

The University of Texas at Austin
International Security
Government 360D (37470); IB 360D (02960)
T/TH 11-12.15
CAL 100

Canvas page: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1385899>

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Patrick J. McDonald

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IR/textbook website: <https://www.openingtheglobalsystem.com>

Office hours (virtual or in-person, please sign up in advance): TH 1.30-3; Friday 2-3.30

Zoom link for office hours: <https://utexas.zoom.us/j/92232487890>

TAs: Muhib Rahman

Office hours:

Nicholas Stenseng

Office hours:

Office hours will be held in-person or over Zoom. We have a Google signup sheet to help organize these meetings. You can find this link on our Canvas homepage. There will be a separate tab on the sheet for each member of the instructional staff. The link for this signup sheet is located on our Canvas homepage. The instructor specific Zoom links can also be found on this signup sheet.

DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad introduction to the causes and consequences of the collective (that is by some political organization) use of military force in the contemporary political world. Traditionally, this subfield in international relations has focused on how states use or threaten to use violence to preserve their sovereignty and resolve political conflicts with other states. The increasing salience of terrorism and state failure over the past two decades helped to reorient the subfield, increasing its attention to acts of political violence by non-state actors. We will explore such topics questions as: why do wars occur? How do interstate and intrastate wars differ? What conditions facilitate the termination of wars? How do alliance structures, international organizations, global economic integration, and the domestic institutions associated with democracy limit military conflict? How have nuclear weapons altered interstate relations? What are the political causes and consequences of terrorism? How is climate change creating new security challenges for states?

COURSE COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT:

Please feel free to reach out to us via email or during office hours with any questions about the course. Additionally, we will post regular updates about the course via the Announcements function on Canvas. Among others, these announcements will include information about exam procedures, the release of new lecture segments, grade reporting on Canvas, any technical issues that may arise, and any changes to course deadlines (announced at least a week in advance if they occur). Make sure you check that tab on our Canvas page regularly. The Canvas announcements page should be considered as an addendum to this syllabus.

READING MATERIALS

We have two required books for this course. The first is a digital textbook. The second examines the origins of World War I. We will also have some digital article readings that will be made available to you through Canvas.

David Fromkin. 2004. *Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?* Knopf.

McDonald, Patrick J., Terrence L. Chapman, and Robert Moser. 2020. *An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System*. Pearson. (**Hereafter: OGS**)

Note: This is a digital, interactive textbook that integrates traditional text-based presentations with (among others) explanatory videos, current events, interactive maps, interactive data visualizations, other interactive widgets, flash cards, writing assignments, and quizzes. You can listen to a narrated, audio version of the text and can access it on your mobile devices.

The textbook is available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, an initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students.

Each enrolled student is automatically enrolled in the program to start. This program is **OPTIONAL**; however, you must **ACTIVELY OPT-OUT** if you do not wish to participate so you are not billed. LTA ensures you are receiving your course materials at a reduced price, however purchasing your course materials through LTA is not required; you can purchase required course materials anywhere. Opting out of LTA will disconnect your access to the course materials, which includes access to graded homework assignments. However, whether to purchase and where to purchase the required materials are your decisions.

If you need access to the required materials, they will be available to you in a digital format through the “My Textbooks” tab on our Canvas site on or before the first class day. To opt-out, go to Canvas and select “My Textbooks” and then “opt-out.” If you are opted-in at the end of the 5th class day (January 22nd), you will be billed for these materials through your “What I Owe” page. You can opt-out and opt-in as many times as you’d like up until the end of the 12th class day (January 31st). You have through the 20th class day (February 12th) to pay your What I Owe bill. If you do not pay your What I Owe bill by February 12th, your charge will be removed and you will lose access to the course materials.

For information on opting-out, billing, and the LTA program, visit universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access

COURSE GOALS

I want to use the subject material of our course to get you thinking (i.e. criticizing, applying, extending) about explanatory “models” of international politics that generate intellectual leverage, or quite simply can explain broad patterns of social behavior with just a few variables or concepts. This might be new for many of you. This is not going to be a class designed to get you to memorize a bunch of facts about international relations. It is not about giving you the answers. I instead I will raise challenging questions that have been debated (sometimes quite ineffectively) for centuries and then teach one style by which you can generate your *own* answers. You will be asked to evaluate arguments, draw implications from them, and write effective statements of your ideas. You will be graded on the effectiveness of your arguments—not on whether you can regurgitate what you have read or what I have said.

Build on this broad teaching approach, here is a set of more specific goals for our semester.

