

## Pol Sc 1400: Introduction to International Relations; Section 8

Fall 2015

MWF 1-1:50pm, Middlebush Hall 310

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### Course Description

Welcome to PS 1400: Introduction to International Relations! This course will help orient students with the theories and contemporary research within the subfield of international relations so they may better understand how countries, state leaders, and non-state actors affect the international community. In this course, we will primarily use a textbook and lectures for material, but will supplement this with discussions and some outside readings to help aid students with the material.

The topics of this course can roughly be divided into four sections. The first section of this course will discuss basic theories, which will help frame later discussions, and help define notable features of the international arena. We will then discuss international security in the second section of the course, which will encompass different forms of conflict and war, and how states manage to protect themselves. The third section will focus on more nuanced forms of security, beginning with economic security. This section will focus on how economic trade promotes international peace and integration, and we will also discuss some of the negative consequences of economic trade. Finally, we will see how human rights and environmental security have evolved in the last half of the 20th century into what we think of as basic rights today. We will conclude the semester by looking ahead, seeing how new research is filling in the gaps in our knowledge, and we will be able to analyze more nuanced pieces of political science.

### Grades

Students' grades will be comprised of two parts. The first part is made up of four exams (three during the semester and a final), with each exam worth 20% of the student's final grade. The exams are not cumulative; instead they will test only new material that fits within the four parts of the course outlined above. Keep in mind that while these are not cumulative tests, there are some foundational items that will be studied more closely in the beginning of the course that we will build upon later.

The second part of students' grades are quizzes, assignments, and discussion posts, which will comprise 20% of the final grade. I do not keep attendance in this class. Instead, and in order to evaluate your progress in the course, I will have quizzes and assignments throughout the semester that will test your knowledge of the material (both of the readings and of lecture). In order to perform well on these assessments, students should attend lecture regularly and read all required materials. Readings will be assigned each week, and it is the responsibility of the student to read these materials *before* each lecture. In addition, some of the supplemental readings will be discussed through posts through Blackboard. These posts will be discussed in more detail on the first day of class.

No curve will be given in this course; the grade you earn is the grade you receive. I will use the following grading scale in this course:

### Grading Scale:

A+ =	97.0 - 100
A =	93.0 - 96.9
A- =	90.0 - 92.9
B+ =	87.0 - 89.9
B =	83.0 - 86.9
B- =	80.0 - 82.9
C+ =	77.0 - 79.9
C =	73.0 - 76.9
C- =	70.0 - 72.9
D+ =	67.0 - 69.9
D =	63.0 - 66.9
D- =	60.0 - 62.9
F =	0 - 59.9

## Readings:

There are two texts that are required for this course:

- **Textbook:** Scott, James M., A. Cooper Drury, and Ralph G. Carter. 2014. *International Relations, 2nd Edition*. Cengage Learning. (with CourseMate Printed Access Card.)
- **eReader:** International Relations eReader available on Blackboard with Access Code

These readings are available to purchase through the bookstore. It is a good idea to get these materials as quickly as possible so that you can keep up with the readings.

It is important to note that the readings are to supplement the lectures, and therefore, they are not identical to the lectures. It is the responsibility of the student to read all of the necessary materials as well as to attend each lecture. Both the readings and lecture are fair game for exams and quizzes.

## Blackboard:

Communications for this course will be conducted via Blackboard and University email. Links and descriptions of the readings will be made available under the “Course Content” section of the Blackboard site for this course. Each student should ensure that they have access to these materials and are able to receive and send emails through their student account.

## Other Considerations:

1. **Classroom Conduct:** Students are to be respectful of both other students and the instructor. To be respectful of others, please refrain from talking or whispering during class time. Any inappropriate or disruptive behavior by a student may result in the student being asked to leave the classroom. Be respectful of one another and each others’ ideas.

**Laptop Policy:** While it is preferred that students take written notes, laptops and tablets are allowed during class. I ask that students that using these items refrain from surfing the internet, sending emails, or engaging in any other actions that are disruptive to other students. Students that do not abide by this policy will be asked to turn off their electronics and possibly to leave the classroom. No cell phone use is permitted during class. This includes texting.

2. **Academic Dishonesty:** Any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated in this course. When using ideas, writings, and presentations of others, proper citation must be given. Be respectful of the work of others and give appropriate credit where credit is due. Plagiarism is a

very serious offense and will be treated as such. As such, all work should be original to this class and to the individual. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will not only receive a zero for the assignment, but an **“F” in the course** as well, with further administrative measures taken as needed. If you have any doubts about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult me immediately. For other questions and reference, please see the University’s academic integrity website, <http://academicintegrity.missouri.edu/>

3. **Students with Disabilities: ADA** Any student disabilities, both physical or mental health related, that interfere with the student’s ability to perform in this course should be taken to me immediately.  
“If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, (573) 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations” ([provost.missouri.edu](http://provost.missouri.edu)).
4. **Intellectual Pluralism:** “The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu)” ([provost.missouri.edu](http://provost.missouri.edu)).  
Students will have the opportunity to anonymously evaluate the instructor at the end of the course.
5. **Executive Order #38, Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion and Privacy:** “University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under section 240.040 of Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters. Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings or statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.” ([provost.missouri.edu](http://provost.missouri.edu))

Students are prohibited from selling notes or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the instructor. Do not engage in any of the websites or companies that sell or distribute notes. This will be considered a form of academic dishonesty, and further administrative actions will be pursued if necessary.

I reserve the right to change this syllabus as I see fit throughout the semester.

## **Make-up Exams/Absences:**

Attendance is not taken for this course. Instead there will be quizzes and assignments that will be completed throughout the semester. While attendance on these days is mandatory in order to receive a grade, unforeseen emergencies do occur. **Two** of the lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester, and this can include any absences in which the student has not completed a quiz. In other words, if you are not here for the quiz, you will receive a zero for that quiz, but your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped. If a longer term emergency occurs, and arrangements need to be made, they will be done on a case by case basis.

