

POLS 319: *International Relations*

Instructor:

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Website:

Available on *Blackboard*

Meeting Time: MWF 11:45-12:50

Class Location: DBH 208

Office Hours and Location:

DBH 108: MW 9-11:30, Thurs 12-2

Course Description and Objectives

This course focuses on the interaction between different actors (both state and non-state actors) in the international system. We begin with an overview of the history of the international system with a particular focus on events following the Second World War. Here students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with key events in post-WWII history with an eye towards later using various historical cases to assess different theories and approaches covered during the second half of the course.

In the second section of the course, we will examine a set of theoretical approaches to explaining international relations within different issue areas and at various levels of analysis. Issues covered include security competition and cooperation, international political economy and non-traditional issues like humanitarian missions and environmental cooperation. In approaching these issues we will explore explanations drawn from different levels of analyses including structural/systemic theories, individual-level foreign policy decision making approaches and cross-level approaches which simultaneously take into account the domestic and international sources of state behavior.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe key events and processes in 20th and 21st century international relations
- Describe key questions and debates within the subfields of security studies, international cooperation, international political economy and others
- Identify key actors within the international system and describe how contemporary developments challenge traditional perspectives on the state and other actors
- Apply major theories in the field of international relations to explain and predict outcomes in the international system
- Describe and explain the importance of different levels of analyses and the theories situated on or crossing the different levels.
- Apply the “Interests, Interactions and Institutions” approach to explain decision making and outcomes with regard to international conflict and cooperation in specific issue areas such as security relations, economic relations, humanitarian missions and environmental agreements. Compare this approach to the current “isms” in IR theory.

Class Format: Class sessions combine a mixture of interactive lecturing and class discussion of key topics from the readings. Most class periods will also begin with a short quiz over the reading materials for that day.

Prerequisites: An interest in international relations, politics and the fate of humanity.

Readings: The following books are required and can be purchased at the Bookstore:

Required

- Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake and Kenneth Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (2009).

This text has not yet been published, but W.W. Norton is allowing us to use the proof version free of charge. You must register on the website (www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world_politics_ebook/) with the following code: PHDL-FXXL. After you register on your first visit, set your own user name and password for future visits. You can print entire chapters from the text.

- Robert Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition.
- Wayne McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski, *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations*, 6th Edition, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2005)

The reading load will consist of readings from the required texts along with other readings posted on *Blackboard*. Expect to read between 100-150 pages of text per week.

Course Grade: Your grade is derived from your class attendance, participation, quiz grades and your performance on three major papers. Grades are composed as follows:

Grade Composition

Grading Scale

Participation: 20%	A = 93%-100%	C+ = 78%-79.9%
Individual Activities and Quizzes: 20%	A- = 90%-92.9%	C = 73%-77.9%
Group Activities: 20%	B+ = 89.9-88%	C- = 70% - 72.9%
Papers: 5%, 10%, 20%	B = 83%-87.9	D = 69.9-60%
	B- = 80%-82.9%	F < 59.9%

Participation: Individual participation grades are derived from peer evaluations of individual performance in group activities (50%) and the instructor's evaluation of the quantity and quality of individual contributions during interactive lectures and discussions (50%).

Individual Activities and Quizzes: As indicated in the class format section above, most classes include either a quiz or in-class assignment. The instructor also reserves the right to administer reading quizzes on *Blackboard* so as to preserve more class time for lecture/discussion. *Blackboard* quizzes will be announced at the end of the previous class period

Group Activities: At various points in the semester, students will engage in and present group work and presentations. You will be divided into permanent working groups at the beginning of the semester.

Papers: In the course of the semester, students will complete 3 separate 3-5 page papers based on the readings. The topic for each paper will be described by the instructor two weeks in advance of the due date. Students will be required to either apply a concept or theory from the readings to an empirical case and/or assess a debate within the political science literature (example: Does the historical record support the Democratic Peace argument?). The papers carry progressively higher weights of 5%, 10% and 15%, respectively. This will give students the opportunity to improve their writing and analytic skills without adversely affecting their final grade.

Attendance, Missed Tests, and Late Assignments: Attendance is mandatory and low attendance **will** affect your grade. Each student is permitted a total of 6 absences per semester, after which the student's **final course grade** will be reduced by 5 percentage points for each additional absence. Late papers will be docked 5 percentage points for each day past the deadline. Quizzes can only be made up if the student is away on a university-related event (athletes and other club members) or has otherwise informed me of his or her absence *before* the date that they miss class.

