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## Introduction to International Relations

PS 230  
Spring 2019

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Course time: TR 11:00am – 12:15pm  
Location: Thomas Poe Cooper Bldg, Room 113  
Instructor: Tasnia Symoom  
Patterson Office Tower 1602  
tasnia.symoom@uky.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesday: 9am-10:45am or by appointment

### COURSE SUMMARY

In this course, students are exposed to the major theories and topics in international relations, as well as current and past international issues and events. We will discuss the primary actors in world politics and the goals they pursue, as well as analyze the various factors that constrain the ability of actors to attain their interests, most notably their interactions with other actors through domestic and international institutions. In discussing actors, interests, interactions, and institutions, we will focus on three main areas of international politics. First, we will address the **causes and consequences of war**, as well as what can be done to promote peace. In addition to examining state actors and international conflict, we will also examine the role of nonstate actors in civil war and terrorism. Second, we will discuss the **international political economy**, including trade, monetary relations, and development. In the final part of the course, we turn our attention to **international law and norms and human rights**. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to consider how the textbook relates to (1) an international relations simulation in which students run countries in a simulated world and (2) the current state of world politics and American foreign policy. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand and generate solutions to international problems, think critically and analytically about international relations, and make policy recommendations regarding various topics in international politics.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the key actors in international politics, as well as their interests and how they interact in the institutions they inhabit.
- Generate theories about how individuals, states, and international institutions interact to produce outcomes in world politics.
- Understand the core theories in international relations and apply them to current events in world politics.
- Make policy recommendations rooted in theory regarding various topics in international relations.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Friedan, Jeffry A, David A. Lake, & Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. ISBN 978-0-393-93809-8.

Statecraft Simulation account. It costs \$35 to participate in the Statecraft simulation. Please consider this like the cost of a textbook. Go to <http://statecraftsim.com> to register.

*The World Next Week*. Podcast. Free. <https://www.cfr.org/podcasts/world-next-week>

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

Especially for those planning careers in international service.

*The Economist*. [Students can get 12 weeks for \\$12](#). A leading international weekly news magazine from the United Kingdom. Written from a globalist, liberal (that is, libertarian) perspective.

*Foreign Affairs*. [Students can get a one year digital subscription for \\$19.95](#). Access is also available free through the library.

## **EARNING GRADES**

You will be evaluated through your participation and performance in our statecraft simulation, foreign policy briefs regarding a specific country, three exams, classwork, and attendance.

### ***Statecraft Simulation*** (20% total)

In this course, students will be participating in a simulation in which they will be governing their own simulated countries with a group of their fellow students.

You will be assigned your country based on a quiz which measures your foreign policy attitudes. Go to <http://statecraftsim.com> to register. The cost of registration is \$35. The code for the simulation is "gametheory".

Your Statecraft simulation grade will be divided into three parts, as indicated:

- Quizzes on Statecraft Manual (4%)
- Statecraft Participation—Simulation Memos (8%)
- Statecraft Performance (8%)

At the end of the simulation, you will also be asked to do a peer assessment of your colleague's participation. This assessment may be used to modify the performance part of your grade.

More details about the simulation will be provided in class.

### ***Foreign Policy Briefs*** (20% total)

During this course, you will be assigned a country about which to gain expertise. You will create four Powerpoint presentation briefings related to your country. The four briefings are as follows:

- Country background briefing
- US interests in the country briefing
- Country's interests and institutions briefing
- Policy Recommendations for the President briefing

Each brief will be weighted equally. See Canvas for more details about these assignments.

### ***Exams*** (50% total)

The exams will be weighted equally and generally cover specific course content, though some familiarity with previous course content and themes which transcend specific topics will be needed for the second and third exams.

**Classwork** (5% total)

From time to time, I will have in-class assignments. Each assignment will have a point value relative to its weight. The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of points possible to generate your score for assignments. Many of these assignments will relate *The World Next Week* to course material.

**Attendance** (5% total)

The final part of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation. You will lose 20% of this grade for each unexcused absence (i.e., each absence docks 1% off of your overall grade for the course).

**Grading Scale**

Final course grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 90.0-100.0

B = 80.0-89.9

C = 70.0-79.9

D = 60.0-69.9

E = below 60.0

**ABSENCES**

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. Senate Rules 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor. Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable, but should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through the Ombud (859-257-3737, [http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents\\_ExcusedAbsences.php](http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/ForStudents_ExcusedAbsences.php)).

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused) per University policy.

Per Senate Rule 5.2.4.2, students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The professor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to an excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred.

