

PLSC 418: Sec 001
International Relations Theory
Fall 2018
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4:40-5:30 pm
Thomas Building 122

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Office Hours: by appointment

This syllabus is subject to changes throughout the semester.

This course provides undergraduate students with an overview of international relations theory. The course is divided into three sections. Section one explores international security issues, such as the causes of war and conditions of peace. Section two examines the interaction between domestic politics and international relations. The third section is focused on contemporary issues in international politics. Upon completion of this course students will have 1) an in-depth knowledge of the dominant theories of international relations; 2) be able to apply these theories to contemporary issues in international politics, including an analysis of how well they do/do not explain the behaviors of international actors; 3) be able to engage in a range of policy debates in a sophisticated manner; and 4) generally have improved their abilities to critically analyze and explain complex political behavior and contemporary issues in international politics.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

This is a discussion-based upper level undergraduate course. Education and learning rests on civil debate. This requires students to act as mature adults when engaging with opinions that differ from their own and with content that may, at first glance, appear irrational.

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY RULES

- **NO CELL PHONES ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS. ANY USE OF A CELL PHONE IN CLASS WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN A DEDUCTION OF FIVE POINTS FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE. REPEAT OFFENSES WILL FOLLOW SAME PROCEDURE.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students enrolled in this course are required to abide by the university code of conduct. Any violation of this code constitutes grounds for a failing grade.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else's work. Examples of plagiarism include turning in a paper written by someone else, or using parts of a book or article without acknowledging the source. Any student caught plagiarizing material will immediately be given an "F" for the assignment. It is also entirely within my right to refer the issue to the appropriate dean..

Avoiding plagiarism is very easy. There is no shame in citing another person's argument. It is a key component of academic life. We all use someone else's ideas and concepts to build our own ideas and concepts. Be responsible. Have integrity. If you use a quote, cite the author or authors. If you paraphrase an argument, cite the source.

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless the instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable.

Lying to an instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity (**For example, faking a relative's death to receive an excused absence**).

MISSED AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

I will give extensions only in very extreme circumstances. You **MUST** have an extension approved by me **BEFORE** the due date. If you miss an assignment or exam without approval, you will receive a 0 on it.

GRADING SCALE (in rounded numbers)

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92;
B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82;
C+ = 76-79; C = 70-75; D=60-69; F = Below 60.

GRADE APPEALS

If you believe that you have legitimate reasons, you may appeal your grade. To do so, wait at least 24 hours after the grade is released, and submit a brief memo explaining your concerns, within one week (printed out with your name on it). Then, I will either talk to you in person or in writing only about the issues outlined in the memo.

ACCESSIBILITY

All students have the right to a productive and rewarding experience in this course. Any student with a special need or disability is encouraged to contact me within the first two weeks of class. All information presented by the student to the instructor is a matter

of confidentiality.

Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807. For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services Web site at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/>

ESL STUDENTS

I would like to personally welcome you to my course and to make sure that you know that your presence is both wanted and valued. If at any time you encounter any language, reading, or communication issue during this course (classroom, readings, presentations, papers, exams, etc.) please do not hesitate to inform me. I will make every reasonable accommodation to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to succeed in the course and that you are assessed fairly.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 8th edition or later. **(Buy online via Amazon, etc. No need to buy a new copy).**

Ronald Asmus, *A Little War that Shook the World*, 2010 **(Lots of used copies for sale at a fairly cheap price online)**

The course requires the retrieval of numerous articles in academic and policy journals. These may be accessed using the electronic journals maintained by the university library.

Some articles will be uploaded on Canvas or emailed directly to you. This is particularly the case in regards to book excerpts not from those students are required to buy.

Reading assignments are expected to be completed before you come to the class. The lectures will not always duplicate the reading. The lectures and readings supplement each other, presenting other viewpoints, relate ideas to the rest of the course, and clarify tricky concepts.

Students are expected to stay up to date on current events. Do your best to read the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, or *Wall Street Journal* every day and be prepared to discuss current events. Access to both papers is free via the university library databases. Please make an effort to get different points of view on current events. It does us no good if we all approach the topic at hand from one perspective and one perspective only.

GRADING

Attendance/Participation.....20%

Exam 1 (in class)....15% (not cumulative)

Exam 2 (in class)....15% (not cumulative)

Short writing assignment 1....15%

Short writing assignment 2....15%
Final Exam (take home).....20% (cumulative)

YOU MUST BRING BLUE BOOKS AND PENS TO CLASS FOR YOUR EXAMS

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance and participation in class is required. Unexcused absences will count against your grade. Students are permitted one unexcused absence each semester. For each additional absence 3 points will be deducted from your final grade point total. Notify me by email if you will be unable to attend class. Additional details to follow.

