Political Science 106
Introduction to International Relations

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Harkness 320
Office Hours: Wednesday 2—3
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Course Info:
Spring 2013
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 16

1. Introduction

Friday January 18

2. Section Assignments

Monday January 21

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

Wednesday January 23

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.

Monday January 28

5. The ‘modern’ era after 1945


Wednesday January 30

6. The Analytical Framework: Interests, Interactions & Institutions

   • FLS: Chapter 2.

Monday February 4

7. Interests and Actors

Wednesday February 6
8. War and Bargaining
  • FLS: chapter 3

Monday February 11
9. Bargaining and War

Wednesday February 13
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 18
11. International Institutions and War
  • FLS: Chapter 5

Wednesday February 20
12. International Trade
  • FLS: Chapter 7

Monday February 25
13. International Trade and Globalization

Wednesday February 27

   - *FLS*: Chapter 8

Monday March 4

15. International Monetary Relations
   - *FLS*: Chapter 9

Wednesday March 6

MID-TERM

Monday March 11 & Wednesday March 13

Spring Break

Monday March 18

16. International Development
   - *FLS*: Chapter 10

Wednesday March 20

17. International Regimes
   - *FLS*, Chapter 11.

Monday March 25

18. International Law


Wednesday March 27
19. Human Rights
   • FLS: Chapter 12

Monday April 1
20. Failed States and Nation Building
   • Art, IPECCI. Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators," 451-458

Wednesday April 3
21. Terrorism
   • FLS, Chapter 6.
Monday April 8

22. Terrorism

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

Wednesday April 10

23. Ethnic Conflicts


Monday April 15

24. The Environment

- FLS: Chapter 13

Wednesday April 17

25. The Environment

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

Monday April 22

26. Weapons of Mass Destruction

- FLS, Chapter 14, pp.538–548
- Alexandre Debs & Nuno Monteiro, “Nuclear Proliferation,” unpublished manuscript.
Wednesday April 24

27. The Rise of China

- FLS, Chapter 14, pp.548–556.

Monday April 29

28. The Future of International Politics

- FLS Chapter 14, pp.557–577.

Wednesday May 1

29. Summing up

We will discuss international events of the last 5 months.
Please give me some information about yourself: Who are you? To that end, hand in one page bio on yourself:

1. Name, e-mail, year, major.

2. Why did you sign up for this course?

3. What are your interests, extra-curricular?

4. What is true about you and no one else?

5. Should the US withdraw from Iraq? If so, on what conditions?

6. What are your biggest expectations of a U of R Professor.