For exam absences, documentation must be provided as promptly as is humanly possible so that an alternative date can be scheduled between the student and myself. Keep in mind that alternative/make-up exams may be of a different format than the original exam provided on test day. Without appropriate documentation, the student will receive a **zero** for the exam. **No exceptions.**

## **Weekly Schedule:**

### **Week 1 – August 24-August 28: Introduction to Course**

- Purpose: We will discuss how the course will be set up and managed. I will also discuss studying politics scientifically and looking beyond singular events to understand patterns of behavior.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 1: “World Politics: Seeking Security in a Complicated and Connected World”

### **Week 2 – August 31-September 4: Anarchy and the International Arena**

- Purpose: Students will learn how anarchy frames the international arena, and how this condition makes relations between states more complex.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 2: “The Players and the Playing Field: Anarchy, States, and Non-State Actors”
  - eReader Reading 2. Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics.”

### **Week 3 – September 7-September 11: Grand Theory**

- **NO CLASS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – Labor Day**
- Purpose: Students will learn the grand theories that helped develop the field of international relations, helping us orient certain questions through different lenses.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 3: “Powerful Ideas: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism”
  - eReader Reading 14: David A. Lake. “Why ‘isms’ Are Evil; Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress.”

### **Week 4 – September 14-September 18: Alternative Theories**

- Purpose: Students will learn more critical theories, which provide a greater level of detail to our understanding of international relations.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 4: “Alternative Perspectives on International Relations”
  - eReader Reading 7: Amy Skonieczny. “Constructing NAFTA: Myth, Representation, and the Discursive Construction of US Foreign Policy.”

## **Week 5 – September 21-September 25: Why Fight?**

- **Exam 1 on Friday, September 25**
- Purpose: This week will discuss various understandings of international conflict, including how to define wars empirically. We will also discuss irregular forms of warfare, such as insurgency and terrorism.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 5: “Understanding Conflict: The Nature and Causes of Conflict and War”

## **Week 6 – September 28-October 2: How do States Protect Themselves?**

- Purpose: This week will discuss how states protect themselves from international conflict, both in preventing it and after it has begun. We will also discuss arms control agreements and whether or not they work to curb the use of advanced weaponry.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 6: “Seeking Security: Managing Conflict and War”
  - eReader Reading 3: Stephen Biddle, Jeffrey A. Friedman, and Stephen Long. “Civil War Intervention and the Problem of Iraq.”

## **Week 7 – October 5-October 9: Managing Cooperation**

- Purpose: How do states build peace with one another? Does this peace last?
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 7: “Building Peace: Structures and Institutions of Cooperation”

## **Week 8 – October 12-October 16: Political Violence**

- Purpose: To discuss more nuanced research on political violence, including terrorism and insurgency.

## **Week 9 – October 19-October 23: Introduction to Economic Trade**

- **Exam 2 on Friday, October 23**
- Purpose: Why do states trade with one another? What are the benefits and consequences of trade? How has globalization of trade manifested itself in recent years?
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 8: “The Pursuit of Economic Security: Trade, Finance, and Integration”

## **Week 10 – October 26-October 30: Getting what you want without guns?**

- Purpose: We will look at alternative forms of pressure that can be placed in the international community short of war. How effective are these strategies? Are there unintended consequences?
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 9: “Economic Statecraft: Sanctions, Aid, and Their Consequences”
  - eReader Reading 10: Dursun Peksen and A. Cooper Drury. “Economic Sanctions and Political Repression: Assessing the Impact of Coercive Diplomacy on Political Freedoms.”

## **Week 11 – November 2-November 6: Introduction to Development**

- Purpose: How do states develop? Why are some states wealthy and other states consistently impoverished?
  - Textbook Chapter 10: “International Development: Relations between the Haves and the Have-Nots”
  - eReader Reading 5: James M. Scott and Carie A. Steele. “Sponsoring Democracy: The United States and Democracy Aid to the Developing World, 1988-2001.”

## **Week 12 – November 9-November 13: Introduction to Human Rights**

- **Exam 3 on Friday, November 13**
- Purpose: What are human rights? How do states define these rights? Are people “freer” than they used to be?
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 11: “Human Rights: Protecting the Most Basic Security”

## **Week 13 – November 16-November 20: Environmental Security**

- **NO CLASS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20—Conference**
- Purpose: How do we balance industry with environmental protection? How do we protect the environment in an anarchic international system?
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 12: Managing the Environment: Sharing the World or Dividing the World
  - eReader Reading 6: M.J. Peterson. “Whalers, Cetologists, Environmentalists, and the International Management of Whaling.”

## **Week 14 – November 23-November 27: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK**

- Purpose: See how much you can eat without exploding.

## **Week 15 – November 30-December 4: Does Activism Work?**

- Purpose: How do non-state actors affect the decisions of states? Is activism effective in bringing about improvements in human rights?
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 13: “Transnational Advocacy Networks: Changing the World?”
  - eReader Reading 15: A. Cooper Drury, L. Marvin Overby, and Adrian Ang. “‘Pretty Prudent’ or ‘Rhetorically Responsive’?”

**Week 16 – December 7-December 11: Future Questions, Future Research**

- **NO CLASS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11—READING DAY!**
- Purpose: To discuss the future of international relations research. We will also use this time to discuss any topics of interest to students in more detail that we were unable to get to during the normal schedule.
- **Reading:**
  - Textbook Chapter 14: “International, Economic, and Human Security in the Balance: Future Directions and Challenges”

**Final Exam: Thursday, December 17 from 10am-12pm in normal lecture room**