Political Science 106
Introduction to International Relations

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1–2
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Course Info:
Spring 2019
10:25–11:40 MW
Dewey 1101

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 Brexit, the rise of China, and the future of international institutions.

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 either 11:05–12:20 or 12:30–13:45,) 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**

**Tom McCauley**  
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**Emily Vanmeter**  
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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, or in a Dropbox folder I will share. 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 and Overview


Friday January 18

3. Section Assignments

Monday January 21

4. Martin Luther King Day — No class

Wednesday January 23

5. 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

6. The ‘modern’ era after 1945


Wednesday January 30

7. The Analytical Framework: Interests, Interactions & Institutions

- FLS: Chapter 2.
- Play this game: http://ncase.me/trust/
Monday February 4

8. Interests and Actors


Wednesday February 6

9. War and Bargaining

- FLS: chapter 3

Monday February 11

10. Bargaining and War


Wednesday February 13

11. Domestic Politics and War

- FLS: Chapter 4

Monday February 18

12. International Institutions and War

- FLS: Chapter 5
13. **International Trade**

- **FLS**: Chapter 7

**Monday February 25**

14. **International Trade and International Institutions**

I’m deliberately leaving room here to insert up-to-date readings on the EU, NAFTA and Brexit.

- Brexit. “How Brits view Brexit: Indifferent on many aspects, but divided on others.” [http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europppblog/2017/08/17/study-how-britain-views-brexit/?fbclid=IwAR1DY8x8GcqjpSbbQ_aBn6AlI-uaRp8gf1PC0AvjC7b0_Bhl-oyUkpRXE](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europppblog/2017/08/17/study-how-britain-views-brexit/?fbclid=IwAR1DY8x8GcqjpSbbQ_aBn6AlI-uaRp8gf1PC0AvjC7b0_Bhl-oyUkpRXE)

**Wednesday February 27**

15. **International Trade and Globalization**


**Monday March 4**

16. **International Financial Relations**

- **FLS**: Chapter 8

**Wednesday March 6**

**MID-TERM**

**Monday March 11**

17. **Spring BREAK**

**Wednesday March 13**

18. **Spring BREAK**
Monday March 18

19. **International Development**

- **FLS**: Chapter 10

Wednesday March 20

20. **International Regimes**

- **FLS**, Chapter 11.

Monday March 25

21. **International Law**


Wednesday March 27

22. **Human Rights**

- **FLS**: Chapter 12

Monday April 1

23. **Terrorism**

- **FLS**, Chapter 6.
24. Nuclear Weapons

- FLS, Chapter 14, pp.538–548

Monday April 8

25. Cyber Warfare


As you can imagine, there’s a rapidly growing literature on this topic. In case you are interested, here are some more readings you might find worthwhile.

- Check out the RAND Corporation’s page on Cyber Warfare: https://www.rand.org/topics/cyber-warfare.html
26. Democratic Backsliding


Wednesday April 10

27. The Environment

- FLS: Chapter 13

Wednesday April 17

28. The Rise of China

- FLS, Chapter 14, pp.548–556.

Monday April 22

29. Game Theory and Empirical IR


Wednesday April 24

30. **Real World IR of this semester**

• Making sense of what happened in the last couple of 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.