



**Introduction to
International Relations
POL 250 - Section 1
MWF: 12:30 pm-1:20 pm, FH 509**

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Department of Political Science & Sociology

Credit Hours: 3

1 Introduction to International Relations

2 Course Description and Prerequisite(s):

The nature of international society and the forces affecting the behavior of states in their relations with one another. An approved social science University Studies elective.

Prerequisite(s): None

3 Course Objectives

By the end of the semester the student should be able to do the following.

- A. Critically analyze international events;
- B. Compare basic theories of international relations using three units of analysis: individual, state, and system; and
- C. Use the scientific method to develop valid causal statements about social events, behaviors, institutions, and actors.

4 Course Outline

This course will help orient students with the theories and contemporary research within the subfield of international relations so that they may better understand how countries, state leaders, and non-state actors affect (and are affected by) the international system. In this course, we will primarily use a textbook and lectures for material, but we will, from time to time, supplement these materials with discussions and some outside readings to help students grasp the course's ideas and theories.

The topics of this course can roughly be divided into four sections. The first section discusses basic theories of international relations, which will help frame later discussions and define notable features of the global system. Second, we discuss international security, with this part

encompassing different forms of conflict and warfare and how states protect themselves. The third section will focus on economic security. This section will focus on how economic trade promotes global peace and integration, and we will also discuss some of the negative consequences resulting from integration. Finally we will study human security, including human rights and environmental protection.

5 Field, Clinical, and/or Laboratory Experiences: None

6 Text(s) and Resources

In this course, there is one required text. Please be sure to get this textbook as soon as possible.

Scott, James M., A. Cooper Drury, and Ralph G. Carter. 2018. *IR: International, Economic, and Human Security in a Changing World*, 3rd Edition. CQ Press.

7 Evaluation and Grading Procedures

Students' grades will be comprised of two parts. The first part is made up of four exams, with **each** exam worth 22.5% of the student's final grade. The exams are not cumulative *per se*, but there are some foundational items that we will study early in the course that will be applied and built upon in later sections.

Second, I will administer random quizzes throughout the semester that will comprise 10% of final grades. Quizzes will not be announced in advance, so students should come prepared to take a quiz every class period. These quizzes serve three functions. First, they ensure that students are regularly attending class. Second, they will be used as a study guide for exams. Finally, they will ensure that students are keeping up with the material inside and outside the classroom. Readings will be assigned each week, and it is the responsibility of the student to read these materials *before* each lecture.

Grade Components:

4 Exams 22.5% each
Quizzes 10%

No curve will be given in this course, and I do not round grades; the grade you earn is the grade you receive. I will use the following grading scale in this course:

A (Excellent): 90-100%

B (Good): 80-89%

C (Satisfactory): 70-79%

D (Poor): 60-69%

E (Failure): 0-59%

8 Attendance Policy

Make-up Exams:

Unforeseen emergencies do occur. Only approved absences will be accepted for an alternative exam/quiz date. This includes University-sanctioned events or illness. If either occurs, I require written documentation of the absence. **This documentation is required within one week of the exam/quiz date. After that time, the grade will be marked zero. No exceptions!** Keep in mind that alternative/make-up exams may be of a different format than the original exam provided on test day. Without proper documentation, the student will receive a **zero** for the assignment. **No exceptions.**

9 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 other's ideas.

Electronics Policy: Studies have found that handwritten notetaking is better for the retention of information than taking notes on a computer or other electronic device. Further, these devices are a great disturbance to other students, and at times, the instructor. **Therefore, students will not be allowed to use electronic devices in this course, including laptops, tablets, or phones.** This decision is to ensure that all students have access to lecture material without interruption or disturbance from other students. Please ensure that your phones are placed on silent *before* class starts, and all other electronics are turned off. If you are seen using any of these devices, you will automatically lose points on your overall grade, regardless of current performance in the course. If you have an extenuating circumstance or need some accommodation for usage of an electronic device, please see me before or after class so we can make alternative arrangements.

Emails:

Do not expect to receive any correspondence from me between the hours of 6pm and 8am on any day, including the night before an exam. Do not email me to ask about grades, I am not allowed to discuss those over email per FERPA regulations. For these questions come to my office hours or set up an appointment. You must email me from your Murray State account; I will not respond to any other email addresses. **Do not email me any questions about the course without first consulting the syllabus.**

10 Academic Honesty Policy

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic

exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the accuracy of your material, please see me immediately! It is best to come have a conversation with me before an assignment is due, than to wait until afterwards and risk disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1.) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2.) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3.) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

Recording Lectures and Selling Notes

In this class, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation through Disability Services. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to disciplinary action.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

If it is brought to my attention that you have been selling notes, study guides, exams, etc. on any site such as Flashnotes, Studyblue, etc. you will be treated as if you have openly cheated and will suffer the same consequences of academic consequences of academic dishonesty outlined in this syllabus.