EXAM 1

The first exam will be administered in class. It will consist of definition and short answer. This is a pick/choose exam. For example, I may list 15 terms in the definitions section and you have to answer 10 of your choosing. The same procedure will be followed with short answer questions. Students will be responsible for bringing a blue book to class. A review day will be held during the class just prior to the exam. Additional details to follow.

EXAM 2

The second exam will be administered in class. It will follow the same format as Exam 1. There will also be a review day for this exam.

FINAL EXAM

Final exam will be comprehensive in nature and take-home. It will consist of definition, short answer, and (probably) 3 long essay questions. This is also a pick/choose exam. Additional details to follow.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There are two short writing assignments in this class. I will provide students the "question" 2-3 classes prior to the submission date. Length of each paper will be a maximum of 750 words (minimum 400). All assignments must be submitted in hardcopy and electronic forms. The hardcopy must be submitted at the beginning of class on the appropriate due date unless prior arrangements have been made. Late assignments will receive an "F" unless prior arrangements have been made. All assignments must be submitted in Times New Roman (12pt.), 1-inch margins, and double-spaced. Failure to follow these standards will result in a lower grade (3 pts. per violation).

NOTES

- Do not bring food or drink of any kind to class unless you bring enough for everyone.
- If you are ill, to prevent infection to others, stay home. As soon as possible, notify me by e-mail that you are ill and will not be present in class.
- Canvas will be the primary means of communication and students are required to ensure that they have entered and maintain a functioning email address in that system for the duration of the course. Keep the mailbox for that address sufficiently empty to receive new messages.

SECTION I: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Week 1: States, State-Making, Anarchy, and Sovereignty

Class 1: Monday, August 20, 2018

- Introduction and Syllabus

Class 2: Wednesday, August 22

- Richard Bean, "War and the Birth of the Nation State," *Journal of Economic History* 33, no. 1 (March 1973): 203-221.
- Brian D. Taylor, and Roxana Botea, "Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World," *International Studies Review* 10, no. 1 (March 2008): 27-56.

Class 3: Friday, August 24

- Stephen D. Krasner, "Abiding Sovereignty," *International Political Science Review* 22, no. 3 (July 2001): 229-251.
- Bartosz H. Stanislawski, "Para-states, Quasi-states, and Black spots: Perhaps not States, but not 'ungoverned territories' Either," *International Studies Review* 10, no. 2 (June 2008): 366-396.
- Ariel Ahram, "The Middle East Quasi-State System," *Washington Post*, May 27, 2014, available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/05/27/the-middle-east-quasi-state-system/?utm_term=.49758591c319
- Douglas A. Ollivant and Brian Fishman, "State of Jihad: The Reality of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria," *War on the Rocks*, May 21, 2014, <https://warontherocks.com/2014/05/state-of-jihad-the-reality-of-the-islamic-state-in-iraq-and-syria/>

Week 2: State Behavior, etc.

Class 1: Monday, August 27

- Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* no. 110 Special Edition (Spring 1998): 29-32 and 34-46; also available online through a basic google search.

Class 2: Wednesday, August 29

- Hans J. Morgenthau "Six Principles of Realism," in Art and Jervis
- J. Ann Tickner "A Critique of Morgenthau's Principles" in Art and Jervis

Class 3: Friday, August 31

- Kenneth Waltz, "Realist Thought and Neorealist Theory" *Journal of International Affairs* 44, no. 1 (Spring 1990): 21-37.
- John J. Mearsheimer "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" in Art/Jervis

Week 3: Mitigating Anarchy

Class 1: Monday (Labor Day: No class)

Class 2: Wednesday, September 5

- Robert Jervis, "Realism, Neo-liberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," *International Security* 24, no. 1 (Summer 1999): 42-63.

Class 3: Friday, September 7

- Walt, "Alliances" in Art/Jervis
- Robert Powell, "War as a Commitment Problem," *International Organization* 60, no. 1 (Winter 2006):169-2003.

Week 4: Mitigating Anarchy cont.

