

Pol Sc 1400: Introduction to International Relations; Section 6

Spring 2016

MWF 10:00-10:50am, Mumford Hall 133

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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 globalization. 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 gaps in our knowledge, and we will be able to analyze more nuanced pieces of political science.

Grades

Students' grades will be comprised of 3 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, which will comprise 10% 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 **10 random quizzes** given 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.

The final portion of students' grades is a paper that will be assigned towards the end of the semester. More detail about the paper will be given as the course proceeds, but it will aim to have students connect course material to real-world events. I will upload a rubric for this paper on Blackboard as the semester proceeds. More information about this paper will be given on the first day of class. This paper will comprise the final 10% of the student's grade.

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 your University-assigned 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. I will not answer emails from non-University emails.

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 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. If electronics usage becomes an issue/distraction, I reserve the right to ban any and all electronics during class.

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).
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” (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)

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 10 quizzes administered randomly throughout the semester. While attendance on these days is mandatory in order to receive a grade, unforeseen emergencies do occur. Therefore, I will drop **one** quiz grade at the end of the semester, and this can include any absence 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 quiz grade will be dropped. **I do not accept doctor’s notes for missed quizzes.** 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	Content
Introduction to Course January 18, 20, 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Class 1/18 ● 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 Ch. 1
Anarchy January 25, 27, 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: Students will learn how anarchy frames the international arena, and how this condition makes relations between states more complex. ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 2
Grand Theory February 1, 3, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: Students will learn how grand theories have helped develop the field of international relations, helping us orient certain questions through different lenses. ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 3; eReader Ch. 14
Alternative Theories February 8, 10, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: Students will learn more critical theories, which provide a greater level of detail to our understanding of international relations. ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 4; eReader Ch. 7
Why Fight? February 15, 17, 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exam 1 on Friday, February 19 ● Purpose: This week will discuss various understandings of international conflict, including how to define wars empirically. ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 5
How do States Protect Themselves? February 22, 24, 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: This week will discuss how states protect themselves from international conflict, both in preventing it and after conflict has begun. ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 6; eReader Ch. 3
Managing Cooperation February 29, 3/2, 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: How do states build peace with one another? Does this peace last? ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 7
Political Violence March 7, 9, 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: To discuss more nuanced research on political violence, including terrorism and insurgency.
Political Violence March 14, 16, 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exam 2 on Friday, March 18 ● Purpose: Finish our discussion of political violence, terrorism, and civil conflict.
International Trade March 21, 23, 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: What are the benefits and consequences of trade? How has globalization of trade manifested itself in recent years? ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 8
Spring Break March 28, 30, 4/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Class!
Economic Statecraft April 4, 6, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: We will look at alternative forms of pressure that can be placed on states in the international community short of war. ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 9; eReader Ch. 10
Development April 11, 13, 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: How do states develop? Why are some states wealthy and other states consistently impoverished? ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 10; eReader Ch. 5
Human Rights April 18, 20, 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exam 3 on Friday, April 22 ● Purpose: What are human rights? How do states define these rights differently? Are people “freer” than they used to be? ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 11
Environmental Security April 25, 27, 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose: How do we balance industry with environmental protection? How do we protect the environment in an anarchic international system? ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 12; eReader Ch. 6
Activism May 2, 4, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Class, Friday, May 6: Reading Day ● Purpose: How do non-state actors affect the decisions of states? Is activism effective in bringing about improvements in human rights? ● Reading: Textbook Ch. 13; eReader Ch. 2
Final Exam	Tuesday, May 10, 12:30pm-2:30pm in normal lecture room