

## INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political Science 1380–001, Fall 2019  
MWF: 12:00–12:50pm, Dallas Hall 116  
Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

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Office hours:  
MWF 2:00–3:00pm  
and by appointment

### Course Description and Objectives

This course is a basic introduction to the field of international relations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) identify the types of interactions and influences that arise between or among individual, social, cultural, political, or economic experiences;
- (2) use the main analytical concepts and theories in the study of international relations to write analytical essays that demonstrate *clearly stated theses* to explain political events;
- (3) discuss the facts associated with important historical events and contemporary issues in international relations to *support* the thesis; and
- (4) evaluate competing arguments about behavior in international relations by using *evidence* from historical and contemporary events.

We begin in Part I by considering various concepts used in the study of international relations. These theoretical approaches provide us with the analytical framework to examine key issues and events. In Part II, we apply these concepts to one of the most important issues in international relations: war and peace. We consider several important cases of international conflict in the twentieth century and this century in order to apply the analytical framework to account for the cases of war. Part III provides an introduction to the politics of international economic relations. We examine the sources of international conflict and cooperation in areas such as trade, finance, and development in the globalized world. Part IV then surveys several issues that have particular salience in the contemporary world: such as civil war and international intervention, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and the global environment. In this concluding section, we will see not only how the analytical framework informs our understanding of current events, but also how it can help us predict future patterns and formulate policy responses.

### Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (20% of a student's course grade): Attendance at lecture and participation in discussion are mandatory. The readings vary in length and difficulty but average about 100–150 pages per week. You are expected to attend all the lectures and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being

prepared.

*After six unexcused absences, I may drop you from the course or give an FA (F for attendance) to your course grade. An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities require communication with me at the **beginning** of the semester. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.*

Ultimately your attendance and participation grade turns on **my** impression of how seriously you take this course. It is **your** responsibility to take this course seriously and let me know that. How? Attend class; be prepared for class—complete the reading assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions, and especially write a good memo; **arrive early** to class; remain for the entire class; *be attentive in class without distracting me or your classmates with phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips, coming-and-going, and so forth*; complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the papers and other assignments. Laptops, cell phones, smart phones, and *any electronic devices may not be used in class*—**not even for note-taking**.

2. Two short papers (60%): Over the course of the semester, each student will write **two** short papers. Each short paper should be 10 pages or longer (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font). Papers will be evaluated on the basis of: demonstrated mastery of the assigned readings; skill in exposing nuances of similarity and difference in various defensible positions; cogency, clarity, precision and organization of presentation; and relevance of evidence marshaled to *support your argument(s)*. Papers shorter than the indicated length will receive deduction of your grade unless you receive my consent prior to submission. Same if your paper is single-spaced, you use abnormally small or large margins or fonts (12-point), or your paper is not typed. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a serious illness or a death in the family. **Please plan to finish the assignment prior to the due date, and leave adequate time to work out any computer or printer problems that may arise.**
3. Take-home final exam (20%): The take-home final will be made available on May 2 (Thursday) and **due at 5:00pm on December 17 (Tuesday) by email**. It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Parts IV of the course. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 7 pages or longer (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond your control: e.g., illness or family emergencies.

*Each of you must meet with me for 15 minutes in the first weeks of the semester. Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. Be punctual.*

### **Disability Accommodations**

If you need academic accommodations for a disability, it is **your** responsibility to first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or [www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp](http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. You should then schedule an appointment with me to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4)

### **Religious Observance**

If you wish to be absent on religiously observed holidays that require missing class, you should notify me in **writing** at the **beginning** of the semester, and should discuss with me, **in advance**, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

### **Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities**

If you participate in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity, you will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

### **Books and Readings**

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are available electronically on the course webpage at Canvas (<http://canvas.smu.edu>). There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of Canvas.

Edward Alden and Laura Taylor-Kale, *The Work Ahead: Machines, Skills, and U.S. Leadership in the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2018).

Richard Baldwin, *The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016).

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (indicated as FLS below), *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, fourth edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).

### **Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Readings provide background on topics covered in class lectures and discussions, so read the assignments **before** the class for which they are assigned. Because the course will make frequent reference to current events, you should make a habit of *reading a respectable newspaper on a regular basis*.

## I. Foundations of World Politics and Theories of International Relations

### 1. Introduction (Aug. 26)

### 2. A Theoretical Introduction of International Relations (Aug. 28)

FLS, introduction (pp. xxiv–xxxix)

\* Jennifer Lind and William C. Wofforth, “The Future of the Liberal Order is Conservative: A Strategy to Save the System,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(2) (March/April 2019): pp. 70–80.