**Verification of Absences**

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness, or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.

**Missed exams and assignments**

Make-up exams and assignments will only be given for documented excused absences as defined by the University (Senate Rule V.2.4.2) and are scheduled as needed. A missed exam/assignment will result in a score of zero for that exam, unless an acceptable written excuse is presented within 48 hours of the missed examination.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website:

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rules 6.3.1 (see <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/> for the current set of Senate Rules) state that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes, while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact, is plagiarism. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain. Please note that any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, to regularly check the course in Canvas, and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of

the educational opportunity. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities.

I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. If you miss a class you are still responsible for the information covered. I will not provide you with notes. I expect all students who attend class to arrive on time and ready to start class. It is disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates to show up late or leave early. During class please refrain from all disruptive behavior, including (but not limited to) reading newspapers, sleeping, talking during lecture, cell phone and pager use, packing up stuff before class is dismissed and insulting classmate or instructors. In regards to cell phones, it is absolutely rude to text or talk on the phone during class. That being said, I understand that you have lives and issues that may require immediate attention (as do I). If something important arises, please simply remove yourself from class momentarily and take care of the issue.

Please bring pen and paper to class. You may bring your laptops, but please use them for course-related business during class time.

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If class is cancelled due to inclement weather, please check Canvas. I may create online discussions or assignments to do to substitute for the missed class.

I live in Jessamine County. It is possible that inclement weather might prevent me from coming to class even if classes are not cancelled. In such a case, I will post an announcement in Canvas. So please be sure to check Canvas on any potentially difficult travel day.

#### **ACCOMODATIONS DUE TO DISABILITY**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754 and via email at [drc@uky.edu](mailto:drc@uky.edu). The web address is <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/>.

#### **CANVAS**

This course utilizes Canvas for essentially many facets of the course. You are expected to check Canvas regularly for all information pertaining to this course.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*Subject to change! See Canvas for any updates*

| Topic                                  | Tuesday                                                                        | Thursday                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1: Jan 8                          | 9                                                                              | 11<br>Course introduction                                                                   |
| Week 2: Jan 15                         | 16<br>Read Chap 2<br><br>Interests, interactions and institutions              | 18<br>Review Game Theory Primer (pp.82ff)<br>Country background briefing due<br>Game theory |
| Week 3: Jan 22                         | 23<br>Read Statecraft manual<br>Read Chap 3<br>Statecraft introduction<br>Wars | 25<br><br><br>Wars, cont.                                                                   |
| Week 4: Jan 29                         | 30<br>Read Chap 4<br>Domestic politics and war                                 | 1<br><br>Domestic politics and war, cont.                                                   |
| Week 5: Feb 5                          | 6<br>Read Chap 5<br>International institutions and war                         | 8<br><br>International institutions and war, cont.                                          |
| Week 6: Feb 12                         | 13<br>Read Chap 6<br>Civil war and terrorism                                   | 15<br><br>Civil war and terrorism, cont.                                                    |
| Week 7: Feb 19                         | 20<br><b>Midterm 1</b>                                                         | 22<br>Read Chap 7<br>International trade                                                    |
| Week 8: Feb 26                         | 27<br><br>International trade, cont.                                           | 1<br>Read Chap 8<br>International financial relations                                       |
| Week 9: Mar 5                          | 6<br><br>International financial relations, cont.                              | 8<br>Read Chap 9<br>US interests briefing due<br>International monetary relations           |
| Week 10: Mar 12<br><b>SPRING BREAK</b> | 13                                                                             | 15                                                                                          |
| Week 11: Mar 19                        | 20<br>Review Chap 9<br>International monetary relations, cont.                 | 22<br>Read Chap 10<br>Development                                                           |
| Week 12: Mar 26                        | 27<br>Development, cont.                                                       | 29<br><b>Midterm 2</b>                                                                      |
| Week 13: Apr 2                         | 3<br>Read Chap 11<br>International law and norms                               | 5<br>Country interests briefing due<br>International law and norms, cont.                   |
| Week 14: Apr 9                         | 10<br>Read Chap 12                                                             | 12                                                                                          |

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|----------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | Human rights                             | Human rights, cont.                                                   |
| Week 15: Apr 16      | 17<br>Read Chap 13<br>Global environment | 19<br>Policy recommendation briefing due<br>Global environment, cont. |
| Week 16: Apr 23      | 24<br>Read Chap 14<br>The future         | 26<br><br>The future, cont. Review                                    |
| <b>FINAL: Apr 30</b> |                                          |                                                                       |