

Introduction to International Affairs

PSCI 230-A/INTL 230-A

Fall 2015

MWF, 3:00-3:50 p.m.

Ross 140

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 12-2 p.m. and 4-5 p.m.; also by appointment

Introduction

This course will introduce students to the study of international relations through an analysis of the interests, interactions, and institutions that shape world events. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to the various theories political scientists use to explain and predict international phenomena, as well as the debates surrounding these competing theories. Historical and modern political events will be used to apply these theories and help students strengthen their ability to analyze and critique scholarly debates in the field.

This course will analyze the decision-making process in international relations, a process that is characterized by both conflict and cooperation. By recognizing how both state and non-state actors make decisions—and what influences and constrains these actors' behaviors—students will gain a better understanding of why certain world events occur. Additionally, students will be challenged to think about ways in which political actors increase (or decrease) the likelihood of peaceful and cooperative relations between and within states. A number of subfields will be addressed throughout the course, including war, terrorism, human rights issues, and international political economy.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

- Apply “Interests, Interactions, Institutions” framework to describe how cooperation and conflict occur in international affairs
- Outline the basic assumptions of competing theories of international relations
- Discuss explanations for *interstate* and *intrastate* conflict in terms of bargaining theory
- Connect actors' interests to political outcomes
- Analyze domestic and international factors that contribute to economic and social disparities across countries
- Describe the role of international and transnational institutions and their impact on political outcomes

Textbook and Course Readings

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 2nd ed., New York: W.W. Norton. (FLS)
- Additional readings will be assigned on FoxTale. Students will be responsible for these readings on tests.
- Students should read international headline stories from a major newspaper on a daily basis and be prepared to discuss these events in class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

(Approximate—subject to change as deemed necessary)

Week of August 31	Course Introduction <i>Syllabus, FLS Introduction and Chapter 1</i>
Week of September 7	Interests, Interactions, and Institutions <i>FLS Chapter 2 and Special Topic: A Primer on Game Theory</i>
Week of September 14	Interstate Conflict <i>FLS Chapter 3</i>
Week of September 21*	Domestic Politics and War <i>FLS Chapter 4 and Doyle, Michael W. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." The American Political Science Review 80(4): 1151-1169.</i> *Sept. 25: Quiz 1
Week of September 28*	Domestic Politics and War, continued *Sept. 30: Exam 1
Week of October 5*	International Institutions and War <i>FLS Chapter 5</i> *Oct. 7: Simulation assignments distributed
Week of October 12*	International Institutions and War, continued *Oct. 12: UNSC Simulation *Oct. 16: No class
Week of October 19*	International Trade, Financial, and Monetary Relations <i>FLS Chapters 7-9</i> *Oct. 30: Quiz 2
Week of November 2*	International Trade, Financial, and Monetary Relations, continued *Nov. 6: Exam 2
Week of November 9	Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations <i>FLS Chapter 10</i>
Week of November 16*	Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism <i>FLS Chapter 6 and Gordon, Philip H. 2007. "Can the War on Terror Be Won?" Foreign Affairs 86(6): 53-66.</i> *Nov. 18: Simulation assignments distributed *Nov. 20: Quiz 3
Week of November 23*	Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism, continued *Nov. 23: Terrorist Hostage Simulation *Nov. 27: No class
Week of November 30	International Law, Norms, and Human Rights <i>FLS Chapters 11-12</i>
Week of December 7*	International Law, Norms, and Human Rights, continued *Dec. 9: Quiz 4 <i>* All excused absence documentation due by December 11</i>

Final Exam scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Ross 140

Assignments and Tests

Quizzes:

There will be four online quizzes throughout the semester. Students may use their textbooks and notes for these quizzes but **should not** work together or share information related to quiz content.