Class 1: Monday, September 10

- Michael W. Doyle "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12, no. 3 (Summer 1983): 205-235.
- Hoffman, "International Law" in Art/Jervis

Class 2: Wednesday, September 12

- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* 19, no. 3 (Winter 1994): 5-49. ^[1]_{SEP}

Class 3: Friday, September 14

- Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratization and War," *Foreign Affairs* 74, no. 3 (May/June 1995): 79-97. [L] [SEP]
- The McDonald's Theory of Peace: Thomas Friedman, "Foreign Affairs Big Mac I" (<https://www.nytimes.com/1996/12/08/opinion/foreign-affairs-big-mac-i.html>)
- Edward Luce, "The End of the Golden Arches Doctrine," *Financial Times*, May 10, 2015, <https://www.ft.com/content/1413fc26-f4c6-11e4-9a58-00144feab7de>
- Alex Weisiger and Erik Gartzke, "Debating the Democratic Peace in the International System," *International Studies Quarterly* 60, no. 3 (September 2016): 578-585

*******WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE**

Week 5: IR THEORIES 3, 4, and 5: Marxism, Feminism, Constructivism

Class 1: Monday, September 17

- Regina Buecker, "Karl Marx's Conception of International Relations," *Glendon Papers*, available at <https://gjis.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/gjis/article/viewFile/35211/31930>
- Lauren Wilcox, "Gendering and Cult of the Offensive," in *Gender and International Security* (supplied by instructor)

Class 2: Monday, September 19

- J. Ann Tickner, "Feminist Responses to International Security Studies," *Peace Review* 16, no. 4 (2004): 43-48.
- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization* 46, no. 2 (Spring 1992): 391-425
 - Also in Art/Jervis

Class 3: Friday, September 21

Evaluating and applying the theories with a complex case study: The 19th Century Eastern Question (What happens to the territories of the Ottoman Empire when it collapses?)

- Christians in the 19th century "Eastern Question," Andrea Pancea, supplied by author
- Portions of Goldschmidt and Boum on Great Power interests in the Ottoman Empire, supplied by author
- Ashur Kaufman, "Phoenecianism: The Formation of an Identity in Lebanon in 1920," *Middle East Studies* 37, no. 1 (Jan. 2001): 173-194

Week 6: IR Theories, cont. and Exam 1

Class 1: Monday, September 24

- Lebow, Richard Ned, and Benjamin Valentino. "Lost in Transition: A Critical Analysis of Power Transition Theory," *International Relations* 23.3 (2009): 389-410.

Class 2: Wednesday, September 26

- Exam 1 Review Day

Class 3: Friday, September 28

- Exam 1 in class (BRING BLUE BOOKS and PENS!)

SECTION II: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Week 7: Domestic Players and Foreign Policy

Class 1: Monday, October 1

- Singer, J. David. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics* 14, no.1 (1961): 77-92.
- Levy, Jack S. "Theories and Causes of War." *The Handbook on the Political Economy of War* (2011): 13.

Class 2: Wednesday, October 3

- De Mesquita, Bruce Bueno, et al. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace," *American Political Science Review* 93, no. 4 (1999): 791-807.

Class 3: Friday, October 5

- Goemans, Hein E. "Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44, no. 5 (2000): 555-579.

Week 8: Civil-Military Relations and International Conflict I

Class 1: Monday, October 8

- Powell, Jonathan. "Determinants of the Attempting and Outcome of Coups d'état," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56, no. 6 (2012): 1017-1040.

Class 2: Wednesday, October 10

- Powell, Jonathan M. "Regime Vulnerability and the Diversionary Threat of Force." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58, no. 1 (2014): 169-196.
- Pilster, Ulrich, and Tobias Böhmelt. "Coup-Proofing and Military Effectiveness in Interstate Wars, 1967–99," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 28, no. 4 (2011): 331-350.

Class 3: Friday, October 12

- Reiter, Dan, and Allan C. Stam. "Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory," *American Political Science Review* 92, no. 2 (1998): 377-389.
- Biddle, Stephen, and Stephen Long. "Democracy and Military Effectiveness: A Deeper Look," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48, no. 4 (2004): 525-546.

Week 9: Civil-Military Relations and International Conflict II & Exam 2

Class 1: Monday, October 15

- Caverley, Jonathan D. "The Myth of Military Myopia: Democracy, Small Wars, and Vietnam," *International Security* 34, no. 3 (2010): 119-157.

Class 2: Wednesday, October 17

- Exam 2 Review Day

Class 3: Friday, October 19

- Exam 2 in Class (BRING BLUE BOOKS and PENS!)

SECTION III: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Week 10: A Resurgent Russia and a New Cold War?

Class 1: Monday, October 22

- Ronald Asmus, *A Little War that Shook the World*, Chapters 1-4.

Class 2: Wednesday, October 24

- Ronald Asmus, *A Little War that Shook the World*, Chapters 5-8.

