

Political Science 130 Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Elis Vllasi, PhD Candidate
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Office Hours: M: 2:00-3:30 / Th: 10:00-11:30
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Course Info
Fall 2018
Time: T/TH 12:00-1:15 PM
Location: Lawson B151

Course Description

This course provides a broad exploration of the field of international relations (IR). It seeks to provide students with the factual knowledge about the study of international relations (terminology, classifications, methods, trends), introduce fundamental principles, generalizations and theories of international relations in order to better understand the contemporary international system. The course is organized around two parts: *Concepts and Theories of International Relations*, and *Contemporary Issues in International Relations*. Some of the questions that will be explored in this class include: are democracies more peaceful than autocracies? does human nature lead to war? does everyone benefit from free trade? does international law matter? should the international community engage in humanitarian interventions? how can terrorism be defeated? Most weeks in the course, we will explore one big topic. Most topics will include a lecture, discussion and, at times, some videos.

Note

Some topics, including videos and pictures presented in the lecture notes show violence, genocide and war, and might be disturbing to some. Please talk to me as soon as possible if you have any questions/concerns about graphical images.

Course Caveat

Please know that I will do my best to stick with the plan below, but the schedule and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. For example, in the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances.

Textbook, Readings and other Course Materials

There is one required text for this course which should be available at University Bookstores, Amazon or other online book vendors, and one simulation (game) package.

- Keith L. Shimko. 2013. *International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies*. 5th ed., Cengage Learning.
- Students will be required to purchase access to the *Statecraft* simulation for \$35. To register, go to www.statecraftsim.com and click "Login/Create Account" to create a student account. Sign up with Sim Code: **VLLASI_POL130_F18**).
- There are several short readings (journal/magazine articles) and special topics that we will read, periodically. All such readings will post on Blackboard under "Additional Readings" folder.

Please also keep in mind that extra readings will be added on Blackboard throughout the semester. In addition, I expect students to read one or more of the following news sources: CNN, Fox News, BBC, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, the Guardian, Der Spiegel, South China Morning Post or comparable international paper. Many examples from my lectures are based on current events as discussed in mainstream media (national/international).

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to the basic concepts and ideas of international relations.
- To understand and be able to describe the dominant theories of international politics.
- To hone research, writing and analytical skills to effectively communicate ideas, opinions, and arguments on a variety of international relations topics.
- Role-play actors in international politics and formulate/construct policies in specific circumstances of world affairs.
- To provide the tools necessary to delve deeper into issues, develop critical thinking skills, and understand many of the critical issues in international relations.

Learning Outcomes Used for Assessment

1. Students will read critically the assigned materials, and demonstrate (in exams, discussions, and assignments) that they understand the concepts, theories, and issues.
2. Students will express themselves clearly and persuasively in written exposition and argument in writing assignments.
3. Students will engage in meaningful class discussions/debates and demonstrate a level proficiency/familiarity in course material and current world events as applicable to IR.
4. Students will carry out research for the purpose of supplying evidence and support for claims made in assignments.

Course Requirements

Even though this is a medium sized class (50 students), the material we cover demands active participation and interaction to fully grasp the concepts, complexities, and challenges of IR. Thus, our regular class meetings will include interactive class activities, discussion, video and lectures. **Please come to each class prepared by completing the required readings and assignments for that day**— that is, I expect you to come to lecture having already done the readings for that day. Read and follow the assignment guidelines and complete them on time. For any questions and clarifications regarding material and assignments, contact me as soon as possible so that I may provide timely feedback

All students are responsible for visiting the course website on Blackboard regularly to check for the most current schedule, readings, assignment prompts, and course policies. If class/office hours are canceled for whatever reason, this is how you will know ahead of time.

Course Grading

No grades will be discussed in the classroom or via e-mail. If you have a grade-related question, or if you receive a grade on an assignment that you believe does not accurately reflect the quality of your work, you may discuss the grade with me during a scheduled appointment. Grades will be discussed only within a week of being posted. After 7 days of grade posting, no grade re-

evaluation will take place. The instructor reserves the right to change or not change a grade, but you will not be penalized for appealing the grade.

There are four requirements for evaluation of your performance in this the course.

1. Attendance (10%)
2. Class/Online Discussions (10%)
3. Exams (3) (60%)
4. Statecraft Simulation (20%)

Also, there will be three opportunities for extra credit points. These assignments may consist of attending campus lectures on issues related to international relations and/or viewing and reflecting on IR themed films.

Attendance (10%): You cannot benefit from class if you are not here. The process of learning is as important as the information you gain from it. If you miss class, you will have to work harder to learn and remember the material, your understanding will be incomplete, and you will likely perform more poorly on the exams and assignments. Occasional attendance (on unannounced days) will be taken between 10-15 times this semester.

This class meets for 75 minutes twice a week. If you come to class, I expect you to come on time and remain until it is over. If there is some reason you need to leave early, tell me at the start and sit near a door so that you can make an unobtrusive exit. If you feel there is some reason you may not be able to sit through a 75 min class on a given day, please do not attend. If you feel there may be many such days, please drop the class and take another. Coming to class late, and/or leaving early is disruptive and rude. For every two infractions, you will lose points amounting to one attendance.

