

GOV 312L
The U.S. in Global Conflict and Cooperation
(Section: 38200)

University of Texas at Austin
Fall, 2023

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Lecture Time: MWF 12-12:50 PM
Classroom: PAR 203
Office hours: MW 1-2:30 PM

Course Overview

This course will provide you a thorough overview of the core concepts and issues of international conflict and cooperation from the perspectives of the United States. Designed as an introductory course, the central goal is to engage in historically informed discussions on the role that the U.S. plays and challenges it encounters in its conduct of foreign policy, both as a common member of the international state system and as a global hegemon.

The course is divided into three parts. First, we will focus on how both international systemic forces and domestic politics affect foreign policy making, drawing on particular U.S. examples. We will also explore major concepts and theories that place varied emphasis on either the international system or domestic politics. Particular attention will be paid to theories that explain the role of the United States in world politics as the leader of the liberal international order. In the second part, we will examine issues and challenges to cooperation in security areas, including war, security cooperation agreements, nuclear proliferation and deterrence, civil conflict and external intervention, and transnational terrorism. The final part of the course will explore a diverse set of non-security global issues and challenges, including economic cooperation, international institutions, democracy promotion, economic development, immigration, environmental politics, and so on.

This course fulfills the second half of the legislative requirement for government. It may be taken for credit only once.

Required Readings and the Textbook

The textbook for the course is a digital textbook on Pearson's new digital platform, Revel. The title is:

Patrick McDonald, Terrence Chapman, and Rob Moser, *Opening the Global System: An Introduction to International Relations*. Pearson Publishers.

This text is available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, a new initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students. You are automatically opted into the program but can easily opt-out (and back in) via Canvas through the 12th class day. If you remain opted-in at

the end of the 12th class day you will receive a bill through your “[What I Owe](#)” page and have until the end of the 18th class day to pay and retain access. If you do not pay by the 18th class day, you will lose access to the materials after the 20th class day and your charge will be removed. More information about the LTA program is available at <https://www.universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access>. Instructions for accessing the text through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) can be found on the course Canvas homepage. This is a modularly designed textbook, meaning that it is customizable for a variety of international relations classes. We will cover a selection of the “modules,” which are short chapters that include interactive figures, charts, and some videos.

The textbook modules that are required for this class have a short quiz of 10 questions at the end. **These quizzes are required.** It is recommended that you complete reading the module and do the quiz before coming to the lecture. However, **the quizzes must be completed by 11:59 pm (CT) on the due dates.** Most weeks have two modules to read along with two module quizzes. If there is only one module quiz a week, the deadline is Friday at 11:59 pm. If there are two quizzes a week, the first one is due on Wednesday at 11:59 pm and the second is on Friday at 11:59 pm. In the final grade, your 3 lowest quiz grades will be dropped. If you miss a quiz for any reason other than those that are approved, this will count toward one of your dropped quizzes as well.

Additionally, a few of the modules include “shared writing” assignments. These ask you to reflect on a current event through the lens of the concepts covered in the module. These can be no more than 120 words. The instructor and your peers will be able to see your response. The shared writing assignments must be completed by the respective deadlines of the module quizzes unless you are unable to do so because of the university approved excuses discussed later in the syllabus.

Grading Policies

Your final course grade will be comprised of the following elements:

Module Quizzes	20%	Every week you will be required to complete one or two textbook module quizzes (along with a shared writing assignment for some of them), after you read the module(s) assigned for that week. Each quiz has 10 questions. You have to complete the quizzes online using the digital revel platform on your Pearson Textbook. You can do the quizzes prior to the deadlines as many times as you want to increase your score. See the details in the “Required Readings and the Textbook” section.
Class Participation	10%	Class participation is 10 percent of your total grade. You are expected to do the reading before class, take good notes, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. I will not keep a regular attendance record but there will be unannounced instapolls during the lecture. I will arrange opportunities for small group discussions throughout the semester. It is important to utilize these opportunities to make your participation stand out.
Discussion Assignments	10%	I will post 3 discussion assignments on Canvas with a specific deadline for each. You must complete all 3 of them by the deadline. You have to

write 1-2 on assigned topics by applying a major concept to a current event. Detailed instructions will be provided in the announcements. The idea is to generate discussions and exchanges among students on some important ideas covered in the class. The instructor and your peers will be able to see your discussion in the thread. The assignments would require you to engage with comments and reflections of at least two other students who submitted prior to yours. The first 2 students who would start the discussion thread are exempted from this requirement.

Exam 1 20% There will be 3 exams (3rd being the final) **at the end of 5th, 10th and 15th week**, respectively (see the course schedule below for the exact date). They will be 50 minutes long each and administered during the regular class time.

Exam 2 20%

Exam 3 20%

Each exam will consist of a couple of short essay questions (1-2 paragraphs) and a series of multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. They are closed books and closed notes. I will give detailed instructions during the review session before the exam.

