

POL 202: Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2022, Session 2

Delivered Online via D2L (d2l.arizona.edu)

Instructor of record: **Rachel Van Nostrand**

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office Hours: By appointment – email to schedule a time.

<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/81484893113>

Email: rvannostrand@email.arizona.edu

Featuring lectures by Alex Braithwaite, Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Faten Ghosn, Jeffrey Kucik, and Kirssa Cline Ryckman.

Overview

This course introduces students to the study of international relations. No prior background in the subject is assumed. Students will acquire the basic analytic tools necessary to understand and explain a variety of international phenomena including war, terrorism, trade, foreign investment, globalization, environmental cooperation, human rights practices, migration and the movement of refugees. By the end of the semester, students should be able to contribute objectively to debates on these topics and to provide theoretically informed and empirically-valid evidence in support of their claims. In addition to the regular materials of a class of this kind, students will also work on developing policy writing skills to aid in the dissemination of their ideas.

Course Format

This is a lecture-based class. All lectures are pre-recorded and can be accessed on D2L. This course is divided into weekly units. Every week there will be required lectures and readings to complete. After engaging with this material, there is a discussion and a number of InQuizitive quizzes to complete for each week. There will also be two larger writing assignments in the fourth and the sixth week of class. Students will take the final exam in the last week of class. Please make sure to check D2L and your email frequently to keep up to date regarding class materials, assignments, and deadlines.

Course Objectives

The course objectives will enable students to:

- describe major theories of international relations, including Realism, Liberalism, and others;
- summarize the empirical fields of study, including conflicts, international political economy, and international institutions;
- analyze and evaluate the domestic and foreign policies in the related empirical fields.

Expected Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes by the end of the semester will be to:

- apply different theories of international relations to relevant empirical fields and policy areas;
- assess the validity of hypotheses and arguments about international relations;
- produce one's own policy arguments and support them with evidence through writing.

Course Materials

The textbook for this course is Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, Fourth Edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2019). This is denoted below as FLS. It is available for purchase at the UA Bookstore, where you can purchase the e-version at a heavily discounted rate through the Inclusive Access program.

Course materials are being delivered digitally via D2L through the Inclusive Access program. Please access the material through D2L on the first day of class to make sure that there are no issues with delivery so any problems can be addressed quickly.

Please refer to the Inclusive Access FAQs at

<https://shop.arizona.edu/textbooks/Inclusive.asp> for additional information.

Grades and Assignments

Seven Weekly Discussions (35%) = 5% of the final grade each, for a total of 35%. Each unit will have an online discussion question. The discussion questions can all be accessed via D2L. Each discussion includes posting an original response to the prompt between 300 - 500 words and then at least **two** responses to other student's prompts at 150-200 words each *due by 11:59 pm each week (usually on Thursdays)*. You should be writing a total of three posts each week (one original post, two responses). This will be easier (and more engaging!) if this is done well before the deadline.

Fifteen InQuizitive Quizzes (14%) = 0.93% of the final grade each, for a total of 14%. We are using the digital version of our textbook and this comes with access to InQuizitive, which you can find under content on D2L. This includes short quizzes with each week of class. You are asked to complete these quizzes on a weekly basis (or close to this). The quizzes allow for everyone to receive full credit if willing to invest the time. The links for the InQuizitive quizzes can all be accessed via D2L. The InQuizitive Quizzes are *due by 11:59 pm each week (usually on Thursdays)*. Quizzes will be graded by InQuizitive instantly. If you notice any problems with the quiz grades syncing correctly to D2L, click through to the quiz from the link in the content tab, and this should fix the problem.

Draft of the First Paper Assignment (1%) = 1% of the final grade. This course includes two paper assignments (see below). You are encouraged to submit a draft of the first paper assignment to receive formative feedback. Hopefully, this feedback will help you have a better idea about the two paper assignments. The draft of the first paper assignment is *due by 11:59 pm on Friday April 1*. Feedback will be provided before the final due date. Please reach out ahead of time if you'd like to discuss your paper further.

