

POLS 306 — Fall 2013
Introduction to International Relations

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Class: TuTh 1:30–2:45pm, Eng. Building 313
Office Hours: Tu 3:00–5:00pm
and by appointment.

Course Description

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the important actors throughout world politics, the goals those actors have, and the problems they encounter. To understand these areas, students examine the various frameworks that political scientists use to evaluate actors, interests, and events in world politics. Thus, the course not only examines the theoretical approaches to understanding world politics, but how political science is a social science and evaluates the world. The areas this course covers include power, security, war, peace, international economics (trade, monetary policy, finance, and development), international organizations, and the role of non-state actors. As an introductory class, this covers a breadth of topics and encourages students to follow up on any particular thread further in more advanced courses offered in the department.

Course Format

The course is primarily lecture based. As such, students are expected to attend lectures each day. Additionally, the lectures are not purely drawn from the course readings and students will be responsible for knowing both written materials as well as what is covered in lecture for any quiz, test, and written assignment.

Required Text

There are three books required for the course:

1. Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz. 2012. 2nd Edition. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. ISBN: 0393912388. New York: W.W. Norton.
2. Nagl, John A. 2002. *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam*. ISBN: 0226567702. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
3. Bates, Robert H. 2009. 2nd edition. *Prosperity & Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. ISBN: 0393933830. New York: W. W. Norton

In addition to the books, there will be several articles required throughout the course. These articles will be available on blackboard under the **Course Documents** section.

This course does not require subscription to a newspaper or a magazine, but being knowledgeable about current events will certainly help your performance in the class as it will become easier to relate the topics we are discussing to ongoing events. A few recommended sources include:

- *The New York Times*
- *The Wall Street Journal*
- *The Economist*

Additionally, academic political science blogs can provide a wealth of information on specific topics. A few blogs worth following are (click to go to the website):

- The Quantitative Peace
- The Monkey Cage
- The Duck of Minerva

Finally, if you are a reddit users, there are several useful subreddits that can enhance your knowledge about world politics or international relations. Two academically inclined subreddits include:

- r/IRstudies
- r/PoliticalScience
- r/ForeignPolicyAnalysis
- r/GameTheory

Course Requirements

1. Geography Quizzes: 10%

Students should come out of this class with a broader understanding of how the international arena looks and how actors behave. In addition to this, it is prudent for students to understand where countries are physically located and what their neighbors look like. States are more likely to go to war with their neighbors than with any other state in the international system, and knowing what regions look like is important. There will be five geography quizzes throughout the course. The quiz will point to a set of countries and students will have to write down the names of the countries marked on the map. The quizzes will usually occur at the start of class, so punctuality for those days are important. The five regions are Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Middle East. The list of countries for each region is available on Blackboard.

2. Three Major Tests: 45%

There will be three non-cumulative exams covering the material that occurs prior to the test itself. Two of the exams will happen during normal lecture periods while the 3rd will take place during the final day and time for the course.

3. Hypothesis Testing Paper 25%

Each student will be required to write a 4-5 page paper (double space, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins) that applies the study of political science to an area of world politics that they are interested in. Students will be required to formulate a hypothesis with regards to two types of variables, explain why they believe this relationship exists, collect the data for at least 50 countries, present the relationship between the variables, and discuss whether or not their hypothesis was supported. 5% of the project will be from a one-page proposal where the students state their hypotheses and where they expect to get the data from for their test (**Due 10/24**). The remaining 20% of the project will be from the final paper which is due on the last day of class **Due 12/12**.

4. Reaction Paper 20%

For one of the books (Bates and Nagl), you will write a short 3-4 page paper (Double space, 12 pt font, 1" margins) focusing on one particular aspect of the book and analyzing it. The reaction paper should either be critical of some particular point or embrace the argument and expand it to another region not covered by the book. **The paper is due the day the book is assigned to be due.** For Nagl, this is 9/26. For Bates, this is 11/14.

If students are unhappy with their first grade (this only applies to those who write the Nagl paper), they can write the second hypothesis paper (Bates). The two grades will be averaged, thus making each reaction paper worth 10%.

