POLS-110: Introduction to International Relations Spring 2015

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Course Description & Objectives

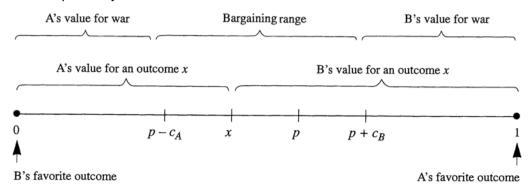
This course is an introduction to the study of international politics. There are no prerequisites. It is a gateway course for more advanced 300- and 400-level international politics courses offered by the Political Science Department.

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?
- 12. Do FIFA and the IOC promote peace, democracy and human development, as their missions state?
- 13. Why in the world is Dr. B. so obsessed with Northern Ireland?

Requirements

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

- 20% fidelity checks
- 30% two analytical papers (3-4 pages), due by midnight on 12 February and 16 April (15% each)
- 20% one in-class midterm exam, on 26 February.
- 25% final exam, on 4 May from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- 5% Participation and attendance

Analytical papers. Each of the two analytical papers will be a 3-4 page essay responding to a question and assignment guidelines distributed at least one week before each paper is due. You will make an argument and support that argument with evidence from the readings and class meetings. (No outside sources will be necessary.) Your goal will be to demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and examples introduced in the course as well as your ability to engage in sophisticated analytical and critical thinking about the subject in question.

Exams. There will be one in-class, closed book midterm exam on 26 February which is worth 25% of your final grade. Both the mid-term and the final will be composed of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Fidelity Checks. Throughout the semester, there will be at least five but not more than eight unannounced 'fidelity checks.' Each fidelity check will contain a number of multiple choice or short answer style questions about the assigned reading material as well as recent developments in current events. There will be no make-ups for these fidelity checks except in extraordinary circumstances as provided for in the Oxford College Catalog. Your lowest fidelity check score will be dropped when calculating this component of your final grade.

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

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 required discussion sections 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.

Late assignments. You will be penalized for late assignments or missed exams, unless the absence/delay is due to documented serious illness or is otherwise excused by the instructor **in advance** (such as for certain official Oxford College sponsored activities). The penalty for unexcused late papers is one "minus" each day late, e.g., A to A-, etc.

Attendance. The penalty for unexcused absences is one 'minus' for each unexcused absence in excess of the second unexcused absence.

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.

Blackboard and course communication. There is a Blackboard site for this course. This syllabus and all other handouts, along with the analytical paper assignments, 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).

Office hours. Most students only attend office hours immediately before papers or exams are due or after grades are returned. These are the times when the longest lines form, and consequently at such times instructor availability may be limited. Dr. Beaudette is very happy to answer questions about exams or papers up until the due dates, where availability permits, but I strongly urge you to use office hours throughout the *rest* of the semester to discuss the course and your progress. Because this is an introductory survey of the field, we cover a broad range of material in a short time. As a result, there may be topics that you wish were covered in more detail. It is important to Dr. Beaudette that this course enriches your educational experience and fosters your curiousity and interest in the field. I hope that you will visit during office hours, or at other times by appointment, whenever you think discussion on an individual basis would be helpful.

Readings

There is one required textbook for the course: Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* **Second Edition** (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012), abbreviated "FLS" below. It is available at the Oxford College Bookstore and on Amazon and other vendors. Make sure you purchased the **SECOND** Edition. You can purchase the eBook version if you would like to save a few dollars.

A number of short additional readings are also required. You can access these through the course Blackboard site. You may need to download the free Acrobat Reader before viewing them. You are expected to have completed the reading by the day for which it has been assigned. Both the textbook and additional items will provide material for the exams and assignments.

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; knowing some basic details about such events could also be useful on your exams as an option but will not be mandatory where not otherwise covered in the assigned readings.

Course Outline

Part I: Introduction

13 January (Tu): Introduction. Course administration. What is this course about?

15 January (Th): The Science of Politics

- 1. Almond & Genco "Cloud, Clocks and the Study of Politics"
- 2. Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella, *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*, 9th ed. (Boston, MA: Wadsworth, 2010), 34-40, skip "Box 2.1" (Blackboard)

20 January (Tu): Game Theory, the Prisoner's Dilemma & International Politics

- 1. Axelrod The Evolution of Cooperation
- 2. Mohan, "Economists Finally Test Prisoner's Dilemma on Prisoners"
- 3. Shermer, "The Doping Dilemma"

Part II: Cooperation, Bargaining, and War

22 January (Th): Actors, interests, and interactions

1. FLS, 38-72

27 January (Tu): Why War? The bargaining model of war I

- 1. FLS, 80-93
- 2. Dan Reiter, "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War," pp. 27 33 (Blackboard)

