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## POLS 3313: Introduction to International Relations

University of Houston

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### Tyson Chatagnier

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Office Hours: Thursday 5:30–6:30

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### Course Info:

Fall 2021

Days and Time: MW 1:00–2:15 PM

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## Course Description

What factors determine the interactions of states on the international stage? Why do wars occur? What underlies the decision to trade with or sanction another actor? Why do groups choose to use terrorism or insurgency, and how can they be stopped? This course will touch on these questions and others, providing a broad survey of some of the most important topics in world politics. During the course, in addition to gaining a greater familiarity with current events and countries around the world, students will learn what questions are relevant to contemporary international relations, what approaches scholars are using to analyze them, and how to think critically about these issues.

The course is divided into two parts, which will answer the two big questions of international relations, respectively: “Why war?” and “What about trade?” Toward the end of the class, we will also look at the role of norms and international regimes in guiding and enforcing cooperation across a range of issue areas. Students are expected to keep up with current events in the international arena, as we will frequently refer to these events to ground some of the more abstract theoretical concepts. Students are welcome to follow any news source they desire, so long as it provides sufficient coverage of international events.

## Grading Policies

Evaluations of student performance will be based on three response papers and two non-cumulative exams, **both held during normal class time on the scheduled date (1:00–2:15 PM)**. As the dates for exams are given in advance, students should be certain to schedule around them. **If you expect that you will not be able to make it to the exam, notify me in advance. Makeup exams will not be given without prior approval or a university-excused absence.** Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- *Three Response Papers (10% each)*: The response papers will be short essays (around 500–1000 words) that reply to a prompt. The prompt will generally be made available on a Friday, and students will be responsible for turning in their paper *before class* on the following Monday. **Late work will receive a 10% penalty per day, and will not be accepted after five days.** In writing the papers, students will be expected to apply the knowledge that they've gained from the course, to think critically about the prompt, and, where relevant, to bring in their knowledge of current events. The papers will be graded on accuracy, depth of analytic thought, and clarity of writing.
- *Exam #1 (35%)*: The first exam will be held in class on **Wednesday, Oct. 13**, and will cover all material from the beginning of the course through Week 7. It will be a fifty-question multiple-choice exam. In addition to the topics covered in the course, it may also include material about current events.
- *Exam #2 (35%)*: The second exam will be held on the last day of class, **Wednesday, Dec. 1**. It will be non-cumulative and will cover the material from Week 9 through the end of the course. Like the midterm, it will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions, and may also include material about current events.

You will receive a final grade on a 100-point scale, which will be converted to a letter grade in the following way:

<b>A:</b>	93–100%	<b>C:</b>	73–76%
<b>A-:</b>	90–92%	<b>C-:</b>	70–72%
<b>B+:</b>	87–89%	<b>D+:</b>	67–69%
<b>B:</b>	83–86%	<b>D:</b>	63–66%
<b>B-:</b>	80–82%	<b>D-:</b>	60–62%
<b>C+:</b>	77–79%	<b>F:</b>	<60%

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number. So a 79.5 becomes an 80, but a 79.4999 is a 79. This is effectively a free half-point, so please do not ask me to bump your grade up if you are more than a half-point away from the next boundary. Grades that are more than half a point from the boundaries indicated above will *not* be rounded up. **No exceptions.**

## Computer Problems

Hard drive crashes and fried motherboards are almost inevitable. In all likelihood, you will experience these problems at least once in your careers. But dead laptops and bricked hard drives are no longer the problems that they once were. Since this class involves outside work that you'll be doing on home computer, *I expect you to maintain backups of your work*. If you don't already have an account with a cloud storage and syncing service, let me recommend Dropbox (<http://www.dropbox.com/>) or Google Drive (<http://www.google.com/drive/>). Using one of these (or a similar service) to back up your work will ensure that you will have access to it even

in the event of a crash. Let me stress once more: “**my computer died just before I was going to turn in my assignment**” is no longer a valid excuse.

