

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political Science 1380–002, Fall 2016

TuTh: 12:30–1:50pm, Hyer Hall 111

Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

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Office hours:
Tu 3:00–5:00pm
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 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 the global environment, nuclear proliferation, China's rise, and global governance. 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 four 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 cell 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 (50%): Over the course of the semester, each student will write **two** short papers. Each short paper should be 8 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 (30%): The take-home final will be made available on Dec. 1 (Thursday) and **due at 5:00pm on Dec. 12 (Monday) by email**. It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Parts III and IV of the course. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 10 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 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 book is available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available electronically on the course webpage at the Blackboard (<http://courses.smu.edu>). There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of the Blackboard.

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (indicated as FLS below), *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, third edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016).

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. 23)

2. What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction (Aug. 25)

FLS, introduction & chapter 1 (pp. xx–xxxiii & 2–41)

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, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCYU_HviAh0) by Aug. 31.

3–4. Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (Aug. 30 & Sep. 1)

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.

* Michael Glennon, “Why the Security Council Failed, *Foreign Affairs* 82 (May/June 2003): pp. 16–35.

II. War and Peace

5. Why Are There Wars? (Sep. 6)

[Guest Lecturer: Professor Kenneth Schultz]

FLS, chapter 3 (pp. 88–135)

* Robert Gilpin, “The Theory of Hegemonic War,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (Spring 1988): pp. 591–613.

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

6. World War I (Sep. 8)

* Stephen Van Evera, “The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War,” *International Security* 91(1) (Summer 1984): 58–107.

7. World War II (Sep. 13)

* Woodrow Wilson, “Fourteen Points”

* P.M.H. Bell, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*, third edition (Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 2007): pp. 15–42.

* Allan Bullock, “Hitler and the Origins of the Second World War,” in Wm. Roger Louis, ed., *The Origins of the Second World War: A.J.P. Taylor and His Critics* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1972): pp. 117–145.

* Hossbach, “Memorandum,” in *Documents on German Foreign Policy 1918–1945*, series D, vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1949): pp. 29–39.

8. The Cold War (Sep. 15)

* George Kennan (“X”), “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs* 25(4) (July 1947), pp. 566–582.

* John Lewis Gaddis, “The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System,” *International Security* 10 (Spring 1986), pp. 92–142.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the movie, “**Thirteen Days**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD01726; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skrksTTxw9Y>), by Sep. 14.

9–10. Film: *Fair Game* (Sep. 20 & 22)

THE FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE SEP. 22

11–12. Domestic Politics and War (Sep. 27 & 29)

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.

* J. A. Hobson, "Imperialism: A Study," in Harrison M. Wright, ed., *The "New Imperialism": Analysis of Late Nineteenth-Century Expansion*, 2nd ed. (Lexington, MA: D. C. Heath and Company, 1976), pp. 5–44.

* 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.

Recommended Film: "**Wag the Dog**" (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 08909).

13. The Vietnam War (Oct. 4)

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

14. The Iraq War and After (Oct. 6)

* 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.

* Steven Simon and Jonathan Stevenson, "The End of Pax Americana: Why Washington's Middle East Pullback Makes Sense," *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 2–10.

* Ali Khedery, "Iraq in Pieces: Breaking Up to Stay Together," *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 33–41.

* Kenneth M. Pollack, "Fight or Flight: America's Choice in the Middle East," *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 62–75.

* F. Gregory Gause III, "The Future of U.S.-Saudi Relations: The Kingdom and the Power," *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 114–126.

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. 5.

Recommended Film: "**Wadjda**" (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 01314)

15. Civil War and International Intervention (Oct. 13)

[Guest Lecturer: Professor Karisa Cloward]

FLS, chapters 5–6 (pp. 203–264)

* 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.

* 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.

* Jeremy M. Weinstein, “Autonomous Recovery and International Intervention in Comparative Perspective,” Center for Global Development, Working Paper Number 57.

* 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.

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

16. Terrorism (Oct. 18)

FLS, chapter 6 (pp. 264–287)

* Jessica Stern, “Obama and Terrorism,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(5) (September/October 2015): pp. 62–70.

* Daniel Byman, “Beyond Counterterrorism: Washington Needs a Real Middle East Policy,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 11–18.

* Stephen M. Walt, “ISIS as Revolutionary State: New Twist on an Old Story,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 42–51.

* Hisham Melhem, “Keeping Up with the Caliphate: An Islamic State for the Internet Age,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 148–153.

* Daniel Byman, “ISIS Goes Global: Fight the Islamic State by Targeting Its Affiliates,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 76–85.

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).

17. U.S. Policy Making in a Global Age (Oct. 20)

[Guest Lecturer: Professor Diana Newton]

18–19. Film: *Sometimes in April* (Oct. 25 & 27)

THE SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE OCT. 27

III. International Political Economy

20–21. International Trade (Nov. 1 & 3)

FLS, chapter 7 (pp. 290–339)

* Fukunari Kimura, “How Have Production Networks Changed Development Strategies in Asia?” in Deborah K. Elms and Patrick Low, *Global Value Chains in a Changing World* (Geneva: WTO Publications, 2013): pp. 361–383.

* Carla A. Hills, “NAFTA’s Economic Upsides: The View from the United States,” *Foreign Affairs* 93(1) (January/February 2014): pp. 122–127.