Class/ Online Discussions (10%): Participation is more than attendance. Strong participation is defined as showing evidence of having completed and reflected upon the required readings, and the connection between the readings, classroom discussions, and current affairs. **Excellent participation is not a luxury but a requirement.** You will be called on to answer questions, engage in discussions, and complete certain assignments on individual and team basis. No engagement in class/online, no participation points.

Several times (~10) this semester, starting from the second week, you will be required to participate in online discussions: ask and respond to questions about the course material, and/or to present current events related to international relations. Students will introduce a news item to the class, citing the sources from where they obtained the information, provide a brief (3-4 sentences) synopsis of the article, and introduce several questions for the class (to discuss) at the end of their presentation. The news should be related to the topic of the week. For instance, if you are posting on the week of 'Power Politics,' please consider bringing news that reflects such issues (e.g. military intervention; diplomatic threats or war; competition between states, etc). Template will be provided via Blackboard.

For discussion of news events (on international relations), all students must read non-native (outside country of origin) international news sources (in English language). Some international news sources include: The Guardian, BBC News, Xinhua, South China Morning Post, Russia Today, The Moscow Times, Der Spiegel (in English), France 24, The Times of India, etc. Also,

for a list of international news sources in English, visit the following website: <http://inkdrop.net/news/#IND>.

The objective of having you read non-native news sources is to expand your perspective. Being able to see, understand, and argue in favor of someone else's view point can be an invaluable skill. Frequently, reading various international sources treating the same subject/event leads to a more holistic understanding of the issue.

Basic grading scale for Online Participation: 5 = outstanding work; 4= good work; 3= satisfactory; 2= some lack of clarity or slight misunderstanding; 1= misunderstanding or lack of effort that is so significant that you should talk with the professor; 0= assignment not submitted).

Exams (20% per exam): there will be three (computer-based) exams. They are held in a computer lab during regular class hours. Computer lab room is to be determined (TBD). Each exam will consist of 30-40 questions that includes multiple choice/answer, matching, fill-in the blank. I will provide a study guide a week ahead of the exam.

Statecraft Simulation (20%): Simulation will start in 2-3 weeks and will last about 8-10 weeks. There are numerous assignments as part of the simulation. The grade is based on individual participation and team performance. *Participation points* are awarded based on each student's participation. There are two sets of assessments for individual participation:

- 1) *Student Manual Quizzes (3%)*— two quizzes (each with 15 multiple choice questions) are administered online early in the simulation. The first during “Turn Zero” and the second during “Turn One.” Students will click on their Quiz tab to take these quizzes and the scores for each will be reported as percentages in your Statecraft grade book.
- 2) *Simulation Memos (7%)* – seven memos. Students are required to post a memo of about 250 words during each turn, to get you thinking about the challenges facing your country in the upcoming turn and focusing on position-specific responsibilities (e.g., the Defense Secretary must include a defense budget for that turn). These will be due before each turn ends.

Basic grading scale for Simulation Memos: 5= outstanding work; 4= good work; 3= satisfactory; 2= some lack of clarity or slight misunderstanding; 1= misunderstanding or lack of effort that is so significant that you should talk with the professor; 0= assignment not submitted).

Performance points (10%) are team-based points and are awarded to all members of each country that achieves particular goals. Points are automatically generated for the following categories: (1) Cooperative Global Awards—encourages cooperation on key global goals; (2) Competitive Country Awards—encourages competition for key national goals; (3) Country Development (Quality of Life) Awards—encourages countries to satisfy their citizens' needs.

More information will be provided closer to the launch of the simulation.

Grading Scale

In this class, I do not award grades. All grades are earned by the student. Hence, everyone can theoretically earn an A or an F. The final grade is an accumulation of all points earned throughout the semester. The final grade is not curved up (e.g. if you got 929 points, you will get an A-, not an A).

A 93 – 100	C+ 77 – 79.9	D- 60 – 62.9
A- 90 – 92.9	C 73 – 76.9	F 0 – 59.9
B+ 87 – 89.9	C- 70 – 72.9	
B 83 – 86.9	D+ 67 – 69.9	
B- 80 – 82.9	D 63 – 66.9	

Course Policies

Etiquette: Please be civil in the classroom – **arrive on time, turn off cell-phones, please don't carry on private conversations, surf the web on a laptop, etc.** Incivility in the classroom is distracting to everyone and I have a responsibility to call people on it. If there are repeat offenses, you will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Student. Let's work together to create a good classroom atmosphere, because we will all get more out of the class that way. **If these policies seem unreasonable at this point, please select another class.**

Late Assignments: All assignments must be turned in on time and through Blackboard. If an assignment is submitted within 24 hours of the due date, it will receive a 10% penalty. **NO ASSIGNMENTS ARE ACCEPTED AFTER 24 HRS** – you will receive a score of zero for the assignment. Only students with legitimate and documented excuses (bereavement, illness, university sponsored activity, etc.) are exempt from the late penalties. Documentation must be provided during the first lecture upon your return.

