Political Science 106  
Introduction to International Relations  

Hein Goemans  
Harkness 320  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2—3  
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Course Info:  
Spring 2014  
12:00–12:50 MW  
Goergen 101  

This course provides students with the background and conceptual tools they need to understand contemporary international relations. The course will introduce students to the wide range of issues involved in the study of international relations including the workings of the state system, the causes of international conflict and violence, and international economic relations. Students will be introduced to the literature in a broad way, to make them familiar with the main theoretical traditions in the field. Students will be asked, as much as possible, to read original texts, rather than from a textbook. Time permitting, we will also examine topics of particular current interest such as the evolving nature of power in the post Cold War environment as well as special global challenges like the rise of China, nation-building and ongoing conflict(s) in the Middle East.

This course is organized to give students a feel for the breadth of the field. In the beginning, students will examine the basic ingredients of the study of international relations. We will consider the actors, goals, means, and consequences of state interaction. The rest of the course is designed to give an overview of the breadth and scope of the wide-ranging field of international relations. Along the way, students will get a taste of follow-on courses they might choose to take in international security, international political economy, international law, American foreign policy, and so on.

Course Requirements  
Participation in recitation (Friday 12:00–12:50, for most) comprises 30% of your grade; your teaching fellow has nearly absolute autonomy in determining the requirements and assessing how well or poorly you have met them.

A midterm exam counts for 30% of your grade, and a final exam counts for 40%. The final exam is given during the period scheduled by the University. The exam is not given early — check the schedule published by the University and make your holiday travel plans accordingly.
Academic Integrity

Be familiar with the University's policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action (http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/students.html). Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

Remember that the same technology that has made plagiarism easier to accomplish has also made it easier to detect. If you do not cite a source, it is plagiarism. If you do cite it, it is scholarship.

Teaching Fellows

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Texts

The following book is required:


These books are optional:


Readings not included in one of the texts can be found through one of the online databases. These readings are listed in the syllabus in italics. The optional readings are useful for providing background, especially for the initial part of the course on theory and concepts. You have to know about the background and substance of International Relations to appreciate and weigh the usefulness of contending theories.
In addition, I expect students to read one of the following newspapers: the New York Times, the Washington Post, or the Financial Times, the Frankfurter Allgemeine, Die Zeit, Le Monde diplomatique or a comparable international paper. It is entirely likely that questions on the mid-term and the final will require you to be up-to-date on current events.
Course Outline

Wednesday January 15

1. Introduction

Friday January 18

2. Section Assignments

Monday January 20

3. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No class

Wednesday January 22

4. Those who do not know the past are doomed to repeat it

- FLS: Introduction and Chapter 1
- R. Harrison Wagner, War and the State, Chapter 1.
- Steve Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories", in Foreign Policy: http://www.jstor.org/stable/11492757seq=9

Monday January 27

5. The 'modern' era after 1945


Wednesday January 29

6. The Analytical Framework: Interests, Interactions & Institutions

- FLS: Chapter 2.

Monday February 3

7. Interests and Actors

• Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson and James D.
  3–36.

Wednesday February 5

8. War and Bargaining

  • FLS: chapter 3

Monday February 10

9. Bargaining and War

  • Dan Reiter, “Exploring the Bargaining Model of War,” *Perspectives on Politics* 1, 1
    (2003): pp.27-47
  • Alasdair Roberts, “The War We Deserve,” *Foreign Policy*, (November/December
    2007), pp.45–50

Wednesday February 12

10. Domestic Politics and War

  • FLS: Chapter 4
  • Giacomo Chiozza and H. E. Goemans, *Leaders and International Conflict*,
    Chapters 1, 2 and 6.

Monday February 17

11. International Institutions and War

  • FLS: Chapter 5
  • Virginia Page Fortna, “Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanisms and Empirical
  • Michael Glennon, “Why the Security Council Failed,” *Foreign Affairs* 82, no. 3

Wednesday February 19

12. International Trade

  • FLS: Chapter 7
Monday February 24

13. International Trade and Globalization


Wednesday February 26


- **FLS**: Chapter 8

Monday March 3

15. International Monetary Relations

- **FLS**: Chapter 9

Wednesday March 5

MID-TERM

Monday March 10 & Wednesday March 12

Spring Break

Monday March 17

16. International Development

- **FLS**: Chapter 10

Wednesday March 19

17. International Regimes

- **FLS**, Chapter 11.
18. International Law


http://www.jstor.org/stable/3993798

Wednesday March 26

19. Human Rights

- FLS: Chapter 12

Monday March 31

20. Failed States and Nation Building


Wednesday April 2

21. Terrorism

- FLS, Chapter 6.
Monday April 7

22. Terrorism

- Art, IPECCI. Bruce Hoffmann, *What Is Terrorism?*, 198–204.

Wednesday April 9

23. Ethnic Conflicts


Monday April 14

24. The Environment

- FLS: Chapter 13

Wednesday April 16

25. The Environment

- Art, IPECCI. Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” 495–500
- Art, IPECCI. Julian L. Simon, “The Infinite Supply of Natural Resources,” 531–538
- Art, IPECCI. Thomas Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict” 501–507

Monday April 21

26. Weapons of Mass Destruction

- FLS, Chapter 14, pp.538–548
- Alexandre Debs & Nuno Monteiro, “Nuclear Proliferation,” unpublished manuscript.
27. The Rise of China

- FLS, Chapter 14, pp.548–556.

Monday April 28

28. The Future of International Politics

- FLS Chapter 14, pp.557–577.