## Readings

The required readings for each class are listed on the syllabus, below the topic to be covered. Students are expected to do the reading before coming to class. Reading assignments will come primarily from the course textbook:

Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (Fourth Edition). New York: W. W. Norton. (ISBN: 0-393-93809-3)

Readings from the text will be designated **FLS** on the syllabus. Throughout the course, we will also read journal articles and selections from other books. These readings will be available through Blackboard.

## Students with Disabilities

The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students who have a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, the Student Accessibility Center strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please call the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center at (713) 743-5400 or email them at [JDCenter@central.uh.edu](mailto:JDCenter@central.uh.edu).

## UH CAPS Statement

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (<http://www.uh.edu/caps>) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets\\_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html)

## Excused Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy and Graduate Excused Absence Policy for reasons including: medical

illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Additional policies address absences related to military service, religious holy days, pregnancy and related conditions, and disability.

## **Syllabus Changes**

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email, and modified syllabi will appear on the class Blackboard website.

# Course Outline

(\*) Conditional on availability, the days marked with an asterisk will be designated for a conference call with an official from the U.S. Department of State, on the relevant topic. If things work out, the syllabus will change slightly for that week. I will provide more information as the semester progresses.

## Week 1. Course Introduction

- *Monday, Aug. 23* - Introduction and Syllabus
  - FLS, Introduction
- *Wednesday, Aug. 25* - Learning from the Past
  - FLS, Ch. 1

## Week 2. History and the three “isms”

- *Monday, Aug. 30* - Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism  
Watch scenes from *Game of Thrones*, *Starship Troopers*, and *Black Hawk Down*
  - Drezner, Daniel. Aug. 18, 2009. “Theory of International Politics and Zombies.” *Foreign Policy*.
  - Snyder, Jack. Oct. 26, 2009. “One World, Rival Theories.” *Foreign Policy*.
  - Grieco, Joseph M. 1988. “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism.” *International Organization* 42(3): 485–507.
  - Wendt, Alexander. 1992. “Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization* 46(2): 391–425 (read 395–407; skim the rest).
- *Wednesday, Sept. 1* - An introduction to game theory
  - FLS, pp. 82–87
  - Morrow, James. D. 1994. *Game Theory for Political Scientists*, Ch. 1

## Week 3. Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

- ***Monday, Sept. 6 - Labor Day, No Class***
- *Wednesday, Sept. 8* - Actors, interactions, and institutions
  - FLS, pp. 42–79
  - **Response Paper 1 due before class**

## Week 4. War and Bargaining

- *Monday, Sept. 13* - Rationalist explanations for war
  - FLS, pp. Ch. 3
- *Wednesday, Sept. 15* - The bargaining model of war and its alternatives
  - Reiter, Dan. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27–47.
  - Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Ch. 3

### Week 5. Domestic Actors

- *Monday, Sept. 20* - War and domestic interests
  - FLS, pp. 136–166
- *Wednesday, Sept. 22* - Liberalism and Peace
  - Owen IV, John M. November/December 2005. "Iraq and the Democratic Peace." *Foreign Affairs*.
  - Gartzke, Erik. 2007. "The Capitalist Peace." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166–191.
  - Schneider, Gerald and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2010. "The Capitalist Peace: The Origins and Prospects of a Liberal Idea." *International Interactions* 36(2): 107–114.

### Week 6. International Institutions

- *Monday, Sept. 27* - Alliances and collective security
  - FLS, Ch. 5
- *Wednesday, Sept. 29* - Do institutions matter?
  - Mearsheimer, John J. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19(3): 5–49.
  - Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. "The Promise of Institutional Theory." *International Security* 20(1): 39–51.

### Week 7. Terrorism and Nontraditional Warfare

- *Monday, Oct. 4* - Civil War
  - FLS, pp. 234–264
  - Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and grievance in civil war." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56(4): 563–595.

- (\*) *Wednesday, Oct. 6* - Terrorism
  - FLS, pp. 264-287
  - Lake, David A. 2002. "Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty-first Century." *Dialogue-IO* 1(1): 15-29.
  - Abrahms, Max. 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy." *International Security* 32(4): 78-105.

