

Introduction to International Relations - (POLI/PWAD 150)

Fall 2018

Instructor: Navin Bapat, 304 Hamilton Hall, 919.962.1438, email: bapat@unc.edu.

Lecture Time and Location: M W 10.10-11, Hamilton 100.

Office Hours: M W 12-2 and by appt.

Introduction: This course is designed to achieve two objectives: (1) to introduce you to some of the most important topics and puzzles in the study of international relations, and (2) to provide you with some analytic concepts that can be used to study world politics. The course is designed to teach you how to think about politics in the global arena and to prepare you for more advanced courses in international relations.

Course Requirements: Your grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Midterms	2 @ 15% each
Writing Assignments	2 @ 20% each
Final	20%
Participation	10%

1. **Exams.** There will be two in class midterms and one final. These exams are closed book and closed note, and will be administered using Sakai. The two midterms will be a combination of 10 multiple choice questions and one essay. The final exam will be cumulative and will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and one essay. You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The final exam is at 8.00 am on Friday, December 14. If you have any scheduling conflicts with the exam, please notify me immediately so alternative arrangements can be made. Alternative exam scheduling should be done through ARS.
2. **Papers.** You are required to write two five page essays for the class. The prompts for these essays are available in Sakai. The readings, along with your section discussions, should serve as the basis for your assignment. For example, September 10's essay focuses on why the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a prolonged Cold War rather than World War III. Your task is to answer the prompt by applying the theories we discuss in class, and then pointing to evidence from the course readings. For example, in this case, you may use the bargaining model of war to argue that both sides preferred a deal to fighting, and both sides were able to avoid a breakdown in this peace due to problems of incomplete information. You would begin your essay by briefly introducing the history behind the Cold War, outlining the theory behind the bargaining model, and then pointing to specific evidence from history to support your arguments. You may use the textbook and the lecture notes to form and provide evidence for your arguments, but good essays will bring in additional materials and sources (I would recommend 2-3 outside sources per essay). Each of your sources should be documented in a bibliography at the end. You should use MLA citations, and make sure that you document arguments/evidence that you use from each of your sources.

The paper is due on the Monday following the assignment, meaning you have one week to complete each essay. The essays should be submitted via Sakai. Each of you should see the main Sakai site (section 001) and one assigned to your recitation section with your TA's name. **Please upload your papers in the Assignments section of the Sakai site with your TA's name.** If you click on the Assignments tab, you will see a link for Paper 1 and Paper 2. Upload your first and second papers here. Your TA will then get a notification email that you have submitted the assignment. If you want to be sure, you can email your TA prior to the deadline to let them know that you have uploaded your paper.

3. **Recitations.** Your recitation section plays an important role in this course. It is your best opportunity for active learning and discussing the material critically. The recitation also allows you to explore topics in depth that we cannot adequately cover in class. Attendance is required, and regular active participation is expected. Students are allowed up to two unexcused absences from recitation sections. Each subsequent unexcused absence will reduce your recitation grade by one full point. This means that if you receive 8% for your participation grade, but have three unexcused absences, your participation grade will be 7%. The recitation grade will be evaluated based on attendance and participation. Students who attend regularly but do not participate in discussions should expect a low grade for this portion of the course.

Course Materials: The required text is available at the UNC Bookstore.

1. Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, & Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Third Edition. W. W. Norton. Note: while there is a fourth edition, we will be using the third edition.

Expectations:

1. I do not presume any exposure to the field of international relations, and there are no prerequisites for the course. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course, so if you do not already have your favorite source of news or history, now is a good time to find one.
2. **Phones:** Please turn your mobile phones off or to silent mode before class. No calls, no IMs, no text messaging during class. On exam days your phones must be powered down and put away. Laptops are permitted for class purposes only.
3. **Email:** I cannot answer all email immediately, and it may take me some time to respond. If you need to notify me of something important, such as an absence for an exam, come to my office hours prior to the exam. If you have an emergency and cannot inform me in person, you may try to do so over email, but you will need to follow up with an office visit when you are able. If you have course related questions that require a detailed response from me, email is not likely to work quickly, so come see me in office hours.
4. **Honor Code:** The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Codes application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of submitted work.