Attendance and Grief Absence Policy for Students:

The University recognizes that the learning mission can be enhanced significantly by extracurricular experiences. Students participating in University-sponsored activities are permitted to make up classwork missed as a result of this participation. Ultimately students are responsible for all required coursework and bear full responsibility for any academic consequences that may result due to absence.

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students. Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family. Please call the Office of the Dean of Students (765-494-1747) to speak with a Student Support Specialist in cases of bereavement. Purdue policy on attendance and grief absence can be accessed at: https://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations_procedures/classes.html

Accessibility and Accommodations: Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247. Purdue policy on accessibility and accommodations can be accessed at <http://www.purdue.edu/drc/faculty/syllabus.html>.

Academic Integrity

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Purdue prohibits dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the

University are examples of dishonesty (Section B.2.a, Code of Student Conduct). Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest (University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972).

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another persons' ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product.

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breeches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern.

Purdue integrity policy can be accessed at: (<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academic-integrity/index.html>)

Additionally, **commercial note taking is prohibited in this class**. Among the materials that may be protected by copyright law are the lectures, notes, exams, and other material presented in class or as part of the course. Always assume the materials presented by an instructor are protected by copyright unless the instructor has stated otherwise.

Notes taken in class are, however, generally considered to be "derivative works" of the instructor's presentations and materials, and they are thus subject to the instructor's copyright in such presentations and materials. **No individual is permitted to sell or otherwise barter notes**, either to other students or to any commercial concern, for a course without the express written permission of the course instructor.

Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor's discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Dean of Students, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered.

Purdue Honors Pledge. "As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue." You may use this link to a web page for [Purdue's Honor Pledge](#).

College of Liberal Arts Classroom Civility Statement

Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. The University believes

that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. Purdue's nondiscrimination policy can be found at: http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html.

Campus Safety

In the event of a major campus emergency, course schedules and materials are subject to change. Emergency notification procedures are based on a simple concept – if you hear a fire alarm inside, proceed outside. If you hear a siren outside, proceed inside.

Questions, Office Hours, and Outside Help

Please ask questions at any time during class regarding material you find unclear, interesting, or requiring more explanation. Studying a new field may often times be challenging, and chances are others will be wondering about the same things. I encourage you to view it as an opportunity to engage in the material by discussing it with the instructor and with other classmates.

If you have any questions regarding the course, please feel free to make an appointment to meet, ask me before or after class, or via email. Please note that **any emails sent out after 5PM may not receive a response until the next morning.**

Our Contract

By enrolling in this course, you and I are entering into a contract with each other. I will work hard to be prepared, enthusiastic, fair, and respectful of every student and their opinions. I will be accessible and try my best to return graded materials after no more than two weeks. By enrolling in the class, you have agreed to (1) attend class, (2) participate by asking questions and joining in class discussions, (3) read the assigned material and complete assignments on time, (4) comply with class policies established in this syllabus, and (5) **uphold the Purdue University Code of Honor and the College of Liberal Arts Civility Statement.** Lastly, you agree to communicate any concerns or issues that arise for you in the context of this course early so that I can work with you to resolve these.

POL 130: Class Readings include end of chapter readings (Tentative Schedule)

Lectures	Lectures Readings (Tentative)	
Week 1	Introduction	Theoretical Background
Week 2	Ch. 1 Change & Continuity in International History Supplementary Reading: Kohn & Smith. Nationalism and Rise of Nations	
Week 3	Ch. 2 Contending Perspectives on International Politics Supplementary Readings: Daniel W. Drezner (2015). International Politics and Zombies. Ch. 5-7.	
Week 4	Special Topic: The Rise of China Graham Allison (2017). Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides Trap? Ch. 1. Randall Schweller & Xiaoyu Pu (2011). After Unipolarity: China’s Vision of International Order in an Era of US Decline.	
Week 5	Ch. 3 Power Politics Supplementary Readings: Hans J. Morgenthau (1993). Politics Amongst Nations. Ch. 3.	
Week 6	Ch. 4 War and Democracy	
Week 7	Ch. 5 War and “Human Nature” EXAM #1 (Thursday)	
Week 8	Ch. 6 Free Trade	Contemporary Issues
Week 9	Ch. 7 The IMF, Global Inequality, & Development	
Week 10	Ch. 8 Globalization & Sovereignty Special Topic: Global (Human) Migrations Readings: Human Rights Watch Reports. The Venezuelan Exodus (2018); The Mediterranean Migration Crisis (2015); The Plight of Rohingya Refugees from Myanmar (2018).	
Week 11	Ch. 9 International Law	
Week 12	Ch. 10 The UN and Humanitarian Intervention EXAM #2 (Thursday)	
Week 13	Ch. 11 Nuclear Proliferation	
Week 14	Special Topic: Transnational Ethnic Conflict Readings: Monica Duffy Toft (2003). The Geography of Ethnic Violence	
Week 15	Ch. 12 International Terrorism	
Week 16	Ch. 13 The Global Commons	