

## INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political Science 1380–001, Fall 2020  
MWF: 2:00–2:50pm, Hyer Hall 100 (SMUFlex)  
Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

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Virtual office hours: MWF 3:00–4:00pm  
Zoom office hours: 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 (including memo assignments) (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 (following the SMUFlex rules) and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. Most importantly, *students are required to turn in a memo by emailing it to the instructor by 5pm of the due date.*

Class attendance is expected. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared. If you cannot make class, you are responsible for the material you missed. Your attendance will be counted as long as you let me know your absence (preferably in advance, but if not then as soon as possible). In short, you must communicate with me as soon as possible when you have to be absent from class.

*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.

**Zoom Participation:** When you participate in a Zoom class meeting, you must turn on the video feature for the duration of the class meeting. Non-participation will lead to a commensurate penalty in your grade for the course. During the class, please obey the following Zoom protocol:

- Please raise your hand virtually by using the Raise Hand function.
- Please wait to be called on before you unmute to speak.
- Please use the Chat function only if you have trouble getting my attention.
- Please keep your video on so I can see you.

Mature, respectful behavior befitting an SMU student is expected. When you participate in a class meeting over Zoom, please find a quiet location where you may work uninterrupted. *Turn off mobile phones and other devices that may disrupt the meeting.*

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. **Three short papers (60%):** Over the course of the semester, each student will write **three** short papers. Each short paper will require 5–7 pages (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font) of writing. 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 problems that may arise.**

3. Take-home final exam (20%): The take-home final will be made available on November 20 (Friday) and **due at 6:00pm on December 15 (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 5–7 pages (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**

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214–768–1470 or visit [www.smu.edu/Provost/SASP/DASS](http://www.smu.edu/Provost/SASP/DASS) to begin the process. Once approved and registered, students will submit a DASS Accommodation Letter to faculty through the electronic portal *DASS Link* and then communicate directly with each instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

### **Religious Observance**

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/ChaplainandReligious-Life/ReligiousHolidays>).

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

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2020–2021 SMU Undergraduate Catalog](#) under “Enrollment and Academic Records/Excused Absences.”)

### **Student Academic Success Programs (SASP)**

Students needing assistance with writing assignments for SMU courses may schedule an appointment with the Writing Center through Canvas. Students wishing support with subject-specific tutoring or success strategies should contact SASP, Loyd All Sports Center, Suite 202; 214–768–3648; <https://www.smu.edu/sasp>.

## 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

#### 1. Introduction (Aug. 24)

#### 2–3. Theories and History of International Relations (Aug. 26 & 28)

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

\* Uri Friedman, “Why America Resists Learning from Other Countries,” *Atlantic*, May 14, 2020 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/05/coronavirus-could-end-american-exceptionalism/611605/>)

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 Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfRTpoYpHfw>) by Aug. 28.

#### **4–6. The Framework: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (Aug. 31, Sep. 2 & 4)**

FLS, chapter 2 (pp. 42–87)

\* John J. Mearsheimer, “Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order,” *International Security* 43(4) (Spring 2019): pp. 7–50.

\* Patrick J. McDonald, *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009): pp. 23–76.

***Memo Assignment 1 due Sep. 8, 5pm, by email.***

## **II. War and Peace**

#### **7–8. Why Are There Wars? (Sep. 7 & 9)**

FLS, chapter 3 (pp. 88–135)

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

#### **9–10. Will China and the United States Fight for Global Leadership? (Sep. 11 & 14)**

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.

\* Alastair Iain Johnston, “The Failure of the ‘Failure of Engagement’ with China,” *The Washington Quarterly* 42(2) (Summer 2019): pp. 99–114.

\* Hiroki Takeuchi, “Domestic Politics of Chinese Foreign Policy: Where Will Xi Jinping Bring China?” *Asian Security* 15(2) (May 2019): 205–213.

\* Suisheng Zhao, “Rhetoric and Reality of China’s Global Leadership in the Context of COVID-19: Implications for the US-led World Order and Liberal Globalization,” *Journal of Contemporary China* (forthcoming, 2020): 1–16.

\* Claire Cain Miller, “The Long Term Jobs Killer Is Not China: It’s Automation,” *New York Times*, December 21, 2016 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/21/upshot/the-long-term-jobs-killer-is-not-china-its-automation.html?>)

## **11. Review (Sep. 16)**

## **12. U.S. Policy Making in a Global Age (Sep. 18)**

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

**THE FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE SEP. 22, 5PM, BY EMAIL**

## **13–16. Domestic Politics and War (Sep. 21, 23, 25 & 28)**

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.