Class 3: Friday, October 26

- Fiona Hill, “This is What Putin Really Wants,” Brookings Institution, February 24, 2015, available at <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/this-is-what-putin-really-wants/>
- Julia Ioffe, “What Putin Really Wants,” The Atlantic, January/February 2018, available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/01/putins-game/546548/>

Week 11: A Rising China

Class 1: Monday, October 29

- Liu Mingfu, “The World is Too Important to Be Left to America,” *The Atlantic*, June 4, 2015, available at <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/06/china-dream-liu-mingfu-power/394748/>.
- Aaron L. Friedberg, “The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?” *International Security* 30, No. 2 (Fall 2005):

Class 2: Wednesday, October 31

- Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, “The Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won’t Overtake the U.S.,” *Foreign Affairs*, May 2016, available at <https://lbfomlv.wordpress.com/2016/05/04/the-once-and-future-superpower-by-stephen-g-brooks-and-william-c-wohlforth-mayjune-2016-issue/>
- Lily Hindy, “A Rising China Eyes the Middle East,” The Century Foundation, April 2017, available at <https://tcf.org/content/report/rising-china-eyes-middle-east/>

Class 3: Friday, November 2

- Flores-Macías, Gustavo A., and Sarah E. Kreps. "The Foreign Policy Consequences of Trade: China’s Commercial Relations with Africa and Latin America, 1992–2006," *The Journal of Politics* 75, no. 2 (2013): 357-371.

Week 12: Terrorism

Class 1: Monday, November 5

- Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 3 (August 2003).
- Mia M. Bloom, “Palestinian Suicide Bombing: Public Support, Market Share, and Outbidding,” *Political Science Quarterly* 119, no. 1 (Spring 2004): 61-88.

Class 2: Wednesday, November 7

- Daniel Byman, "The Changing Nature of State Sponsorship of Terrorism," Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, Analysis Paper 16, May 2008, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/05_terrorism_byman.pdf

Class 3: Friday, November 9 (TBD)

- Seamus Hughes and Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, "The Threat to the United States from the Islamic State's Virtual Entrepreneurs," in CTC Sentinel, March 2017, Volume 10, Issue 3, available at http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/resources/docs/CTC-Sentinel_Vol10Iss316.pdf

Week 13: Nuclear (non) Proliferation

Class 1: Monday, November 12

- Scott Sagan, "Nuclear Instability in Southeast Asia" in Art and Jervis
- Kenneth Waltz, "Nuclear Stability in Southeast Asia" in Art and Jervis

Class 2: Wednesday, November 14

- Kreps, Sarah E., and Matthew Fuhrmann. "Attacking the Atom: Does Bombing Nuclear Facilities Affect Proliferation?," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 34, no. 2 (2011): 161-187.

Class 3: Friday, November 16

- Congressional Research Service, "The North Korean Nuclear Challenge: Military Options and Issues for Congress," CRS Report for U.S. Congress, July 2017, available at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R44994.pdf>
- John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution, "North Korean Nuclear Issue: Past, Present, and Future-A Chinese Perspective," Strategy Paper 3, Brookings Institution, May 2017, available at <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/north-korean-nuclear-issue-fu-ying.pdf>

*******WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE**

Week 14: IR Theory at the Sub-State Level? Ethnic Conflict/Civil War

Class 1: Monday, November 26

- Barry Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival* 35, no. 1 (Spring 1993): 27-47.

- Chaim Kaufmann, “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars,” *International Security* 20, no. 4 (Spring 1996): 136-175.

Class 2: Wednesday, November 28

- Paul Collier, “Rebellion as a Quasi-Criminal Activity,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44, no. 6 (2000): 839-853.
- Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, “Greed and Grievance in Civil War,” *Oxford Economic Papers* 56, no. 4 (October 2004): 563-595.

Class 3: Friday, November 30

- James D. Fearon and David Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,” *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 1 (February 2003): 75-90
- Monica Duffy-Toft, “Indivisible Territory, Geographic Concentration, and Ethnic War,” *Security Studies* 12, no. 2 (Winter 2002/2003): 82-119.

Week 15: Non-military Foreign Policy Tools

Class 1: Monday, December 3

- Berger, Daniel, et al. "Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence and Trade During The Cold War," *American Economic Review* 103, no. 2 (2013): 863-96.
- Berger, Daniel, et al. "Do Superpower Interventions Have Short and Long Term Consequences for Democracy?," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 41, no. 1 (2013): 22-34.

Class 2: Wednesday, December 5

- Way, Lucan A., and Steven Levitsky. "Linkage, Leverage, and the Post-Communist Divide," *East European Politics and Societies* 21, no. 1 (2007): 48-66.

Class 3: Friday, December 7

- Wrap up

Week 16: Final Exam Due Wednesday 12, 12:00 pm (That’s noon)