General Guidelines and Information

1. **Lectures will begin on time.** Avoid arriving late to class; otherwise, you may miss important material, quizzes, or information about class assignments. However, being late is better than not showing up at all. If you do arrive late, attempt to arrive quietly into class and avoid making too much of a disruption. The same is true if you have to leave class early. If you miss any information due to your absence, ask a classmate for notes and to help you catch up. In general, it is a good policy to find people within the class that you can share notes with and be able to study collectively.
2. **Study guides and extra credit.** I do not offer either of these.
3. **Please avoid classroom disruptions.** Turn your cellphones to silent before class begins.
4. **Use the APSA style of reference.** To standardize citations and references, follow the guidelines set out by the *American Political Science Association*. Information and guidelines can be found in the following PDF file: <http://www.apsanet.org/media/PDFs/Publications/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>.
5. **Cheating and plagiarism will result in failure.** All written work is subject to being submitted to SafeAssignment through Blackboard. This is a program that will find copied work from both published sources, the internet, and other work by students. Student who are found to be plagiarizing or cheating on a given assignment or test will automatically fail that assignment or test. If you wish to use your own work from another class, you must obtain permission from both instructors.
6. **SafeAssignment:** All written assignments must be turned in through SafeAssignment given the appropriate links on Blackboard. The digital copy is due by the start of class on the day the assignment is due to be turned in. Assignments not turned in digitally will not be graded and receive a zero for that assignment. If you have trouble with submitting an assignment, contact the instructor immediately.
7. **Missing exams and late assignments:** There will not be makeup exams or quizzes. Late paper assignments will be severely penalized—as such, having work completed early will increase your chances of avoiding penalties to your grade. The standard deduction will be one full letter grade per day that the assignment is late. That is, an B– will become a C–.
8. **Collective Note-taking:** To encourage collaboration in studying, I am trying something new this semester in facilitating the sharing of notes through Blackboard's Wiki section.
 - (a) For each class topic, there will be a Wiki page associated with it.
 - (b) These notes will be publicly available. Everything that is available will remain available to everyone else. If you delete things, do so carefully. Also, I can see the notes as well.
 - (c) For students who have a grade on the precipice of a higher mark, evidence of taking the class seriously is something I consider. As such, active participation in the public notes can provide that extra consideration in your grade.
 - (d) For the last point, not all students have access to laptops or can bring them to class. This should not discourage you from participating. You can backfill notes with additional thoughts, questions, and information from the book later on when you are reviewing the course material.
 - (e) Finally, at some point after the semester concludes, I will delete the notes on each page. As such, if you want to keep the public notes, make sure to save a local copy for yourself.

- (f) There exists an inherent collective action problem with these notes: Will you be able to overcome it?
9. **Lecture Pace:** I speak quickly. Some thoughts on how to deal with this:
- (a) Ask questions.
 - (b) Ask me to go over or to give more detail about a particular issue.
 - (c) Use the recorded lecture format to fill in notes (discussed above).
 - (d) Use group notes so you can worry less about the slides and more about what is being talked about.
10. **Grade appeals.** If you believe that you were not graded appropriately for a given assignment and wish to contest that grade, you must do so in writing. Appeals will not be accepted for 48 hours from which the assignment was returned. The appeal should clearly state your objection and request that your work be re-evaluated. Re-evaluated work will be graded from scratch and the grade can be increase or decrease from the grade originally assigned.
11. **The syllabus.** the syllabus is a living document that can and will be altered throughout the duration of the course based both on need and design. Generally, this may means readings will be removed or added as needed. All changes will be listed on Blackboard, so make sure to check announcements for any such change.
12. **Contacting the instructor.** The best way to get in touch with me is either through email. Any question that is of general interest to the entire class should may be answered in a way that provides the answer to the entire class.
13. **Accommodations:** To request academic accommodations for a disability contact the Disability Resource Center by phone, (208) 426-1583, or e-mail, drcinfo@boisestate.edu. Students are required to meet with a Disability Specialist prior to receiving accommodations and may be required to provide documentation to clarify accommodation requests. Information about a disability is confidential. More information on the accommodation process can be found at <http://drc.boisestate.edu>.

Final Grades

A: 93-100
A-: 90-93
B+: 88-90
B: 83-88
B-:80-83
C+: 78-80
C: 70-78
D: 60-70
F: 0-60

Clarification: The upper limit is a boundary. For example, if a student's final grade is an 82.3, they will get a B-; however, if they get an 83, they will receive a B.

Course Schedule

This is the reading you are expected to have done *by the day it is assigned*. As mentioned earlier, the books are going to be the longest part and you should start reading them well in advance of the due date for discussion. Suggestions for readings will also be welcomed if they are offered early enough.

Week 1

Introduction and Getting to the Modern State

August 27th	Introduction, Syllabus, State of Nature Game
August 29th	From Hunting and Gathering to Empires and Nation-States; The History of Violence

Required Reading	FLS Introduction
Article	Huntington, 1993, "The Clash of Civilizations"

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Podcast:	Link to Stuff You Should Know Podcast on "What was the most peaceful time in history?"
Video Game:	Civilization V (I recommend also having the Gods & Kings and Brave New World Expansions)
Book:	Jared Diamond, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>
Book:	Pinker, <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature</i>

Week 2

Interests, Institutions, and the State

September 3rd	Game Theory, The Prisoner's Dilemma
September 5th	Game Theory II

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 1
Article:	Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime"

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 1
Online Course:	Link to Game Theory 101
Film:	<i>A Beautiful Mind</i>
Film:	<i>Doctor Strangelove</i>
Podcast:	Freakonomics: Jane Austen, Game Theorist
Podcast:	Freakonomics: The Cobra Effect
Podcast:	Radiolab: The Good Show
Blog Post:	The Dark Knight and Game Theory

Week 3

International Relations and the Scientific Method

September 10th Political Science as a Science I, Europe Quiz
September 12th Political Science as a Science II, Rock–Paper–Scissors

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 2
Article: Singer 1965, “The Incomplete Theorist”
Article: Bull 1966, “International Theory: The Case for the Classical Approach”