Two Paper Assignments (30%) = 15% of the final grade each, for a total of 30%. The paper assignments could be either op-eds or policy briefs. An op-ed (literally, published opposite the editorials) is an opinion essay published in a newspaper that communicates an argument or position on a specific topic. This op ed should be geared toward convincing the public, as well as key decision makers, that you have the best possible solution to a problem in international relations. These assignments will help you to develop

Your opinion essays should focus upon a substantive topic detailed in the 7 weeks of this class (see below). You must write about two separate topics for your two assignments. You can find details on the style and structure of writing an op-ed here: <https://journalistsresource.org/tip-sheets/writing/how-to-write-an-op-ed-or-column>. Your assignments should each be between 1000 - 1200 words in length. The first assignment is *due by 11:59 pm on Friday April 8*. The second assignment *due by 11:59 pm on Friday April 22*.

Final Exam (20%) = 20% of the final grade. This exam will be completed on the D2L. The questions will be multiple choice. The exam will cover materials from all seven modules. The exam will be *posted on D2L on Friday May 6 @ 6:00 am* and is *due by 11:59 pm the same day*. No make-up exams will be permitted unless you have a Dean's excuse or full medical notification to excuse your absence.

Extra Credit = There are no extra credit opportunities available this summer, and I will not take requests for extra credit.

The grade distribution for the course is as follows:

- A = 100% to 89.5%
- B = 89.4% to 79.5%
- C = 79.4% to 69.5%
- D = 69.4% to 59.5%
- E = 59.4% or lower (fail)

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies.

Late Work Policy

Late assignments after the due dates will be accepted with a 10% penalty per day. The late homework penalty may be waived under special circumstances and will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. Petitions to waive the late work penalty must be sent to the instructor by e-mail BEFORE the assignment due dates.

Email Policy

I will respond to emails promptly (with 24 hours) during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). Emails sent on Fridays may not receive a response until the following Monday. Please reach out to me if you have any health issues (mental/physical), family responsibilities, or work commitments that might make completion of course requirements difficult. I'm here to help you and will make accommodations on a case-by-case basis. I will also send out an email at the beginning of each week reminding you of upcoming deadlines. Please reach out as any other issues come up throughout the semester.

Important Regulations

UA Academic Policies Website

<https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/syllabus-policies>

This site includes information regarding:

- Absence and class participation
- Threatening behavior
- Accessibility and Accommodations (Disability Resource Center)
- Code of Academic Integrity
- Non-Discrimination and Anti- Harassment Policy

Additional Resources for Students:

College can be stressful, especially during a pandemic. If you need to talk to someone, please reach out to Campus Health Counseling and Psych Services (CAPS):

<https://health.arizona.edu/counseling-psych-services>

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>.

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-a...>

Confidentiality of Student Records:

<https://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa?topic=ferpa>

Odds and Ends:

Please note that the lectures cannot be reproduced, displayed, modified, or distributed without my consent.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Module 1 What is IR?

This module gives an overview of the studies of international relations. It recaps the world history since the 16th century, with a focus on the war and peace among nations. Then it introduces the variety of theories that explain the patterns of world politics. Topics of this week include: What is IR?; Lessons learned from history; Realist theories of IR; Liberal theories of IR; Other theories of IR.

- Module 1 Lectures
- Read FLS Introduction, and Chapter 1 and 2
- Discussion Module 1: Due Thursday March 17 @ 11:59pm
- InQuizitive Quizzes Introduction 00, Chapter 1-2: Due Thursday March 17 @ 11:59 pm

Module 2 War

This module discusses the onset and end of interstate wars. It accounts for why war starts and how peace may be brought and sustained, from both domestic and international perspectives. Topics of this week include: The causes of war; Bargaining

and war; The management of war; Domestic politics and war; International institutions and war.