Course Schedule and Reading List

Week 1:

August 22: Introduction. Frieden, Lake, & Schultz (FLS): Introduction.

Recitation. Recitations meet and introduce, no reading assignment.

Week 2:

August 27: What is International Relations? Defining the Actors. FLS pp. 42-62.

August 29. No Class. American Political Science Association Meeting.

Recitation. Rana Dasgupta. 2018. The Demise of the Nation-State.

Week 3:

September 3. No Class. Labor Day!

September 5. Power and Order. FLS Chapter 63-79.

Recitation. Max Fisher and Audrey Carlson. 9 March 2018. How China is Challenging American Dominance in Asia.

Week 4:

September 10: The Puzzle of International War. FLS 89-117.

September 12: No Class - Hurricane Florence. Stay Safe!

Recitation. Rich Noak. 24 July 2018. The Oil Route that could be Behind the Escalating Trump-Iran Threats, explained.

Week 5:

September 17. No Class - Hurricane Florence. Stay Safe!

September 19. Commitment Problems and War. FLS 118-133.

Recitation. Dominic Tierney. 15 June 2017. The Risks of Foreign Policy as Distraction.

Week 6:

September 24: Domestic Constraints on War. FLS, pp. 137-181..

September 26: International Constraints on War I. Alliances and Collective Security. FLS, pp. 187-213.

Recitation. Philip Gordon and Ivo Daadler. 19 July 2018. Trump's Biggest Gift to Putin.

Week 7:

October 1: International Constraints on War II. Institutions. FLS, pp. 23-30; 213-231.

October 3. Midterm.

Recitation. No Recitations this week.

Week 8:

October 8: Civil Wars. FLS 234-264.

October 10. Terrorism FLS 264-287; John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart. Why are Americans Still So Afraid of Islamic Terrorism?

Recitation. Ali Khedery. 3 July 2014. Why We Stuck with Maliki - And Lost Iraq.

Week 9:

October 15. The Spread of Terrorism and Civil War. No Reading Assignment.

October 17. No Class. Fall Break!

Recitation. No Recitations this week.

Week 10:

October 22. Human Rights. FLS 490-512.

October 24. International Intervention. FLS 512-529.

Recitation. Samantha Power. Bystanders to Genocide, parts I-IV.

Week 11:

October 29. The Refugee Crisis. No Reading Assignment.

October 31. UNC Research on Internal Violence. Reed M. Wood, Jacob D. Kathman, & Stephen E. Gent. 2012. Armed Intervention and Civilian Victimization in Intrastate Conflicts. *Journal of Peace Research* 49(5): 647-660.

Recitation. Daniel Trilling. 5 June 2018. Five Myths about the Refugee Crisis.

Week 12:

November 5. Second Midterm Exam.

November 7. No Class. Peace Science Society International.

Recitation. No Recitations this week.

Week 13:

November 12. International Political Economy. FLS 290-302.

November 14. International Trade. FLS 302-334.

Recitation. Douglas A. Irwin. 2017. The False Promise of Protectionism. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June.

Week 14:

November 19. International Investment. FLS, pp. 341-371.

November 21. No Class. Thanksgiving Holiday!

Recitation. No Recitations this week.

Week 15:

November 26. International Monetary Cooperation. FLS, Chapter 9.

November 28. Global Collective Action Problems: Poverty. FLS, pp. 421-441.

Recitation. How the Other Tenth Lives.

Week 16:

December 3. Economic Development and Foreign Aid. FLS, pp. 441-453.

December 5. UNC Research in International Political Economy. Layna Mosley & David A. Singer. 2009. The Global Financial Crisis: Lessons and Opportunities for International Political Economy. *International Interactions* 35(4): 420-429.

Recitation. Review, no readings.

Second Exam on December 14 @ 8 am.