Grading Scale: Grades will be rounded to the nearest percentage point (i.e. .5 and above will be rounded to the next percentage point).

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 88-89
B 82-87
B- 80-81
C+ 78-79
C 72-77
C- 70-71
D+ 68-69
D 62-67
D- 60-61
F Below 60

Late Work and Makeup Exam: Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted or alternate exam arrangements made, with the exception of an illness, a university-approved function, or death in the immediate family that clearly interferes with your ability to finish the assignment on time. Please provide documentation where appropriate and contact me before the deadline or scheduled exam time. This can be in the form of a simple email. Failure to notify me will result in a zero for the assignment or exam. In any case, you will always have to proactively communicate with me to arrange for the make-up exam or quiz.

Excused Absences: Being present is critical to achieving our goals for this course. However, absences will be considered excused if they are for religious holidays or extenuating circumstances due to medical or family emergencies. If you plan to miss class due to the observance of a religious holiday, please let us know at least two weeks in advance. You will not

be penalized for this absence, although you will still be responsible for any work you will miss on that day if applicable. Check with me for details or arrangements.

If you have to be absent, use your resources wisely. Ask your team and other classmates to get a run-down and notes on any lessons you miss. If you find there are topics that we covered while you were gone that raise questions, you may come by during office hours or schedule a meeting to discuss. Email specific questions you have in advance so that we can make the most of our time. “What did I miss?” is not specific enough.

Communication Policies

All students should be familiar with the University’s official email student notification policy. It is the student’s responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her email address. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your email address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>. I will normally put announcements out through Canvas, but you are responsible for any announcements made *during* the class period as well. It is a good idea to check with friends if you miss class.

The best way to contact me is either through email or office hours. In the event that you cannot make office hours, please make an appointment. If you choose to stop by the office outside of office hours and without an appointment, I cannot guarantee that I will be available at that moment to meet with you. To avoid this situation altogether, it is always best to use office hours or make an appointment. I will respond to most emails within 24 hours of when you sent it, excluding weekends.

My office hours’ primary objective is to help you. You are more than welcome to consult me during your progress through the course. I WILL be in office during office hours to help anyone who needs help. The time to seek help is when you start experiencing a problem, not at the end of the semester. So, please reach out and utilize the office hours.

Other Course Policies and Guidelines

Statement on Learning Success: Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need to be adaptable because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we’ll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Many are listed on this syllabus, but I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

Statement on Flexibility: In acknowledgment of COVID-19 and its impact on the University of Texas at Austin community, this course will reaffirm one of the core values here at UT Austin: responsibility. Our responsibility to ourselves and each other is to put our humanity in the forefront of our academic pursuits. If you experience any hardships such as illness, accident, or family crisis please know that these policies may be amended and therefore you should communicate with me as soon as you feel comfortable doing so. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing this with me, please visit [Student Emergency Services](#). For additional campus resources, please visit protect.utexas.edu.

Personal Pronouns: Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name unless they have added a "preferred name" with the Gender and Sexuality Center, which you can do so here:

<http://diversity.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/publications-and-resources/>. I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name that is different from what appears on the official roster, and by the gender pronouns you use (she/he/they/ze, etc). Please advise me of any changes early in the semester so that I may make appropriate updates to my records. For instructions on how to add your pronouns to Canvas, visit <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/profile-pronouns>.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259. For more information, visit <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

Policy on Academic Integrity: Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/>.

UT Honor Code: "As A Student Of The University Of Texas At Austin, I Shall Abide By The Core Values Of The University And Uphold Academic Integrity."

Class Recordings and Sharing of Class Materials: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings. Other materials used in this class, lecture hand-outs, assessments (e.g., quizzes, exams), in-class materials, review sheets, may not be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty.

Add/Drop and Incompletes: Refer to the university catalog at <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi06-07/ch4/ch4f.html#Adding.and.Dropping.Courses> and <http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi06-07/ch4/ch4d.html#Grades>

Accommodations for 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.

Title IX Reporting: Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, dating/domestic violence, and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. When unprofessional or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature occurs in our

community, the university can help in many different ways. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit <http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/>, contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures: The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Course Calendar

(All module numbers refer to the numbering in the Revel course. I reserve the right to change the course calendar if any adjustment is needed. Any change will be communicated in advance.)