In-Class Simulations and Response Papers:

There will be two in-class simulations during the semester. Students will be expected to participate in these simulations and submit a summary response paper due **by the next class period**. In order to receive credit for the simulations, students must attend class on the day of the simulation and submit **TWO** copies of the response paper—one paper copy in-class and one electronic copy uploaded to FoxTale. Students should **not** work together on response papers. Response paper guidelines will be distributed along with information for each simulation.

Exams:

There will be two semester exams and one final exam. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions drawn from the textbook, class discussions (including current events), and additional course readings. Assigned readings may or may not be discussed in class, so you are responsible for reading the textbook and additional material. The final exam will draw from material throughout the semester.

Grade Distribution			
Assessment	Point Value (each)	Percentage (each)	Overall
Quizzes (4)	25 points	5%	100 points (20%)
Simulation Participation & Papers (2)	50 points	10%	100 points (20%)
Semester Exams (2)	75 points	15%	150 points (30%)
Final Comprehensive Exam (1)	100 points	20%	100 points (20%)
Attendance	--	--	50 points (10%)
Total			500 points (100%)

Grading Scale

A 10-point, +/- grading scale will be used for this class:

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 90-92	B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72	D+ 67-69	D 63-66	D- 60-62
F 59 below					

Attendance and Make-up Policies

- Attendance is expected and required, and I will take roll regularly. For each absence after 3, you will lose 10% of your attendance grade unless you provide documentation such as a doctor's excuse, letter from GFU-sponsored program, etc. All documentation is due to me no later than the end of class on Friday, December 11. Please keep in mind that I reserve the right to reject all non-university related and non-medical excuses.
- Students in attendance may be marked as absent for the following reasons: arriving to class halfway through lecture, continually arriving late, leaving class early without speaking to me before class, or using electronic devices for purposes other than note-taking or class-related activities.
- Students who miss exams or quizzes will be allowed to take make-up tests only if they have provided me with a legitimate reason for missing the test at least 24 hours before the test (if the absence is foreseeable), or a valid excuse no later than 24 hours after having missed the test. Students who do not meet these criteria will be given a score of zero for the missed test. Make-up tests will differ from the original test.
- Students who miss in-class assignments will be allowed to make up the assignments only if they have provided me with a legitimate reason for missing the in-class assignment at least 24 hours before the class (if the absence is foreseeable), or a valid excuse no later than 24 hours after having missed the in-class assignment. Students who do not meet these criteria will be given a score of zero for the missed assignment. Make-up assignments will differ from the original assignment.

- Written assignments not turned in on time will lose 10 percent of the total points for the assignment for each weekday they are late. Assignments are considered on time if they are turned in during class or by 5:00 p.m. of the day they are due.
- If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what material and assignments you have missed. Try to get to know a classmate who can provide you with notes and information. I do not email class slides or class notes.

Other Notes

- If you send me an email and do not get a response after two days, please email me again. I want to ensure that I am responsive to all your questions, but it is reasonable to assume that communication errors can occur. I prefer that you send emails to gmler@georgefox.edu.
- I reserve the right to make modifications to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Any modifications to the assignment or test schedule will be announced in class, and a revised syllabus will be posted to FoxTale.

Students with Disabilities

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible so that your learning needs can be appropriately met. For more information, go to ds.georgefox.edu or contact Rick Muthiah, Director of Learning Support Services (503-554-2314 or rmuthiah@georgefox.edu).

Academic Resource Center (ARC)

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) on the Newberg campus provides all students with free writing consultation, academic coaching, and learning strategies (e.g., techniques to improve reading, note-taking, study, time management). The ARC, located in the Murdock Learning Resources Center (library), is open from 1:00-10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 12:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday. To schedule an appointment, go to the online schedule at arcschedule.georgefox.edu, call 503-554-2327, email [the arc@georgefox.edu](mailto:arc@georgefox.edu), or stop by the ARC. Visit arc.georgefox.edu for information about ARC Consultants' areas of study, instructions for scheduling an appointment, learning tips, and a list of other tutoring options on campus.