### Week 8. Midterm Exam

- *Monday, Oct. 11* - Midterm Review
  - **Response Paper 2 due before class**
- *Wednesday, Oct. 13* - Midterm Exam

### Week 9. International Trade

- *Monday, Oct. 18* - Trade
  - FLS, pp. 290-302; 313-339
- *Wednesday, Oct. 20* - Protectionism
  - FLS, pp. 302-313
  - Irwin, Douglas A. and Randall S. Kroszner. 1996. "Log-rolling and economic interests in the passage of the Smoot-Hawley tariff." *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series on Public Policy* 45: 173-200.
  - Milner, Helen V. 1999. "The Political Economy of International Trade." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 91-114.

### Week 10. Economic Tools of Diplomacy

- *Monday, Oct. 25* - Foreign aid and humanitarianism
  - Weiss, Thomas G. 1999. "Sanctions as a Foreign Policy Tool: Weighing Humanitarian Impulses." *Journal of Peace Research* 36(5): 499-509.
  - Drury, A. Cooper, Richard Stuart Olson, and Douglas A. Van Belle. 2005. "The Politics of Humanitarian Aid: U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, 1964-1995." *Journal of Politics* 67(2): 454-473.
- *Wednesday, Oct. 27* - Economic Sanctions
  - Baldwin, David Allen. 1985. *Economic Statecraft*, Ch. 3
  - Pape, Robert A. 1997. "Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work." *International Security* 22(2): 90-136.

- Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2005. "When Do (Imposed) Economic Sanctions Work?" *World Politics* 57(4): 479–499.

### Week 11. International Financial Relations

- *Monday, Nov. 1* - International borrowing and lending
  - FLS, pp. 343–365
  - Eichengreen, Barry. 1991. "Historical Research on International Lending and Debt." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 5(2): 149–169.
  - Stone, Randall W. 2004. "The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 577–591.
- *(\*) Wednesday, Nov. 3* - Immigration and FDI
  - FLS, pp. 365–377
  - Masters, Jonathan. "Foreign Investment and U.S. National Security." *Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder Report*.

### Week 12. International Monetary Relations

- *Monday, Nov. 8* - Currencies, exchange rates, and strategy
  - FLS, pp. 383–397; 405–417
  - Cohen, Benjamin J. 1998. *The Geography of Money*, Introduction
- *Wednesday, Nov. 10* - Monetary hegemony and the evolution of the system
  - FLS, pp. 397–405
  - Lake, David A. "Leadership, Hegemony, and the International Economy: Naked Emperor or Tattered Monarch with Potential?" *International Studies Quarterly* 37(4): 459–489
  - Eichengreen, Barry and Nathan Sussman. 2000. "The International Monetary System in the (Very) Long Run." *World Economic Outlook*. Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund.
  - "Do Cryptocurrencies Such as Bitcoin Have a Future?" March 1, 2005. *The Wall Street Journal*.

### Week 13. Economic Development

- *Monday, Nov. 15* - Poverty: causes and consequences
  - FLS, pp. 423–441
  - Huber, Evelyn, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John D. Stephens. 1993. "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7(3): 71–86.

- Holtermann, Helge. 2012. "Explaining the Development-Civil War Relationship." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 29(1): 56–78.
- (\*) *Wednesday, Nov. 17* - Strategies for development
  - FLS, 441–453
  - Birdsall, Nancy, Dani Rodrik, and Arvind Subramanian. July/August 2005. "How to Help Poor Countries." *Foreign Affairs*.

#### Week 14. International Law and the Future of International Relations

- *Monday, Nov. 22* - International norms and laws
  - FLS, Ch. 11
  - Slaughter, Anne-Marie. 1995. "International Law in a World of Liberal States." *European Journal of International Law* 6: 503–538.
  - Posner, Eric. September 17, 2009. "Think Again: International Law." *Foreign Policy*.
  - **Response Paper 3 due before class**
- *Wednesday, Nov. 24* - **Thanksgiving Break, No Class**

#### Week 15. End of course

- *Monday, Nov. 29* - The future of IR and course wrap-up
  - FLS, Ch. 14
  - **Review for Exam 2**
- *Wednesday, Dec. 1* - **Second Exam**