Related material that expand upon this week’s topics

Study Guide: W.W. Norton’s Study Plan for Chapter 2
Article: Finnegan 1972, “International Relations: The Disputed Search for Method.”
Article: Wallace 1979, “Arms Races and Escalation: Some New Evidence.”
Book (science fiction): The Foundation: Book 1

Week 4

Theories of War

September 17th Introduction to Realism and Liberalism
September 19th Introduction to Bargaining

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 3
Article: Thucydides 431 BCE, “The Melian Dialogue”

Related material that expand upon this week’s topics

Study Guide: W.W. Norton’s Study Plan for Chapter 3
Article: Walt 1998, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories.”
Film: *The Godfather*
Film: Duck Soup
Podcast: Stuff You Missed in History Class: The Christmas Truce
Board Game: Risk

Week 5

Domestic Politics and War

September 24th Breaking Down the State, Asia Quiz
September 26th Domestic Politics and the Iraq War , Democracy Simulation, Nagl Paper Due

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 4
Book: Nagl, “Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam.”
Due: Nagl Paper, 9/26

Related material that expand upon this week’s topics

Study Guide: W.W. Norton’s Study Plan for Chapter 4
Film: Charlie Wilson’s War

Week 6

Test, Civil War

October 1st	Test #1
October 3rd	Civil War

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 6 (p. 219–241)
Article:	Fearon 2007, “Iraq’s Civil War.”

Related material that expand upon this week’s topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton’s Study Plan for Chapter 6
Blog Post:	Foreign Policy: Why Dictators Should Fear Big Cities
Song:	Ring of Revolution - Phil Ochs
	Ring of Revolution - The Weakerthans Cover

Week 7

International Institutions and Regimes

October 8th	Alliances
October 10th	Reigning in other states, Africa Quiz

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 5
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Related material that expand upon this week’s topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton’s Study Plan for Chapter 5
Podcast:	Stuff You Should Know: How the Rules of War Work
Podcast:	Stuff You Should Know: “No Fly Zones”

Week 8

States Versus Non-state Actors

October 15th	Extra-state actors
October 17th	Terrorism

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 6 (p. 242–263)
Article:	Pape 2003, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.”

Related material that expand upon this week’s topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton’s Study Plan for Chapter 6
Film:	The Battle of Algiers
Film:	Lawrence of Arabia
TV Episode	The West Wing, Season 1, Episode 3, “A Proportional Response” (Available via Netflix).

Week 9

Globalization and Trade

October 22nd	Trade I
October 24th	Trade II, America's Quiz

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 7
Due:	Hypothesis Proposal 10/24

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 7
Article:	Rogowski 1987, "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade."
Podcast:	Planet Money #454: The Lollipop War
Board Game	The Settlers of Catan (Amazon.com)

Week 10

International Monetary Relations

October 29th	Test #2
October 31st	Introduction to Monetary Relations

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 9
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Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 9
Comic:	<i>Saturday Morning Breakfast Comics</i> #2936
Podcast:	Planet Money #421: Birth of the Dollar Bill
Podcast:	Planet Money #450: Bitcoin Goes to the Moon

Week 11

International Finance

November 5th	International Financial Relations I
November 7th	International Financial Relations II, Middle East Quiz

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 8
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Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 8
Podcast:	This American Life #:455: Continental Breakup

Week 12

Development

November 12th	Development I
November 14th	Development II, Bates Paper Due

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 10 FLS
Due:	Bates Paper, 11/14

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 10
Podcast:	Stuff You Missed in History Class: How the Marshall Plan Worked
Podcast:	Planet Money #224: The Cotton Wars
Podcast:	Planet Money #415: Can a Poor Country Start Over?
Video Game:	Tropico 4 (Amazon link)
Song:	Dublin In The Rare Old Times - The Dubliners
	Dublin In The Rare Old Times - Flogging Molly Cover

Week 13

Human Rights

November 19th	The Practice of Human Rights
November 21st	The Study of Human Rights

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 11-12
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Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 11
Data:	CIRI Human Rights Data Project
TV Episode:	Deep Space Nine, "The Duet" available via Netflix.
TV Episode:	West Wing, Season 3, Episode 8, "The Women of Qumar" available via Netflix.

Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

The Environment

December 3rd	The Environment I
December 5th	The Environment II

Required Reading	FLS Chapter 13
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Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 13
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Week 15

The Future of IR

December 10th

December 12th

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Rise of China, Hypothesis Paper Due

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 14

Due:

Hypothesis paper due 12/12

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide: W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 14

Film: Thirteen Days

Podcast: Stuff You Should Know: What is Mutual Assured Destruction?

Podcast: Stuff You Missed in History Class: Fritz Haber

Blog Post: The Monkey Cage: "The Sham of All Fears"

Song: 99 Red Balloons

Book: *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: An Enduring Debate*, Scott Sagan & Kenneth Waltz

TV Episode: Star Trek, "A Taste of Armageddon" (Original Series, available via Netflix)

Final

Tuesday, December 17th, 2:30-4:30