11 Non-Discrimination Policy and Students with Disabilities

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment or application for employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities.

In particular and without limiting the preceding and pursuant to and consistent with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its regulations 34 CFR 100 et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its regulations 34 CFR 104; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681 et seq., and its regulations 34 CFR 106 et seq; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and its regulations 34 CFR 110, Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs and activities. This non-discrimination in education programs and activities extends to employment and admissions and to recruitment, financial aid, academic programs, student services, athletics, and housing. Murray State is required by Title IX and 34 CFR part 106 not to discriminate on the basis of sex and the prohibition against sex discrimination specifically includes a prohibition of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Executive Director of IDEA/Title IX Coordinator, Camisha Duffy, Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. Telephone: 270-809-3155 (Voice) 270-809-3361 (TDD).

Statement Addressing Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: Students requiring special assistance due to a disability (temporary or permanent) should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students with disabilities should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Ken Ashlock, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. Telephone: 270-809-2018 (Voice) 270-809-5889 (TDD).

I am a member of a Safe Zone Project and I am available to listen and support you in a safe and confidential manner. As a Safe Zone participant, I can help you connect with resources on campus to address problems you may face that interfere with your academic and social success on campus as it relates to issues surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity. My goal is to help you be successful and to maintain a safe and equitable campus. For more information, visit the Office of LGBT Programming at 243 Blackburn Science Building or online at www.murraystate.edu/lgbt.

Weekly Schedule:

The following outline should be considered tentative. I reserve the right to change the syllabus as I see fit. Any and all changes will be announced in advance, both in class and electronically.

<i>Tentative Weekly Schedule</i>	<i>Content</i>
Week 1 (Aug 15, 17) Introduction to Course	Reading: Chapter 1 “World Politics”
Week 2 (Aug 20, 22, 24) Anarchy	Reading: Chapter 2 “The Players and the Playing Field”
Week 3 (Aug 27, 29, 31) Grand Theory	Reading: Chapter 3 “Powerful Ideas”
Week 4 (Sept 3, 5, 7) Alternative Theories	No class Monday, Sept 3: Labor Day Reading: Chapter 4 “Alternative Perspectives on International Relations”
Week 5 (Sept 10, 12, 14) Seeking Security	Exam 1: Wednesday, September 12 Reading: Chapter 5 “Understanding Conflict”
Week 6 (Sept 17, 19, 21) Finish Ch 5	Reading: Chapter 5 “Understanding Conflict”
Week 7 (Sept 24, 26, 28) Managing Conflict	Reading: Chapter 6 “Seeking Security”
Week 8 (Oct 1, 3, 5) Managing Cooperation	No class Friday, Oct 5: Fall Break Reading: Chapter 7 “Building Peace”
Week 9 (Oct 8, 10, 12) Finish Ch. 7 and Start Ch. 8	Exam 2: Wednesday, October 10 Reading: Chapter 7 “Building Peace” Chapter 8 “The Pursuit of Economic Security”
Week 10 (Oct 15, 17, 19) International Trade	Reading: Chapter 8 “The Pursuit of Economic Security”
Week 11 (Oct 22, 24, 26) Economic Statecraft	Reading: Chapter 9 “Economic Statecraft”
Week 12 (Oct 29, 31, Nov 2) Development	Reading: Chapter 10 “International Development”
Week 13 (Nov 5, 7, 9) Human Rights	Exam 3: Wednesday, November 7 Reading: Chapter 11 “Human Rights”
Week 14 (Nov 12, 14, 16) Finish Ch. 11 and Start Ch. 12	No class Friday, November 16: International Studies Association—Midwest Conference Reading: Chapter 11 “Human Rights” Chapter 12 “The Global Environment”
Week 15 (Nov 19, 21, 23) Environmental Security	No class Wednesday/Friday: Thanksgiving Break Reading: Chapter 12 “The Global Environment”
Week 16 (Nov 26, 28, 30) Activism	Reading: Chapter 13 “Transnational Advocacy Networks”

Final Exam

**Wednesday, December 5 at 10:30 am in normal
lecture room.**