures are encouraged. It is incumbent upon students to attend all class meetings and to complete the readings in advance in order to promote a successful class experience.

Class conduct. Laptop computers and cell phones are **prohibited** in class, without special permission from the instructor (which will be given only in case of documented disability). Please silence and put away all electronic devices prior to the start of class.

Punctuality. Please be on time to class. The noise and distraction of late arrivals is inconsiderate to classmates.

Honor code. Activities such as plagiarism on written work and cheating on exams constitute serious breaches of academic integrity and are prohibited in this course and all other courses at Oxford College.

Canvas and course communication. There is a Canvas site for this course. This syllabus and all other handouts will be posted on that site. I will normally post course announcements on that site as well, but you are responsible for any and all announcements made *during* the class periods in addition. It is a good idea to check with friends if you have missed class. Otherwise, contact Dr. Beaudette during office hours

or by email if you have questions or concerns. The best way to reach Dr. Beaudette outside of office hours is by email (donald.beaudette@emory.edu).

Readings

There is one required textbook for the course: Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* **Third Edition** (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012), abbreviated “FLS” below. It is available at the Oxford College Bookstore and on Amazon and other vendors.

A number of additional readings are also required. You can access these through the course Canvas site. You are expected to have completed the reading by the day for which it has been assigned.

While this class is not about current events, it can nonetheless be helpful to follow contemporary developments concerning international politics, so that you can practice applying the concepts and explanations we will be developing. Some useful sources of coverage of these phenomena are the main international political stories of the day/week in the [New York Times](#), the [Wall Street Journal](#), or the [Economist](#). We will periodically touch on such events in class.

NOTE: The schedule of topics and assigned readings presented below are subject to change. *Any changes will be announced in class.*

Course Outline

Part I: Introduction

25 August: Introduction. Course administration. What is this course about?

30 August: Where we've been Part I: A (sub) discipline of –isms (Realism and Liberalism)

1. Karen Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft, *International Relations Theories*, pp. 70 – 89 (Canvas)
2. Thucydides, *The Melian Dialogue* (Canvas)
3. *The National Security Strategy of the United States* (Canvas)

1 September: Where we've been Part II: A (sub) discipline of –isms (Constructivism)

1. Karen Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft, *International Relations Theories*, pp. 93 – 95
2. Alexander Wendt, *Anarchy is What States Make of It*, pp. 396 – 407
3. Asawin Suebsaeng, *The State Department is Actively Trolling Terrorists on Twitter* (Canvas)
4. Video: U.S. Department of State, *Welcome to ISIS Land!* [****Warning:** Although this video was produced and distributed by the U.S. Department of State, it contains graphic depictions of violence against civilians. If you feel uncomfortable viewing this type of material *do not* watch this video**] (Online: <https://youtu.be/-wmdEFvsY0E>)
5. State Department, *Global Engagement Center Fact Sheet*, (Canvas)

6 September: Where we're going: Game Theory, the Prisoner's Dilemma & International Politics

1. Axelrod *The Evolution of Cooperation* (Canvas)
2. Mohan, "Economists Finally Test Prisoner's Dilemma on Prisoners" (Canvas)

Part II: Cooperation, Bargaining, and War

8 September: Actors, interests, and interactions

1. FLS, 42-79

13 September: Why War? The bargaining model of war I

1. FLS, 88 - 105

15 September: The bargaining model of war II

1. FLS, 106 - 117

20 September: The bargaining model of war III

1. FLS, 118 - 126

22 September: Completion of Bargaining Model of War

1. FLS 127 – 133
2. Monica Duffy Toft, "Indivisible Territory, Geographic Concentration, and Ethnic War" (Canvas)

27 September: Civil Wars

1. Barbara Walter, *Bargaining Failures and Civil War* (Canvas)

29 September: Exam 1

4 October: Domestic politics and war

1. FLS, 136 - 154

6 October: The democratic peace

1. FLS, 167 - 181
2. Taking Sides, Should Democracy Promotion Abroad be a Top US Priority? (Canvas)
3. Woodrow Wilson, "Address to Congress" (Canvas)
4. Steven E. Finkel et al, Effects of US Foreign Assistance on Democracy Building (Canvas)

11 October: NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**13 October: Nuclear Weapons**

1. FLS, 579 – 590
2. Nina Tannenwald, Stigmatizing the Bomb: Origins of the Nuclear Taboo (Canvas)
3. Ramesh Thakur, Why Obama Should Declare a No-First-Use Policy for Nuclear Weapons (Canvas)
4. Paul Sonne et al, 'No First Use' Nucle Policy Assailed by U.S. Cabinet Officials, Allies (Canvas)

18 October: Alliances

1. FLS, 187 – 205

20 October: Terrorism - Overview

1. Luis de la Calle and Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca, What We Talk About When We Talk About Terrorism (Canvas)

25 October: Terrorism - Roots vs. Routes

1. Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. "[Seeking the Roots of Terrorism.](#)" *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. June 6, 2003. (Canvas)
2. John Horgan, "From Profiles to Pathways and Roots to Routes." *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. READ ONLY pages 80 – 89 and 94 – 93. (Canvas)

27 October: Counterterrorism I - Leader decapitation

1. Jane Meyer, The Predator War (Canvas)
2. Department of Justice, White Paper: Lawfulness of a Lethal Operation Directed Against a US Citizen (Canvas)
3. Amnesty International, Targeted Killing Policies Violate the Right to Life (Canvas)
4. Pitch Interactive, Out of Sight, Out of Mind (Online Multimedia Presentation: <http://drones.pitchinteractive.com/>)
5. Amitai Etzioni, Unmanned Aircraft Systems: The Moral and Legal Case (Canvas)

1 November: Counterterrorism II - Negotiating with terrorists

1. Audrey Kurth Cronin, Negotiating with Groups That Use Terrorism (Canvas)
2. CFR Backgrounder: The Islamic State, (Online: <http://on.cfr.org/1LtvmdC>)
3. Fox News, "US, Allies Will Not Negotiate With Terrorists," (Online: <http://fxn.ws/1px2maX>)

3 November: Exam 2**Part III: International Political Economy and Transnational Politics****8 November: The politics of international trade**

1. FLS, 290 - 313

10 November & 15 November: Brexit and the European Union.

1. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, The European Union and Representative Government (Canvas)
2. Brexit reading TBD

17 November: The World Trade Organization and Free Trade Development

1. FLS, 314 – 327

22 November: International Law and Norms

1. FLS, 459 – 487

24 November: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

29 November: Human Rights

1. FLS, 490 – 520

1 December: International Inequality and International Development

1. The Problem of Global Inequality (Canvas)

6 December: Wrap-up and Review

8 December: FINAL EXAM, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Please note the following:

- Students must obtain permission from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to take an exam earlier or later than scheduled. Permission may be granted for medical reasons or for participation in educational programs.
- You may NOT receive permission to alter your exam schedule for the following reasons: Taking an earlier flight/ride, vacation schedule, weddings (other than your own), graduation, job schedule or having more than one exam on one day (see conflict exam info below).
- Conflict Exam Period - If a student has three (3) exams on the same day, the student may work with his/her professor to reschedule one exam during the Conflict Exam Period.