Part 1: Concepts and Theories

Week 1:	Structure of International System Reading: Textbook Module 2 Module Quiz (Module 2): 8/25, 11:59 pm
8/21, M	L1: Introduction
8/23, W	L2: Actors and Composition of International System
8/25, F	L3: Challenges to Cooperation Under Anarchy
Week 2:	Domestic Politics and US Foreign Policy Readings: Textbook Module 18 Robert Golan-Vilella. 2014. A Tale of Two AUMFs. <i>The National Interest</i> 133: 59-66. Stephen R. Weissman. 2017. Congress and War. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 96(1): 132-145. Module Quiz (Module 18): 9/1, 11:59 pm
8/28, M	L4: Domestic Actors in US Foreign Policy
8/30, W	L5: Role of Presidency and Congress
9/1, F	L6: American Public and Foreign Policy
Week 3:	Theories and Perspectives I Readings: Textbook Module 4 and 5 Module Quiz (Module 4): 9/6, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 5): 9/8, 11:59 pm
9/4, M	Labor Day, no class
9/6, W	L7: Rationalist Theories

9/8, F	L8: Social and Psychological Theories
Week 4:	Theories and Perspectives II Readings: 1. Textbook Module 20 2. Mac Thornberry and Andrew F. Krepinevic, Jr. 2016. Preserving Primacy. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 95(5): 26–35. 3. Biden’s National security Strategy: 6–13; 23–36. Link: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Biden-Harris-Administrations-National-Security-Strategy-10.2022.pdf Module Quiz (Module 20): 9/15, 11:59 pm
9/11, M	L9: Polarity, Hierarchy and Power Transition
9/13, W	L10: Major Power Competition for Power and Influence
9/15, F	L11: Grand Strategy and National Security I
Week 5:	Grand Strategy + Review and Exam 1 No Additional Reading, No Module Quiz
9/18, M	L12: Grand Strategy and National Security II
9/20, W	Exam Review Session
9/22, F	Exam 1 (L1 – L12)

Part 2: Issues and Challenges to Cooperation in Security Areas

Week 6:	Interstate War Readings: Textbook Modules 8 and 9 Module Quiz (Module 8): 9/27, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 9): 9/29, 11:59 pm
9/25, M	L13: The Bargaining Model of War
9/27, W	L14: Private Information and War
9/29, F	L15: Commitment Problem and War
Week 7:	War Termination, Military Power and Security Politics Readings: Textbook Modules 10 and 11 Module Quiz (Module 10): 10/4, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 11): 10/6, 11:59 pm
10/2, M	L16: War Termination and Commitment to Peace
10/4, W	L17: Military Power: Dilemmas and Strategies
10/6, F	L18: Alliance and Collective Security Organizations

Week 8:	Threats to Nuclear Deterrence Readings: Textbook Modules 13 and 14 Module Quiz (Module 13): 10/11, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 14): 10/13, 11:59 pm
10/9, M	L19: Nuclear Weapons and Threats to Global Stability
10/11, W	L20: Credibility of Threats and Nuclear Deterrence
10/13, F	L21: Nuclear Proliferation and Nonproliferation
Week 9:	Civil Conflict, Failed State and International Intervention Readings: Textbook Modules 12 and 17 Module Quiz (Module 12): 10/18, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 17): 10/20, 11:59 pm
10/16, M	L22: States, Sovereignty and Domestic Political Order
10/18, W	L23: Civil War and International Interventions
10/20, F	L24: Failed States and Humanitarian Interventions
Week 10:	Terrorism + Review and Exam 2 Readings: Textbook Module 15 Module Quiz (Module 15): 10/25, 11:59 pm
10/23, M	L25: Terrorism and Counter Terrorism
10/25, W	Exam Review Session
10/27, F	Exam 2 (L13 – L25)

Part 3: Issues and Challenges to Cooperation in Other Areas

Week 11:	International Economic Cooperation Readings: Textbook Module 27 and 29 Module Quiz (Module 27): 11/1, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 29): 11/3, 11:59 pm
10/30, M	L26: Market and Gains from Economic Cooperation
11/1, W	L27: Trade Preferences, Domestic Institutions and Trade Policy
11/3, F	L28: Monetary Cooperation, MNCs and FDI
Week 12:	United States in International Institutions Readings: Textbook Module 21 and 30 Module Quiz (Module 21): 11/8, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 30): 11/10, 11:59 pm

11/6, M	L29: Institutions and Global Integration
11/8, W	L30: International Organizations in Global Economy
11/10, F	No class; Peace Science Conference
Week 13:	Economic Development and Democracy Promotion Readings: Textbook Module 31 and 19 Module Quiz (Module 31): 11/15, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 19): 11/17, 11:59 pm
11/13, M	L31: Globalization and Economic Growth
11/15, W	L32: Foreign Aid and Economic Growth
11/17, F	L34: Democracy in International Conflict and Cooperation
Week 14:	No class: Fall break/Thanksgiving
Week 15:	Migration and Environmental Politics Readings: Textbook Module 32 and 33 Module Quiz (Module 32): 11/29, 11:59 pm Module Quiz (Module 33): 12/1, 11:59 pm
11/27, M	L38: International Immigration
11/29, W	L39: Environmental Politics
12/1, F	Exam Review Session
Week 16:	Exam 3 (Final Exam) No Additional Reading, No Module Quiz
12/4, M	Exam 3 (L26 – L39)