* Michael Wilson, “NAFTA’s Unfinished Business: The View from Canada,” *Foreign Affairs* 93(1) (January/February 2014): pp. 128–133.

* Jorge G. Castaneda, “NAFTA’s Mixed Record: The View from Mexico,” *Foreign Affairs* 93(1) (January/February 2014): pp. 134–141.

* Michael Froman, “The Strategic Logic of Trade: New Rules of the Road for the Global Market,” *Foreign Affairs* 93(6) (November/December 2014): pp. 111–118.

* Xinyuan Dai, “Who Defines the Rules of the Game in East Asia? The Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Strategic Use of International Institutions,” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 15(1) (2015): pp. 1–25.

* Douglass A. Irwin, “The Truth about Trade: What Critics Get Wrong about the Global Economy,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 84–95.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Commanding Heights the Battle for the World Economy: Episode 2, The Agony of Reform**” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9pn3iQU02w>) by Nov. 2.

22–23. Development and Globalization (Nov. 8 & 10)

FLS, chapters 8 & 10 (pp. 340–379; 420–455)

* Robert D. Blackwill and Jennifer M. Harris, “The Lost Art of Economic Statecraft,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 99–110.

* Jacob J. Lew, “America and the Global Economy: The Case for U.S. Leadership,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(3) (May/June 2016): pp. 56–68.

* Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, “Making America Great Again: The Case for the Mixed Economy,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(3) (May/June 2016): pp. 69–90.

* Jason Furman, “The Truth about American Unemployment: How to Grow the Country’s Labor Force,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 127–138.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, **“Commanding Heights the Battle for the World Economy: Episode 3, New Rules of the Game”** (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYf6gn_x-Zk) by Nov. 9.

Recommended Films: **“Mardi Gras: Made in China”** (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD02113; **“China Blue”** (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD04489)

IV. Looking Ahead: The Future of International Politics

24. The Global Environment (Nov. 15)

FLS, chapter 13 (pp. 532–575)

* Matthew M. Mench, “High Hopes for Hydrogen: Fuel Cells and the Future of Energy,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December): pp. 117–123.

* Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Jessica Seddon, and David G. Victor, “The Next Front on Climate Change: How to Avoid a Dimmer, Drier World,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 135–142.

* Varun Sivaram and Teryn Norris, “The Clean Energy Revolution: Fighting Climate Change with Innovation,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(3) (May/June 2016): pp. 147–156.

Recommended Film: **“An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning”** (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 02942).

25. Nuclear Proliferation (Nov. 17)

[Guest Lecturer: Professor Joshua Rovner]

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 579–590)

* Mohammad Javad Zarif, “What Iran Really Wants: Iranian Foreign Policy in the Rouhani Era,” *Foreign Affairs* 93(3) (May/June 2014): pp. 49–59.

* Barry Blechman and Russell Rumbaugh, “Bombs Away: The Case for Phasing Out U.S. Tactical Nukes in Europe,” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2014): pp. 163–174.

* James Blackwell (vs. Barry Blechman), “Nuclear Waste: Why Are American Nukes Still in Europe?” *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2015): pp. 177–179.

* Michael Mandelbaum, “How to Prevent an Iranian Bomb: The Case for Deterrence,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 19–24.

Cyrus Amir-Mokri and Hamid Biglari, “A Windfall for Iran? The End of Sanctions and the Iranian Economy,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(6) (November/December 2015): pp. 25–32.

* Eliot Cohen, Eric Edelman, and Ray Takeyh, “Time to Get Tough on Tehran: Iran Policy after the Deal,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(1) (January/February 2016): pp. 64–75.

* Ervand Abrahamian, “Reading Hume in Tehran: The Iranian Revolution and the Enlightenment,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(3) (May/June 2016): pp. 158–164.

Recommended Film: “Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb” (available at the Fondren Library Center AV Collection: call number IDD 00126).

26–27. The Future of International Politics: China’s Rise and Global Governance

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 590–627)

* Thomas J. Christensen, “Obama and Asia: Confronting the China Challenge,” *Foreign Affairs* 94(5) (September/October 2015): pp. 28–36.

* Fu Ying, “How China Sees Russia: Beijing and Moscow Are Close, but Not Allies,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(1) (January/February 2016): pp. 96–105.

* Robert D. Kaplan, “Eurasia’s Coming Anarchy: The Risks of Chinese and Russian Weakness,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 33–41.

* Pankaj Ghemawat and Thomas Hout, “Can China’s Companies Conquer the World? The Overlooked Importance of Corporate Power,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 86–

98.

* Michael Auslin, “Japan’s New Realism: Age Gets Tough,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(2) (March/April 2016): pp. 125–134.

* Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, “Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won’t Overtake the United States,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(3) (May/June 2016): pp. 91–104.

* Francis Fukuyama, “American Political Decay or Renewal? The Meaning of the 2016 Election,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 58–68.

* John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “The Case for Offshore Balancing: A Superior U.S. Grand Strategy,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 70–83.

* Larry Diamond, “Democracy in Decline: How Washington Can Reverse the Tide,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 151–159.

* Mark Blyth, “Capitalism in Crisis: What Went Wrong and What Comes Next,” *Foreign Affairs* 95(4) (July/August 2016): pp. 172–179.

TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on Dec. 1 and due Dec. 12, 5:00pm by email.