Academic Integrity Policy: An infringement of academic integrity is defined as any instance in which a student engages in one or more of the following activities:

- Refers during an academic evaluation to materials or sources, or employs devices, not authorized by the instructor.
- Receives assistance during an academic evaluation from another person in a manner not authorized by the instructor.
- Submits the work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be one's own.
- Presents as one's own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or words of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.

Instances of academic integrity will be subject to the procedures and sanctions outlined in the student handbook.

Special Accommodations: Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall, or call 726-4078 or 726-2105. I will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

Web Resources:

Course Website: Available on Blackboard

This site contains readings, notes and other important course information. Be sure to visit frequently!

Sources for News

Keep up on world events through these and other sources:

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com>

Financial Times (US site): <http://news.ft.com/home/us/>

New York Times: <http://www.newyorktimes.com>

BBC News: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

CNN News: <http://www.cnn.com>

World News.com: <http://www.worldnews.com/>

Readings and Class Schedule

January 26	Discuss class and syllabus	Syllabus
January 28	IR History	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 1
January 30	Origins of Cold War	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 1
February 2	Nationalism and De-colonization	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 2
February 4	Bi-polarity	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 3
February 6	Bi-polarity	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 3
February 9	The Third World	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 4
February 11	The Third World	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 4
February 13	Cold War to...?	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 5
February 16	Cold War to...?	McWilliams and Piotrowski Part 5
February 18	International Relations and International Relations Theory	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Introduction
February 20	Realism, Rationalism...and the Reflectivist Response	<i>Alt and Jervis pp. 1-6</i> Morgenthau "Six Principles..." Waltz "The Anarchic Structure..." Mearsheimer "Anarchy and the Struggle..." Wendt "Anarchy is What States..."
February 23	TBA (Catch up)	No readings
February 25	No Class (Talk in DC)	
February 27	Interests, Interactions and Institutions I	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 2
March 2	Interests, Interactions and Institutions II	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 2
March 4	War	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 3
March 6	War, Violence and the Use of Force	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Art, "The Four Functions of Force" Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence"

		Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and..." Art, "The Fungibility of Force Today"
March 9	Domestic Sources of War	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 4
March 11	The Democratic Peace	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies and..."
March 13	War and International Institutions	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 5
March 16-20	Mitigating Anarchy	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Oye, "The Conditions for Cooperation..." Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and..." Hoffman, "The Uses and Limits of..." Keohane, "International Institutions..." Jervis, "The Era of Leading Power Peace"
March 23	Global Political Economy	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Perspectives on Global Political Economy (all readings under subheading)
March 25	Trade Relations	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 6
March 27	Financial Relations	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 7
March 30	Monetary Relations	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 8
April 1	TBA (Catch up)	No readings
April 3	The Global Economy and its Critics	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Globalization and its Critics (all readings under subheading)
April 6	Development	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 9
April 8-10	No Class (NMUN Conference)	
April 13	No Class (Easter Holiday)	
April 15	Transnational Networks	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 10
April 17	Terrorist Organizations	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Hoffman, "What is Terrorism?" Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide..." Gause, "Can Democracy Stop..." Gordon, "Can the War on Terror..."
April 20	TNAs, INGOs, QUANGOs, GOINGOs, OINGO-BOINGOs...	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Keck and Sikkink, "Transnational Activist Networks..." Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty..." Phil Williams, "Transnational Organized Crime..."
April 22	Human Rights	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 11
April 24	Human Rights	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> Human Rights, Justice and International Law (all readings under subheading)
April 27	The Global Environment	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 12
April 29	The Global Environment	<i>Alt and Jervis</i> The Environment and Climate Change (all readings under subheading)

May 1	Contemporary Global Developments	Friedan, Lake & Schultz, Chapter 13
May 4	Nuclear Proliferation	<i>Art and Jervis</i> The Spread of Nuclear Weapons (all readings under subheading)
May 6	Supranational and Global Governance	<i>Art and Jervis</i> Moravcsik, "European Without Illusions" Modes of Global Governance (all readings under subheading)
May 8	TBA (Catch up)	TBA