1. Enhance your understanding of the big questions in the study of international politics. Why do wars occur? How do wars stop? What political, economic, or social conditions help sustain peace? How does the acquisition of nuclear weapons shape global politics? What caused World War I? How does global climate change threaten the security of states and people?
2. Enhance your ability to think in the abstract i.e. theoretically. All of our discussions and your written assignments will be oriented around this.
3. Sharpen your reading skills. The goal of your reading should not be to finish the article or the chapter. Instead, it should be to prepare yourself to think critically and originally about the questions, theoretical claims, evidence, and implications of the material you have read. To this end, I encourage you to take a brief three to five-minute break after you finish a reading to collect your thoughts. Jot down your answers to these questions: How can I summarize the main claims or evidence in my own words? How does this reading illustrate central concepts from class or lead me to reexamine them?
4. Practice generating implications (theoretical, empirical, policy) from theoretical priors/concepts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

There will be three sets of requirements for this course. First, you will be expected to keep up with the assigned readings and participate in our discussions. We will track this participation through graded discussion activities (often administered via Canvas) in the classroom. ***Please note that you must be able to access your Canvas account via an electronic device during class to participate in many these discussions.*** Second, you will complete the writing journal assignments that are embedded in our assigned textbook. Third, you will complete two examinations: a midterm and a final. Each of these exams will include an in-class and a take-home portion that count equally in your exam grade. The assignment for the take-home portion that will be distributed two weeks prior to its due date. The in-class portion will consist of a 30-question multiple choice exam. These requirements contribute to your final grade as follows:

Participation in graded chat during class	15%
Textbook Activities	15%
Midterm	35%
Final	35%

Attendance and participation... will be tracked and graded daily throughout our online discussion tool accessible through Canvas. You will need to bring a device capable of posting commentary on our Canvas page while you are in class.

Your contributions to our online, synchronous chats will be graded in increments of 25% (i.e. 100, 75, 50, 25, and 0). To earn full credit, you will be expected to *participate* in class discussions *and* demonstrate that you have done the readings by performing such tasks as summarizing the main arguments, critiquing an author's claims, drawing out policy implications, suggesting how an author's argument may apply to another issue area, or highlighting similarities and differences with other readings.

As a general policy, attendance and participation points cannot be made up. However, we will drop your four lowest daily participation grades for the semester (no questions asked) to account for excused and unexcused absences.

Textbook Assignments... You will also complete textbook assignments that are administered through the required Pearson textbook, *Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System*. Information on how to purchase access to the textbook is available in the section on the textbook in the syllabus and in the Pre-Class Activities Module.

Textbook assignments are embedded in all assigned textbook modules. ***You must complete the writing journals listed at the end of each Module section and the shared writing assignments associated with the assigned readings.*** You will complete these assignments through the online Pearson textbook; and the REVEL platform for the textbook will report a grade to Canvas. The deadlines for these assignments are listed in this syllabus and the REVEL platform.

The grades for these writing assignments are initially supplied through the autograding system embedded in the REVEL platform. We will review your answers periodically though the semester and reserve the right to impose grade penalties for answers that do not answer the prompt, lack sufficient detail, copy text from the textbook, or use ChatGPT.

Your grades on textbook assignments will count toward 15% of your final course grade.

You will see a single grade for your all your textbook work in Canvas. This Canvas grade will be periodically updated throughout the term only when we sync your Revel grade with the Canvas gradebook. We send a Canvas announcement when these Revel scores are reported to Canvas. This means your Canvas grade for textbook will not automatically update when you complete each assignment.

Revel has been set to allow half credit for work that is completed after the assigned due date and time. We do this to accommodate potential conflicts that arise for students during the terms. ***However, all late textbook work must be submitted by 12.50 pm on Friday, May 3 (just before our final exam).*** At that point, we will institute the final grade sync from REVEL to Canvas and your textbook grade will be frozen.

This use of ChatGPT to complete textbook writing assignments is expressly prohibited.

Note: Your textbook grade does not require completion of the quizzes that appear at the end of each OGS module. However, you are, of course, free to complete these exercises to reinforce your understanding of the textbook content.

*Midterm and final examinations...*there will be two parts to each midterm and final: an in-class portion and a take-home portion. The assignment prompt for the take-home portion will be distributed two weeks in advance of the exam and it will be due at the start of the in-class exam. The in-class exam will consist of 30 question multiple choice and true/false questions. The in-class and take-home portions will count equally in the determination of your exam grade.

Makeup exams for the in-class portion will only be granted in case of verifiable medical excuses. Students should notify Pr. McD as soon as possible to schedule a makeup exam.