### 3. NO CLASS (Aug. 30)

### 4. A Historical Introduction of International Relations (Sep. 4)

FLS, introduction & chapter 1 (pp. xxiv–xxxix & 2–41)

\* Stephen Wertheim, “Neoliberalism Shaped the International System,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(3) (May/June 2019): pp. 175–182.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, **“Commanding Heights, The Battle for the World Economy: Episode 1, The Battle of Ideas”** (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSesR-\\_qOrE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSesR-_qOrE)) by Sep. 4.

### 5–7. The Framework: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (Sep. 6, 9 & 11)

FLS, chapter 2 (pp. 42–87)

\* Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (New York: Random House, 1951): pp. 330–337.

\* John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2001): pp. 29–54.

\* Patrick J. McDonald, *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009): pp. 23–49.

\* Stephen Kotkin, “Realist World: The Players Change, but the Game Remains,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 10–15.

\* Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, “Liberal World: The Resilient Order,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 16–24.

\* Graham Allison, “The Myth of the Liberal Order: From Historical Accident to Conventional Wisdom,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 124–133.

## II. War and Peace

### 8–9. Why Are There Wars? (Sep. 13 & 16)

FLS, chapter 3 (pp. 88–135)

\* Michael Mandelbaum, “The New Containment: Handling Russia, China, and Iran,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(2): pp. 123–131.

Recommended Film: “**The Fog of War**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 01309).

### 10–11. Will China and the United States Fight for Global Leadership? (Sep. 18 & 20)

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 606–619)

\* Kurt M. Campbell and Ely Ratner, “The China Reckoning: How Beijing Defied American Expectations,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(2) (March/April 2018): pp. 60–70.

\* “Did America Get China Wrong?” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 183–195.

\* Yuen Yuen Ang, “Autocracy with Chinese Characteristics: Beijing’s Behind-the-Scenes Reforms,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(3) (May/June 2018): pp. 39–46.

\* Elizabeth C. Economy, “China’s New Revolution: The Reign of Xi Jinping,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(3) (May/June 2018): pp. 60–74.

\* Adam Segal, “When China Rules the Web: Technology in Service of the State,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(5) (September/October 2018): pp. 10–18.

\* Oriana Skylar Mastro, “The Stealth Superpower: How China Hid Its Global Ambitions,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(1) (January/February 2019): pp. 31–39.

\* Yan Xuetong, “The Age of Uneasy Peace: Chinese Power in a Divided World,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(1) (January/February 2019): pp. 40–46.

\* Jessica Chen Weiss, “A World Safe for Autocracy: China’s Rise and the Future of Global Politics,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(4) (July/August 2019): pp. 92–102.

## **12–14. Domestic Politics and War (Sep. 23, 25 & 27)**

FLS, chapter 4 (pp. 136–183)

\* Bruce Russett, *Controlling the Sword: The Democratic Governance of National Security* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990): pp. 20–51.

\* Arthur MacEwan, “Is It Oil?” *Dollars & Sense* (May–June 2003): pp. 20–24.

\* Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post–Cold War World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993): pp. 3–42.

\* James Goldgeier and Elizabeth N. Saunders, “The Unconstrained Presidency: Checks and Balances Eroded Long Before Trump,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(5) (September/October 2018): pp. 144–156.

## **15. The Vietnam War: Dominoes and Domestic Politics (Sep. 30)**

\* Jerome Slater, “The Domino Theory and International Politics: The Case of Vietnam,” *Security Studies* 3(2) (Winter 1993/94), pp. 186–224.

## **16–17. The Iraq War: Containment, Prevention, and Domestic Politics (Oct. 2 & 4)**

\* Kenneth M. Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad?” *Foreign Affairs* 81(2) (March/April 2002): pp. 32–47.

\* John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “An Unnecessary War,” *Foreign Policy* 134 (January/February 2003): pp. 50–59.

\* James D. Fearon, “Iraq’s Civil War,” *Foreign Affairs* 86(2) (March/April, 2007): pp. 3–15.

\* Emma Sky, “Mission Still Not Accomplished in Iraq: Why the United States Should Not Leave,” *Foreign Affairs* 96(6) (November/December 2017): pp. 9–15.

\* Mara Karlin and Tamara Cofman Wittes, “America’s Middle East Purgatory: The Case for Doing Less,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(1) (January/February 2019): pp. 88–100.

\* “Commitment Issues: Where Should the U.S. Withdrawal from the Middle East Stop?” *Foreign Affairs* 98(3) (May/June): pp. 188–194.

\* Henri J. Barkey, “The Kurdish Awakening: Unity, Betrayal, and the Future of the Middle East,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(2) (March/April 2019): pp. 107–118.