## **17. 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.

***Memo Assignment 2 due Oct. 6, 5pm, by email.***

## **18–19. The Iraq War: Containment, Prevention, and Domestic Politics (Oct. 2 & 5)**

\* 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.

\* John Zaller, “Elite Leadership of Mass Opinion: New Evidence from the Gulf War,” in W. Lance Bennett and David L. Paletz, *Taken by Storm: The Media, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy*

*in the Gulf War* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1994): pp. 186–209.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Buying the War**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD03283; also available at: <http://vimeo.com/33033186>) by Oct. 5.

## **20. Review (Oct. 7)**

## **21. U.S. Policy Making in the Middle East (Oct. 9)**

**[Guest Speaker: Ambassador Robert Jordan, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia]**

**THE SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE OCT. 15, 5PM, BY EMAIL**

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

## **22–25. Politics of International Trade (Oct. 12, 14, 16 & 19)**

FLS, chapters 7–8 (pp. 294–345 & 371–377)

Baldwin, chapters 2–5 (pp. 47–176)

\* Hiroki Takeuchi, “Is the Liberal International Order Dead? Global Value Chains and the CPTPP.”

\* Jack Ewing, “Trump’s Trade War May Create New Auto Jobs. In China.” *New York Times*, October 28, 2018 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/26/business/china-jobs-automobiles-trade-war.html?>)

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Commanding Heights, The Battle for the World Economy: Episode 2, Agony of Reform**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eSeaBSFHW8>) by Oct. 12.

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

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

FLS, chapter 8 (pp. 377–382).

James F. Hollifield, “Migration and International Relations” (54 pages)

## **27–28. Politics of Development (OCT. 23 & 26)**

FLS, chapter 10 (pp. 424–461)

Baldwin, chapter 9 (pp. 242–279)

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 New Rules of the Game”** (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgFrBedellIA>) by Oct. 26.

*Memo Assignment 3 due Oct. 29, 5pm, by email.*

## **29–31. Globalization and Politics of the Backlash (Oct. 28, 30 & Nov. 2)**

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 619–635)

Baldwin, chapter 8 (pp. 225–241)

Alden and Taylor-Kale (entire): 108 pages

\* Trip Gabriel, “For 3 Indiana Brothers, ‘America First’ Cuts 2 Ways,” *New York Times*, March 3, 2017 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/03/us/trump-trade-effects-indiana.html?>)

\* Conor Dougherty and Andrew Burton, “A 2:15 Alarm, 2 Trains and a Bus Get Her to Work by 7 A.M.” *New York Times*, August 17, 2017 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/17/business/economy/san-francisco-commute.html?>)

## **32. Review (Nov. 4)**

## **33. Foreign Policy Making in Action: Canada and USMCA (Nov. 6)**

**[Guest Speaker: Dr. Rachel McCormick, Consul-General of Canada in Dallas]**

**THE THIRD SHORT PAPER DUE NOV. 10, 5PM, BY EMAIL**

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

## **34. Civil War (Nov. 9)**

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.

### **35. International Intervention (Nov. 11)**

#### **[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.

Recommended Films: “**Hotel Rwanda**” (available at the Hamon Library AV Collection: call number IDD01762); “**Sometimes in April**” (available at the Hamon Library AV Collection: call number IDD02865).

*Memo Assignment 4 due Nov. 17, 5pm, by email.*

### **36. Terrorism (Nov. 13)**

FLS, chapter 6 (pp. 268–293)

\* 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 Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 01535); “**Charlie Wilson’s War**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 03938).

### **37. Nuclear Proliferation (Nov. 16)**

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.

### **38. Politics of the Global Environment (Nov. 18)**

FLS, chapter 13 (pp. 540–583)

\* Joshua Busby, “Warming World: Why Climate Change Matters More than Anything Else,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 49–55.

### **39. Looking Ahead: The United States, the World, and the Future (Nov. 20)**

\* Richard Haass, *The World: A Brief Introduction* (New York: Penguin Press, 2020): pp. 251–303.

### **40. NO CLASS (Nov. 23)**

### **41. Review (Dec. 2)**

### **42. Challenges to the Global Order (Dec. 4)**

**[Guest Speaker: Ambassador Thomas Schieffer, former U.S. ambassador to Japan and Australia]**

**TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on Nov. 20 and due Dec. 15, 6:00pm by email.**