*The determination of grades and grade appeals...*This process must be initiated by your written explanation of why the decisions behind the assignment of your grade should be revisited. You will have one week after an assignment has been handed back to submit this written explanation. After that period, all grades will be considered final and any discussion that we might have will be restricted to how you can do better on the next assignment. Once you have submitted your written request, I will decide whether to regrade your entire assignment.

Please keep in mind that your past performance in other classes taken here at the University is not germane to any grading decisions made in my class. Consequently, if receiving a D in my class places you on academic probation, this does not constitute a viable justification for requesting the regrading of any assignment.

Grade appeals also cannot be made on the basis of being “close” to a letter grade. Cutoffs between letter grades will be strictly observed according to guidelines listed below. Note: these already include appropriate rounding:

92.5-100 A; 89.5-92.499 A-; 86.5-89.499 B+; 82.5-86.499 B; 79.5-82.499 B-; 76.5-79.499 C+; 72.5-76.499 C; 69.5-72.499 C-; 66.5-69.499 D+; 62.5-66.499 D; 59.5-62.499 D-; 0-59.499 F

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Our class format necessarily creates mutual obligations among students to come prepared to discuss both the readings and the lecture materials. If only a few people in a group or the class are regularly doing the reading, our discussions will stumble as the bulk of students rely on a minority to carry them. Such a situation penalizes those students doing the readings as they are then pushed to shoulder more responsibility in class. To avoid this situation while fostering a stimulating and productive intellectual environment in class, I have established the following rules to ensure that all students meet these obligations to each other.

Classroom civility... As the instructor of record for this course, it is my responsibility to enforce this. Quite simply, I take this to mean that you will respect the right of your colleagues to ask questions and discuss their opinions about the subject matter of our course in class and that you will respect their right to listen undisturbed to the discussion in class. In short, expect to be asked to leave the classroom if you are bothering others by doing such things as: posting trolling messages to our virtual chats, watching videos on your computer, or talking to the person sitting next to you outside of our discussion groups.

Academic integrity... By taking this class, you agree to abide by the University of Texas regulations concerning cheating.

Each student is expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Please note that **the use of chatGPT is expressly prohibited in this course for the completion of any exercise.**

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

You are expected to submit your own work on all assignments and you cannot collaborate with other students during exams. You should expect to fail this course if you violate these policies. At the very least, violations will result in a grade of 0 (zero) on the affected assignment.

Using someone else's work in your own writing without giving proper credit is considered plagiarism, a serious form of academic dishonesty that can result in severe penalties. Copying someone else's work, buying a paper and submitting it as your own, copying and pasting text (even with changes), or borrowing images from an online source, are some examples of plagiarism. Even if you plagiarize accidentally, you can be held responsible and penalized.

Learning to cite sources appropriately is an important part of becoming a professional. When you are unsure about citation, you are encouraged to **ask your instructor** (who is already an expert in the discipline) what is appropriate in the context of your assignment. Consultants at The [University Writing Center](#) can also help you determine whether you are citing sources correctly—and they have helpful guides online for using [direct quotations](#) and [paraphrasing](#). Reviewing those skills will help you feel confident that you are handling sources professionally in your writing.

You can read the University's definition of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty in Sec. 11–402 of the [Student Conduct Code](#). For more information, visit the [Dean of Students' site](#).

Disabilities: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students (<https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/contact-us/>) at (512) 471-6259, (512) 410-6644 (video phone). If you have approved accommodations, please contact us through via email to arrange them.

Religious holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency evacuation: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as they way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

Covid-19 policies and adjustments... I am going to make every effort to preserve a safe, in-person learning environment for us this spring. If you get sick during the semester with COVID-19, I will do my best to work with you to ensure that you can complete this course. Please reach out to me as soon as possible so I can facilitate any necessary scheduling adjustments.

To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to [University Health Services](#), and faculty and staff report to the [HealthPoint Occupational Health Program](#) (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see this [link](#) to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help

understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this [University Health Services link](#).

Changes to the syllabus... I may make minor changes to the syllabus. These will be announced at least a week in advance.

TITLE IX REPORTING

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's [relevant policies](#).

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered “Responsible Employees” or “Mandatory Reporters,” which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **We are Responsible Employees and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with us, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit titleix.utexas.edu or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: The date associated with each session are due dates. You will be expected to have completed the reading by the start of class on the day for which it is assigned. That assigned reading will provide part of the content for our class session on that day.

