

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

## **COURSE INFORMATION:**

Course: PS 221X International Politics  
Credits: 3  
Schedule of Classes: Wednesday, January 2 – Friday, January 11, 2019  
Time: 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
Class Location: 401 Gruening Building

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Instructor: Dr. Brandon Boylan  
E-Mail: [bmboylan@alaska.edu](mailto:bmboylan@alaska.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Office Location: 603A Gruening Building

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to the key theories, concepts, terms, issues, debates, and challenges in the field of international relations. It provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic interactions that take place between important actors in the international system, such as states, organizations, and groups. The course is broken down into four sections: 1) theories and concepts of international relations, 2) international security, 3) international political economy, and 4) international organization. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to apply their acquired knowledge to better understand global events and identify global political patterns.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to adhere to the provisions of the “Student Code of Conduct” as outlined in the UAF catalog, available at [www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html](http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html). In particular, academic dishonesty is not tolerated and leads to an F for the course, at a minimum. This includes plagiarism, cheating, collusion, and fabrication. Please talk to me if you are unsure about whether or not your approach constitutes academic dishonesty.

### **Use of Electronics**

Use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class. Failure to comply with this policy lowers your reading, preparation, and participation grade (see below). Laptop computers may be used for note-taking purposes only. If you are caught browsing the web, checking e-mail, etc., you will be asked to put your laptop away and your reading, preparation, and participation grade will be lowered.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### *Required Textbook*

- Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, 7th Edition (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2016).

*Blackboard*

- All supplemental materials are posted on Blackboard.

**GRADING SCALE**

A	=	93-100	C+	=	78-79
A-	=	90-92	C	=	73-77
B+	=	88-89	C-	=	70-72
B	=	83-87	D	=	60-69
B-	=	80-82	F	=	≤ 59

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Reading, Preparation, and Participation (30 points)**

You must come to class prepared to contribute to discussions and talk about assigned readings. Your participation grade is calculated by how much and how well you contribute to class discussions. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices (apart from laptops for note-taking purposes) during class is prohibited and lowers your reading, preparation, and participation grade.

**Current Event Assignments (30 points: 3 current event assignments X 10 points each)**

On three occasions (see schedule below), you must come to class prepared to discuss a recent news event related to the day's theme through the lens of course theories and/or concepts. Choose a news article from a reputable source on the day's theme (e.g. terrorism), read it, and analyze the event with course material. Summarizing the event only is not sufficient; you must analyze it through a theory or concept covered in class. During the discussion, I will ask you two questions: What is the event? How does our course help you analyze it in a way that you would not have done previously? In addition, you must submit a short analysis paper through Blackboard. The paper should include your name, the course name, and a title; be at least 500 words (but can be longer); be written in 12-point font; be double-spaced; have one-inch margins; include section headers; and include references. Put a link to the article at the bottom of your essay. Late current event assignments are not accepted.

**Prompt Responses (40 points: 4 prompt responses X 10 points each)**

On four occasions (see schedule below), you must respond to a prompt related to the week's theme. Prompt assignments are posted in Blackboard; please upload your prompt response into Blackboard. In a Word document, please type your name and the course name in the left-hand corner. Please also copy and paste the prompt into your document. Respond to the prompt with an essay that is at least 750 words (but can be longer); is written in 12-point font; is double-spaced; has one-inch margins; includes section headers; and includes references (any common reference style is acceptable). Use the lectures, course readings, and independent research to address the prompt. Late prompt responses are not accepted.

**Exams (150 points: 3 exams X 50 points each)**

You have an exam after each sub-field section: international security, international political economy, and international organization. Exams cover class and reading material. They consist of short to medium length essay questions. Make-up exams are not allowed.

**Research Presentation and Paper (100 points)**

You must write a paper describing how each of the three theories (realism, liberalism, and constructivism) explains a conflict or non-conflict relationship of your choice. In your paper, you must argue which perspective best explains the conflict and choose a specific level of analysis (individual, domestic, or systemic). The paper should include your name, the course name, and a title; be at least six pages (but can be longer); be written in 12-point font; be double-spaced; have one-inch margins; include section headers; and include references. Papers are due **Friday, January 11 by 11:59 P.M.** Please upload them in Blackboard. You will also give a presentation on your research paper in the last class of the semester. Late papers and presentations are not accepted.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### Wednesday, January 2: Course Introduction, Theories of International Relations, and Key Concepts of International Relations

#### Readings:

- Chapter 3
- Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” *Foreign Policy* No. 145 (2004): 52-62.
- Chapters 4-6 (peruse only)
- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959), Chapters 2, 4, and 6.