\* Brett McGurk, “Hard Truths in Syria: America Can’t Do More with Less, and It Shouldn’t Try,”

*Foreign Affairs* 98(3) (May/June 2019): pp. 69–84.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Buying the War**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD03283; also available at: <http://vimeo.com/33033186>) by Oct. 4.

**18–19. Review (Oct. 7 & 9)**

**20. NO CLASS (Oct. 11)**

**21. U.S. Policy Making in a Global Age (Oct. 16)**

**[Guest Speaker: Professor Diana Newton]**

**22. NO CLASS (Oct. 18)**

**THE FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE OCTOBER 18**

### **III. International Political Economy**

**23. International Migration: What Happens When People Move Across Borders? (Oct. 21)**

**[Guest Speaker: Professor James Hollifield]**

**24–26. Politics of International Trade (Oct. 23, 25 & 28)**

Baldwin, chapters 2–3 (pp. 47–110)

FLS, chapter 7 (pp. 294–345)

\* Douglas A. Irwin, “The False Promise of Protectionism: Why Trump’s Trade Policy Could Backfire,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(3) (May/June 2017): pp. 45–56.

\* Alan S. Blinder, “The Free-Trade Paradox: The Bad Politics of a Good Idea,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(1) (January/February 2019): pp. 119–128.

## **27. Civil War (Oct. 30)**

FLS, chapter 6 (pp. 236 – 268)

\* Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done about It* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007): pp. 17–37.

## **28. International Intervention (Nov. 1)**

### **[Guest Speaker: Professor Karisa Cloward]**

\* Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya,” *Foreign Affairs* 90(6) (November/December 2011): pp. 48–59.

\* Severine Autesserre, “Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence, and International Intervention,” *International Organization* 63(2) (2009): pp. 249–280.

\* Virginia Page Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2) (June 2004): pp. 269–292.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the movie, “**Sometimes in April**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD02865; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZMiatyY9NY>), by Nov. 1.

Recommended Film: “**Hotel Rwanda**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD01762).

## **29–30. Politics of Development (Nov. 4 & 6)**

FLS, chapter 10 (pp. 424–461)

Baldwin, chapter 9 (pp. 242–279)

## **31–33. Globalization and Politics of the Backlash (Nov. 8, 11 & 13)**

Baldwin, chapters 4–7 (pp. 113–223)

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 619–635)

\* Kenneth F. Scheve and Matthew J. Slaughter, “How to Save Globalization: Rebuilding America’s Ladder of Opportunity,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 98–108.



\* Dani Rodrik, “Globalization’s Wrong Turn: And How It Hurt America,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(4) (July/August 2019): pp. 26–33.

### **34–36. Machines, Skills, and U.S. Leadership (Nov. 15, 18 & 20)**

Alden and Taylor-Kale (entire): 108 pages

Baldwin, chapter 8 & 10 (pp. 225–241 & 283–301)

\* Susan Lund, James Manyika, and Michael Spence, “The Global Economy’s Next Winners: What It Takes to Thrive in the Automation Age,” *Foreign Affairs* 98(4) (July/August 2019): pp. 121–130.

### **37. Review (Nov. 22)**

### **38. NO CLASS (Nov. 25)**

## **THE SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE Nov. 25**

### **IV. Contemporary Problems and Looking Ahead**

### **39. Terrorism (Dec. 2)**

FLS, chapter 6 (pp. 268–293)

\* Kosh Sadat and Stan McChrystal, “Staying the Course in Afghanistan: How to Fight the Longest War,” *Foreign Affairs* 96(6) (November/December 2017): pp. 2–8.

\* Lisa Monaco, “Preventing the Next Attack: A Strategy for the War on Terrorism,” *Foreign Affairs* 96(6) (November/December 2017): pp. 23–29.

\* Robert Malley and Jon Finer, “The Long Shadow of 9/11: How Counterterrorism Warps U.S. Foreign Policy,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 58–69.

Recommended Films: “**The Battle of Algiers**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 01535); “**Charlie Wilson’s War**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 03938).

#### **40. Nuclear Proliferation (Dec. 4)**

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 593–606)

\* John Mueller, “Nuclear Weapons Don’t Matter: But Nuclear Hysteria Does,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 10–15.

\* Nina Tannenwald, “The Vanishing Nuclear Taboo? How Disarmament Fell Apart,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 16–24.

\* Elbridge Colby, “If You Want Peace, Prepare for Nuclear War: A Strategy for the New Great-Power Rivalry,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 25–32.

\* Scott D. Sagan, “Armed and Dangerous: When Dictators Get the Bomb,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 35–43.

#### **41. NO CLASS (Dec. 6)**

#### **42. Politics of the Global Environment (Dec. 9)**

FLS, chapter 13 (pp. 540–583)

**TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on Dec. 9 and due Dec. 17, 5:00pm by email.**