Tuesday, January 16

Introduction to International Security

Readings: *OGS*, Module 1

Thursday, January 18

The International System and the Iran Nuclear Accord

Readings: *OGS*, Module 2

Tuesday, January 23

Thinking Theoretically About International Security

Readings: *OGS*, Module 3

Thursday, January 25

War in International Relations, Force in Politics, AI in War

Readings: *OGS*, Module 7

David Ignatius. 2022. How the Algorithm Tipped the Balance in Ukraine. *Washington Post*, December 20, A17.

David Ignatius. 2022. Fighting by Algorithm Boosts Ukraine's 'Good' War, but Risks Lurk. *Washington Post*, December 21, A19.

Michelle A. Flournoy. 2023. AI is Already at War. *Foreign Affairs* 102(6): 56-69.

Tuesday, January 30

The Origins of War, Part I

Readings: *OGS*, Module 8

Thursday, February 1

The Origins of War, Part II

Readings: *OGS*, Module 9

Tuesday, February 6

The Origins of War, Part III: Finish bargaining model and overview of WWI

Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 1-48

Thursday, February 8

The Origins of WWI (II): 1904-1913

Readings: Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 49-112

Tuesday, February 13

The Origins of WWI (III): Balkan Wars and the Blank Check

Readings: Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 113-200

Thursday, February 15

The Origins of WWI (IV): Military Strategy, War, and The July Crisis

Readings: Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 201-305

Tuesday, February 20

Alliances, Coalitions, and War

Readings: *OGS*, Sections 11.1-11.3

Thursday, February 22

Domestic Sources of War and WWI

Readings: *OGS*, Module 18, Sections 19.1-19.4

Tuesday, February 27

****In-class Midterm****

Thursday, February 29

War Termination

Readings: *OGS*, Module 10

Tuesday, March 5

The Treaty of Versailles and the Political Consequences of War

Readings: *OGS*, Module 16

Thursday, March 7

Civil War I

Readings: *OGS*, Sections 12.1-12.4

Tuesday, March 19

Civil War II: Identity Conflicts and Civil War in Iraq, Syria

Readings: *OGS*, Module 24

Zachary Laub. 2023. Syria's Civil War: The Descent Into Horror. Available at:
<https://www.cfr.org/article/syrias-civil-war>

Thursday, March 21

Civil War III: International Intervention in Civil War

Readings: *OGS*, Sections 12.5-12.6

David E. Cunningham. 2016. Preventing Civil War: How the Potential for International Intervention Can Deter Conflict Onset. *World Politics* 68(2): 307-340.

Tuesday, March 26

The Human Costs of War: Civil Wars and Refugees

Readings: Lichtenheld, A. G. (2020). Explaining population displacement strategies in civil wars: a cross-national analysis. *International Organization* 74(2): 253-294.

Thursday, March 28

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Readings: *OGS*, Module 15

Tuesday, April 2

Nuclear Weapons, Part 1

Readings: OGS, Module 13

Thursday, April 4

Nuclear Weapons, Part 2

Readings: OGS, Module 14

Keir A. Leiber and Daryl G. Press. 2023. The Return of Nuclear Escalation. *Foreign Affairs* 102(6): 45-55.

Tuesday, April 9

Great Power Politics and US-China Relations (I)

Readings: OGS, Module 20

Jessica Chen Weiss. 2022. The China Trap: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Perilous Logic of Zero-Sum Competition. *Foreign Affairs* 101(5): 40-58.

Thursday, April 11

Great Power Politics and US-China Relations (II): Taiwan

Oriana Skylar Mastro. 2021. The Taiwan Temptation. *Foreign Affairs* 100(4): 58-67.

Bonnie S. Glaser, Jessica Chen Weiss, and Thomas J. Christenson. 2024. Taiwan and the True Sources of Deterrence: Why America Must Reassure, not Just Threaten, China. *Foreign Affairs* 103(1): 88-100.

Tuesday, April 16

Great Power Politics: US-Russian Relations

Readings: OGS, Section 11.4

Michael McFaul. 2020. Putin, Putinism, and the Domestic Determinants of Russian Foreign Policy. *International Security* 45(2): 951-139.

Thursday, April 18

The Political Economy of National Security

Readings: OGS, Module 26

Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman. 2023. The New Economic Security State. *Foreign Affairs* 102(6): 106-122.

Tuesday, April 23

Territory and Border Politics

Beth A. Simmons. 2019. On the Border of Anxiety. *The Wilson Quarterly* 43(3).

Thursday, April 25

Conclusions: The Liberal International Order v. The Sovereign Territorial Order

Beth A. Simmons and Hein E. Goemans. 2021. Built on Borders: Tensions with the Institution Liberalism (Thought It) Left Behind. *International Organization* 75(2): 387-410.

Friday, May 3

Final Exam from 1 pm to 3 pm