#### Due:

- N/A

#### Morning:

- Course introduction
- Lecture on international relations theory

#### Afternoon:

- Discussion: To which international relations theory do you subscribe, and why?
- Lecture on key concepts of international relations

### Thursday, January 3: Cold War, and the Post-Cold War World

#### Readings:

- Chapter 2 (Cold War and Immediate Post-Cold War Era sections only)
- George F. Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs* 25, no. 4 (1947): 566-582.
- Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest* (1989)
- Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 3 (1993): 22-49.

#### Due:

- Prompt Response 1

#### Morning:

- Lecture on the Cold War
- Discussion: According to Kennan, why did the Soviet Union become hostile, and what should the United States do about it?
- Documentary: “Cuban Missile Crisis: Three Men Go to War”

#### Afternoon

- Discussion: What do Fukuyama and Huntington predict for the post-Cold War environment?
- Lecture on conflict in the 1990s

## **Friday, January 4: Terrorism, and Nuclear Weapons Proliferation**

### Readings:

- Chapter 8
- Max Abrahms, “What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy,” *International Security* 32, no. 4 (2008): 78-105.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Chapter 1: More May Be Better,” *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*, 2nd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2003): 3-45.
- Scott D. Sagan, “Chapter 2: More Will Be Worse,” *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*, 2nd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2003): 46-87.

### Due:

- Prompt Response 2

### Morning:

- Lecture on terrorism
- Documentary: “The Secret History of ISIS”

### Afternoon:

- Lecture on nuclear weapons proliferation
- Discussion: What do Waltz and Sagan think about nuclear weapons proliferation?

## **Saturday, January 5: Bretton Woods Regime, and International Trade**

### Readings:

- Chapter 9
- Richard Baldwin, “The World Trade Organization and the Future of Multilateralism,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30, no. 1 (2016): 95-115.

### Due:

- Current Event Assignment 1

### Morning:

- Exam 1
- Lecture on Bretton Woods regime and international trade

### Afternoon:

- Lecture on Bretton Woods regime and international trade
- Discussion: What is the future of the WTO and multilateral trade?
- Discussion on current events

## **Monday, January 7: International Finance, and International Development**

### Readings:

- Carmen M. Reinhart and Christoph Trebesch, “The International Monetary Fund: 70 Years of Reinvention,” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30, no. 1(2016): 3-27.
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, “Some Lessons from the East Asian Miracle,” *The World Bank Research Observer* 11, no. 2 (1996): 151-177.

Due:

- Prompt Response 3

Morning:

- Lecture on international finance
- Discussion: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the International Monetary Fund?

Afternoon

- Lecture on international development
- Discussion: What are Stiglitz’s thoughts on the East Asian Miracle?
- Documentary: “North Korea’s Deadly Dictator”

## **Tuesday, January 8: Transnational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment**

Reading:

- Nathan M. Jensen, “Democratic Governance and Multinational Corporations: Political Regimes and Inflows of Foreign Direct Investment,” *International Organization* 57, no. 3 (2003): 587-616.

Due:

- Current Event Assignment 2

Morning:

- Lecture on transnational corporations and foreign direct investment
- Discussion: What is the connection between democracy and foreign direct investment?

Afternoon:

- Documentary: “Death by China”
- Discussion on current events

## **Wednesday, January 9: League of Nations and the United Nations**

Readings:

- Chapter 7
- “The Covenant of the League of Nation” (1924). Available at: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/leagcov.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/leagcov.asp)
- “Charter to the United Nations” (1945) Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml> (PERUSE ONLY)

Due:

- Current Event Assignment 3

Morning:

- Exam 2
- Lecture on the League of Nations and United Nations

Afternoon:

- Lecture on the League of Nations and United Nations
- Discussion: What are the liberal principles of the charters to the League of Nations and United Nations?
- Discussion on current events

### **Thursday, January 10: European Union, and Organizing for Global Challenges**

Readings:

- Matthias Matthijs and R. Daniel Kelemen, "Europe Reborn: How to Save the European Union from Irrelevance," *Foreign Affairs* 94, no. 1 (2015): 96-107.
- Chapter 11
- Cass R. Sunstein, "Of Montreal and Kyoto: A Tale of Two Protocols," *Harvard Environmental Law Review* 31, no 1 (2007): 1-66.

Due:

- Prompt Response 4

Morning:

- Lecture on the European Union
- Documentary: "Britain's Biggest Deal"

Afternoon:

- Lecture on international organization for global problems
- Discussion: Why did Montreal succeed while Kyoto fail?

### **Friday, January 11: Student Presentations**

Readings:

- N/A

Due:

- Student presentations

Morning:

- Exam 3
- Student presentations

Afternoon:

- Student presentations

Evening:

- Final papers