- Module 2 Lectures
- Read FLS Chapter 3-5
- Discussion Module 2: Due Thursday March 24 @ 11:59 pm
- InQuizitive Quizzes Chapter 3-5: Due Thursday March 24 @ 11:59 pm

Module 3 Nonstate Violence

This module focuses on the onset and consequences of domestic conflicts. Two types of domestic conflicts are discussed, including civil war and terrorism. Topics of this week include: What is civil war?; Causes of civil war; Consequences of civil war; What is terrorism?; Causes and strategies of terrorism; Counterterrorism.

- Module 3 Lectures
- Read FLS Chapter 6
- Discussion Module 3: Due Thursday March 31 @ 11:59pm
- InQuizitive Quiz Chapter 6: Due Thursday March 31 @ 11:59 pm
- Paper Assignment # 1 Draft: Due Friday April 1 @ 11:59 pm

Module 4 Trade

This module explains the variation in trade policy. It outlines a variety of factors that shape trade policy, both domestic and international. Topics of this week include: Basics of trade; US trade deficit; Trade institutions.

- Module 4 Lectures
- Read FLS Chapter 7
- Discussion Module 4: Due Thursday April 7 @ 11:59pm
- InQuizitive Quiz Chapter 7: Due Thursday April 7 @ 11:59 pm
- Paper Assignment # 1: Due Friday April 8 @ 11:59 pm

Module 5 Capital

This module focuses on the international flow of capital. It outlines the factors that shape international capital flows, and it also discusses the consequences of these capital flows. Topics of this week include: Sovereign lending; IMF; Monetary policy; FDI; Development.

- Module 5 Lectures
- Read FLS Chapter 8-10
- Discussion Module 5: Due Thursday April 14 @ 11:59 pm
- InQuizitive Quizzes Chapter 8-10: Due Thursday April 14 @ 11:59 pm

Module 6 International Norms and Laws, and Human Rights

This module discusses international law and norms, and human rights. It explores the formation of international law and norms. Then it examines how international law and norms affect one specific aspects of world politics: human rights. Topics of this week include: International law; International norms; Human security; What are human rights?; Repression and violations of human rights.

- Module 6 Lectures
- Read FLS Chapter 11 and 12
- Discussion Module 6: Due Thursday April 21 @ 11:59 pm
- InQuizitive Quizzes Chapter 11 and 12: Due Thursday April 21 @ 11:59 pm
- Paper Assignment # 2: Due Friday April 22 @ 11:59 pm

Module 7 Collective Action and the Future

This module continues to explore the effects of international law and norms. It evaluates how international law and norms affect two specific aspects of world politics: environment, and migration and refugees. Topics of this week include: The environment; Migration and refugees.

- Module 7 Lectures
- Read FLS Chapter 13 and 14
- Discussion Module 7: Due Thursday April 28 @ 11:59 pm
- InQuizitive Quizzes Chapter 13 and 14: Due Thursday April 28 @ 11:59 pm

Final Exam: Posted on D2l on Friday May 6 @ 6:00 am, due by 11:59 pm

Work Summary

Unit	Tasks	Time (Hours)
1. Introduction	Lecture & Readings	10
	Introduction	1
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
2. War	Lecture & Readings	10
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
3. Nonstate Violence	Lecture & Readings	10
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
	Assignment # 1 Draft	4
4. Trade	Lecture & Readings	10
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
	Assignment # 1	2
5. Capital	Lecture & Readings	10
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
6. Human Security & Rights	Lecture & Readings	10
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
	Assignment # 2	6
7. Collective Action & the Future	Lecture & Readings	10
	Discussion	3
	InQuizitive Quiz	3
8. Review	Final Exam Review	10
		Total: 135 hours

Contact Minutes

Contact minutes for each activity:

- Lectures: 150 per week, 1,050 total
- Discussions: 150 per week, 1,050 total
- Introduction: 50 total
- Final Exam Review: 100 total

Total Contact Minutes: 2,250