29 January (Th): The bargaining model of war II

- 1. FLS, 93-105
- 2. James M. McPherson, "Amateurs go to War," pp. 308 321 (Blackboard)

3 February (Tu): The bargaining model of war III

- 1. FLS, 105-122
- 2. Paul Poast, "Lincoln's Gamble: European Recognition and the American Civil War" (Blackboard)

5 February (Th): Completion of Bargaining Model of War

- 1. Re-read FLS 115 117
- 2. Monica Duffy Toft, "The Geography of Ethnic Violence" (Blackboard)

10 February (Tu): Civil Wars

- 1. FLS, 214-242
- 2. Russett et al., 208-218, on "Conflict within States" (Blackboard)

12 February (Th): Domestic politics and war

- 1. FLS, 124-154
- ***Analytical Essay Number 1 Due via Blackboard by Midnight***

17 February (Tu): The democratic peace

- 1. FLS, 154-166
- 2. "Should Democracy Promotion Abroad be a Top US Priority?" (Blackboard)
- 3. Woodrow Wilson, "Address to Congress" (Blackboard)
- 4. The Melian Dialogue (Blackboard)

19 February (Th): Institutions - Alliances

1. FLS, 168-188

24 February (Tu): Nuclear weapons

- 1. FLS. 538-548
- 2. Russett et al., 233-240, on "Weapons of Mass Destruction" (Blackboard)

26 February (Th): EXAM 1

3 March (Tu): Terrorism - Overview

1. FLS, 242-262

5 March (Th): 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. (Blackboard)
- 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. (Blackboard)

10 & 12 March: NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

17 March (Tu): Suicide Terrorism - A strategic framework

1. Mia Bloom, "Chapter 4: Devising a Theory of Suicide Terrorism." *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror*. (Blackboard)

19 March (Th): Counterterrorism I - Leader decapitation

- 1. Etzioni, Amitai. 2010. "<u>Unmanned Aircraft Systems</u>: The Moral and Legal Case." *Joint Forces Quarterly*. 52:2, pp. 66-71. (Blackboard)
- 2. Mayer, Jane. 2009. "The Predator War: What are the Risks of the CIA's Covert Drone Program?" *The New Yorker.* 85:34, pp. 36-45. (Blackboard)

24 March (Tu): Counterterrorism II - Negotiating with terrorists

- 1. Audrey Kurth Cronin. "Chapter Two: Negotiations." *How Terrorism Ends.* READ ONLY pages 35 42 and 62 to 71. (Blackboard)
- 2. Bew, Frampton and Gurruchaga. "Chapter 6: Conclusion." *Talking to Terrorists: Making Peace in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country.* Read the whole chapter, but take particular note of pp. 252 259. (Blackboard)

Part III: International Political Economy and Transnational Politics

26 March & 31 March (ThTu): The politics of international trade

1. FLS, 264-293, 306-311

2 April & 7 April (ThTu): Regional and global trade institutions - The European Union and WTO.

- 1. FLS, 293-304
- 2. Gallagher, Laver and Mair, *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, "Chapter 5: The European Union and Representative Government" (Blackboard)

9 April (Th): Development

- 1. FLS, 386-400
- 2. Paul Collier, Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What We Can Do About It (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2008), 38-52 (Blackboard)
- 3. Nancy Birdsall, Dani Rodrik, and Arvind Subramanian, "How to Help Poor Countries," Foreign Affairs (Jul/Aug 2005), 136-152 (Blackboard)

14 April (Tu): International Law and Norms

- 1. FLS. 420-450
- 2. Sebastian Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor," *Foreign Policy* (Sep/Oct 2004), 50-58 (Blackboard)

16 April (Th): Human rights

1.FLS. 452-490

Analytical Essay 2 due via Blackboard by Midnight

21 April (Tu): FIFA, the IOC, Human Rights & Economic Development

- Andrew Bertoli, "World Cup Participation Increases State Aggression" (Blackboard)
- Peter Pattisson, "Revealed: Qatar's World Cup 'Slaves" (Blackboard)
- Mitchell Scott, "Red Pow: The Transformation of a Powder Paradise for Olympic Exploitation" (Blackboard)
- Kimberly Marten, "Crimea: Putin's Olympic Diversion" (Blackboard)
- Russia Today, "Sochi was 'the right choice', Tourism and Investment to Follow Olympic Buzz" (Blackboard)
- International Olympic Committee, "Fundamental Principles of Olympism" (Blackboard)

23 April (Th): Wrap-up and Review Session

Readings TBD

Final exam, 4 May 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM