

Intro to International Relations

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COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the background and historical development of the current international system
- Gain a broad understanding of various theoretical paradigms and how they inform policy.
- Be able to analyze and apply these theoretical approaches to problems in international politics
- Understand the basic structure and operations of global governance as well as its key actors and institutions.
- Become competent in the basic language of our field as well as methodologies used to advance its research

COURSE MATERIALS

Pevehouse and Goldstein, *International Relations, 12th edition (IR)*. **Mandatory textbook**

All readings beyond the textbook are either posted to Canvas or will be handed out in class. All readings are subject to change; however, students will be notified in advance. Unless otherwise noted, all readings, audio files, or videos are mandatory.

TEACHING STYLE, BIAS, COURSE RULES AND GUIDELINES

My style is somewhat loose as you will quickly see and will be a combination of lecture, discussion, examples, analogies and hopefully some humor. After a bit of time we can expect a nice back and forth between myself and the class as we break down the field of International Relations. In this class I do believe we will end up somewhere in the 60/40 range of lecture/discussion by the end of the semester.

I will attempt to take all bias out and I encourage an open exchange of ideas and debate. I am not looking for you to simply agree with everything I am saying. I can assure you I take nothing personally, so feel free to question things, probe for more information, etc. I just may have to cut our discussions short

because of time constraints. Of course, I do have my own opinions. When appropriate, I will share them if asked. However, I will always first present things through the analytical lens.

With that said, I will not have all of the answers. In other words, International Relations is a rather large field. I, as well as your other professors, tend to specialize into subfields. Thus, we tend to have greater depth of knowledge in some areas over other. But if I don't have an answer, I will not only tell you that, but also attempt to get the correct answer.

Finally, even though we will keep it loose in here, there still are some rules and guidelines for the class.

- 1) There is a total of three exams in the course. There are no make-up exams unless there is an institutional approved absence (see below). Conflicts with scheduling must be discussed with me ahead of time (not the TA).
- 2) Reading pages and assignments are due the day they appear on the syllabus.
- 3) Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate or turned off and must remain out of sight (this means not on your desk, in your lap, etc.). If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know before class. In addition, there is no texting during class. Violations of the cell phone policy will impact your participation grade, and thus your course grade directly.
- 4) Laptops will be permitted in class, however, if I notice that they are being used inappropriately or becoming a distraction then we will return to the traditional method of pen and paper.
- 5) No recording devices (audio or video) are permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university. This is definitely for your protection more than mine.

UNIVERSITY and COURSE POLICIES

Statement of Inclusion: The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Request for Modification - If you are a learner that requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

Academic Integrity - By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). Any student who is suspected of violations of this honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations.

Attendance and Participation - First and foremost, you cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, attendance is mandatory and if you miss a class you are responsible for getting the material from another student. Please after the drop/add period is over identify a “note taking buddy” so that if either of you miss you are covered. Lecture slides will not be available online, nor made available by me or the TA in person unless there was an excused absence. However, before each exam the lecture slides will be posted for a limited time just in case you missed anything. But it should be noted that the slides are primarily outlines and only represent a portion of the material. Thus, there is value to being in class. Participation will be measured in two ways, with an attendance sheet and various in-class activities.

*Excused Absence policy – This course will follow the University’s policy for excused absences. Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the Office of Student Life. You can find an outline of the policy here <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/> This would apply to illness as well as personal emergencies. Please review this page if you are not familiar with it. In addition, all institute approved absences will honored, which would include university sanctioned function, athletics, etc. when accompanied by the appropriate documentation. Absences resulting from oversleeping, alarms not going off, computer crashes, drink or food specials, lost wallets, lost purses, or dogs eating papers, books, flash drives, etc. will not be considered approved absences.

Classroom Policies - Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times. The following behavior is not appropriate: use of cell phones, extraneous conversations, and disrespect toward other students or professor. ***Students engaging in these behaviors may be asked to leave class.*** In addition, no audio or video recording is allowed in class unless approved by the professor in accordance with an accommodation letter.

Correspondence - All course-related concerns/email will be addressed first to your TA. Monday through Friday, your email will be returned within 48 hours. If you have not received a reply within that time frame, please email me directly.

All policies subject to review by the professor and are subject to change with written notice to the students ahead of time.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Exams (E1-25%, E2-25%, E3-25%) - The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture, the texts, as well as any supplemental readings. The final exam does have a cumulative section, hence the great weight. Exam format will consist of a combination of term identification, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The majority of the exam will be objective knowledge questions, however, there will be some analysis built in as we go along.

Short answer writing assignments (10%) These short assignments will normally be based on either on the readings, material from class, current events, or discussion. Assignments will be both posted and submitted through Canvas. I will be dropping your lowest grade. *

Reading quizzes (10%) Unannounced quizzes on the readings. Quizzes will be multiple choice or True/False type questions and mostly done in class. However, there may be the occasional one posted to Canvas. I will be dropping your lowest grade*

Participation (5% total) – This will be based partially on attendance, discussions, and in class assignments and group activities.**

* Generally, there are between 9-12 homework assignments/quizzes a semester, but that number can vary.
**You can have two missed classes before it will impact your grade. Typically, there are between 7-10 in class participation measurements a semester.

GRADING PROCEDURES

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below. Mid-term grades or progress reports will be listed as S = Satisfactory, meaning 70 and above, or U = Unsatisfactory, indicating a grade below 70. ***If you are taking the class Pass/Fail, then the same mid-term grade standard will also be applied for a final grade of “S” = Satisfactory as well (70 and above).***

In addition, Canvas will be used only for posting grades and students should not use the calculation made by the system as being representative of their actual grade in the class. I will begin posting your weighted average after the second exam.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND READINGS

This is meant as a guide and students will be notified of any changes. Students should note that for each exam, they are accountable for all of the readings and lectures up until that point and if there are schedule changes those will not impact exam dates. Finally, additional readings may be added.

Rough Course breakdown
Weeks 1-5 Foundational concepts/theories
Weeks 6-10 Inescapable Realities
Weeks 11-16 Selective components

Week 1:

August 19– Syllabus Day
(Course Intro)

August 21 and 23 – The Development of International Relations

Suggested Readings:
1) Chapter 1

Week 2:

August 26- Lay out Importance of Theory and Levels of analysis

Readings
1) *Man, State, and War*- Kenneth N. Waltz (1959) (*excerpt*)

August 28 – Realism Introduction and overview

Readings:
1) *IR* Chapter 2
2) Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, “Six Principles of Political Realism” (*excerpt*)

August 30 – Classical Realism discussion

Readings

- 1) Thucydides- *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, “The Melian Dialogue” (*excerpt*)
- 2) Machiavelli, *The Prince* (*excerpt*)

Week 3:

September 2- No Class Labor Day

September 4 – Neorealism Discussion

Readings:

- 1) Mearsheimer, John. “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” (*excerpt*) from *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*.
- 2) *Making Sense* Case application pgs. 21-43.

September 6 – Neoclassical Realism Discussion

Readings:

- 1) *Making Sense* Case Application pgs. 47-64

Week 4:

September 9 – Liberalism

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 3 (3.1—3.2.5) or pgs. 76-87
- 2) Immanuel Kant, “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” (*excerpt*)

September 11 – Neoliberal Institutionalism

Readings:

- 1) *Making Sense* pgs. 75-90
- 2) Robert O. Keohane, “Cooperation and International Regimes” (*excerpt*)

September 13 – Public Goods Liberalism

Readings:

- 1) *Making Sense* pgs. 91-108

Week 5:

September 16 – Constructivism

Readings:

- 1) *Making Sense* pgs. 127-134
- 2) Wendt, Alexander. 1992. “Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power politics.” *International Organization*. 46(2) 391-425. (*excerpt*)

Suggested Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 3 (3.3—3.3.1) or pgs. 87-91.

September 18 - Constructivism application

Readings:

- 1) *Making Sense* pgs. 136-151
- 2) *Making Sense* pgs. 152-168

September 20- Catch up Day

Week 6:

September 23 – Foreign Policy (Individuals)

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 4 (4.1-4.1.4) or pgs. 112-120
- 2) Dyson, Stephen Benedict. 2006. “Personality and Foreign Policy: Tony Blair’s Iraq Decisions,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 2 (3).

September 25- EXAM 1

September 27- Foreign Policy (Decision units, Small Groups, and Bureaucratic Politics)

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 4 (4.1—4.2.3) or pgs. 120-123
- 2) Badie, Dina. 2010. “Groupthink, Iraq, and the War on Terror: Explaining US Policy Shift toward Iraq,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*. 6 (4): 277-399.

Week 7:

September 30- Foreign Policy (Public Opinion)

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 4 (4.2.4) or pgs. 124-128
- 2) Drury et.al. “Pretty Prudent” or Rhetorically Responsive? The American Public’s Support for Military Action, *Political Research Quarterly*, 63 (1): 83-96.

October 2- Revisiting the Concept of the Nation State

Readings:

- 1) Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. “The End of History?” *The National Interest*. 16: 3-18. (*excerpt*)

October 4- Revisiting the Concept of the Nation State

Readings:

- 1) Huntington, Samuel P. “The Clash of Civilization,” from *Foreign Affairs*. (*excerpt*)

Week 8:

October 7- International Conflict/Military Power

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 5
- 2) Jervis, Robert. 2002. “Theories of War in an Era of Leading-Power Peace.” *American Political Science Review*. 96(1): 1-14.

October 9 – International Conflict/Military power

October 11 – Military Force and War

Reading:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 6 (6.1—6.1.4) or pgs. 172-180

Week 9:

October 14- No class FALL break

October 16 – Nontraditional threats/responses

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 6 (6.2) or pgs. 181-185
- 2) ***TBD***

October 18– Terrorism

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 6 (6.3—6.3.1) or pgs. 185-189.
- 2) Hoffman, Bruce.1998 “What is Terrorism”, except from *Inside Terrorism* reprinted in Art and Jervis, *International Politics* 9th edition. (*excerpt*)

Week 10:

October 21– Terrorism

October 23- Realities of WMDs

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 6 (6.4—6.4.5) or pgs. 189-199

October 25 – Deterrence, Extended Deterrence, and Alliance

Guest lecture by Suon Choi

Readings:

TBD

Week 11

October 28- **EXAM 2**

October 30 - International Organizations (IOs)

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 7 (7.1—7.2.7) or pgs. 208-228

November 1 - IOs/International Law

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 7 (7.3—7.4.2) or pgs. 228-238

Week 12:

November 4 – International Law- Topics to be chosen by class

November 6 – International Law-Topics to be chosen by class

November 8 - Human Rights

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 7 (7.5—7.5.3) or pgs.238-247
- TBD***

Week 13:

November 11- Human Rights

November 13- International Trade

Readings:

- 1) *IR* Chapter 8

November 15 - International Trade/Global Finance
Readings:
1) *IR* Chapter 9

Week 14:

November 18 - Global Finance

November 20 – North/South Divide
Readings:
1) *IR* Chapter 12

November 22 – Developing Nations (Realities)

Week 15:

November 25 –International Development
Readings:
1) *IR* Chapter 13

Thanksgiving Recess November 27-29

Week 16:

December 2 – Environmental Politics (I hope we have time)

Final Exam Friday, December 6 11:20-2:10

Additional Important Dates to keep in mind

August 23- Last day to register, make schedule changes, and/or drop without a "W" grade for Spring Semester 2019

September 30- Midterm progress reports posted

October 26- Deadline to change grade mode from Letter/Grade to Pass/Fail (and vice versa) and last day to withdraw from individual courses with "W" grades