

POLS 306 — Spring 2014
Introduction to International Relations

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Class: MW 1:30–2:45pm, Norco 112
Office Hours: M 3:00–5:00pm
and by appointment.

Course Description

This course offers 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. Daniel Drezner. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*. ISBN: 9780691147833. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University 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, 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. **Blog Quizzes: 10%**

Most of our consumption about the world is now through the internet and television. The younger you are, the more likely you are to rely exclusively on the internet for updates about current events. This is not necessarily a bad thing. As part of this class, I expect you to keep up with two blogs on a semi-daily basis: The Monkey Cage and The Duck of Minerva. Every Wednesday, when there is nothing else due, I will have a short quiz covering both blogs from the previous weekdays (specifically, the Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday prior to class). The exams will focus on international and comparative topics and include questions that highlight factual, conceptual, and applied ideas discussed in class and on the blogs.

2. **Reaction Papers 20%**

Students will write a reaction paper for the assigned books. Each paper will be six pages long (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 an argument and expand it to another area not covered by the author. **The paper is due the day the book is assigned to be due.** For Drezner, this is 2/19. For Bates, this is 4/23. If students are unsatisfied with their performance on the Drezner paper, they can have the Bates' paper account for half the Drezner paper's value.

3. **Hypothesis Testing Paper 25%**

Each student will write a ten 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 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 3/31**). The remaining 20% of the project will be from the final paper which is due on the last day of class **Due 5/7**.

4. **Three Major Tests: 45%**

There will be three non-cumulative exams covering the material prior to that particular test. Two of the exams will happen during normal lecture periods while the third will take place during the assigned day and time for finals.

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. **Recording Lectures:** I intend to capture each lecture with Camtasia. The software captures both the audio from the lecture as well as the slides on the computer. This resource is intended to be a supplement to students to help them when they miss class, when they want to double check their notes, or are reviewing for an exam. However, there are a few caveats that come with the use of this software that students should be aware of:
 - (a) The lecture will be posted a week after the class occurs. A Monday lecture will be posted the following Monday; a Wednesday lecture will be posted the following Wednesday. In the case of an upcoming exam, I may post the lectures early.
 - (b) Recording quality is not guaranteed. The software relies on my internal microphone and, given the size of the classroom and my movement while lecturing, there will be times when the audio is not clear.
 - (c) Recording itself is not guaranteed either. The software partially relies on having a stable internet connection and if that goes out or is inaccessible, then I will not be able to record the class. Other technical difficulties may make recording problematic and thus, students should not come to expect that there all lectures will be recorded. It will be there as a luxury when possible.
 - (d) Finally, if the recordings negatively impact class (attendance, participation, etc.), then I will discontinue recording the lecture sessions.

Given these issues, students are strongly encouraged to attend class during the regular session.

9. **Collective Note-taking:** To encourage collaboration in studying, I am 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?
10. **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.
 - (e) If English is your second language, please contact me so we can discuss additional resources for note taking.
11. **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.
12. **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 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.
13. **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.
14. **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

January 22nd Introduction, Syllabus, State of Nature Game

Required Reading

Article FLS Introduction
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, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

Book: Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*

Help on reading in political science

Article: Leane Powner, "Reading and Understanding Political Science."

Blog Post: How to Read in College

Week 2

Interests, Institutions, and the State

January 27th	From Hunting and Gathering to Empires and Nation–States; The History of Violence
January 29th	Game Theory, The Prisoner’s Dilemma

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

Game Theory II and the Scientific Method I

February 3rd	Game Theory II
February 5th	Political Science as a Science I

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

Social Science II and Theories of War

February 10th	Political Science as a Science II, Rock–Paper–Scissors
February 12th	Introduction to Realism and Liberalism

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:	<i>The Godfather</i>
Film:	Duck Soup
Podcast:	Stuff You Missed in History Class: The Christmas Truce
Board Game:	Risk

Week 5

Theories of War II

February 17th

President's Day, No class

February 19th

Introduction to Bargaining, Drezner Paper Due

Required Reading

Book

Drezner, "Theories of International Politics and Zombies."

Due:

Drezner Paper, 2/19

Week 6

Domestic Politics and War

February 24th

Breaking Down the State

February 26th

Domestic Politics and the Iraq War , Democracy Simulation

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 4

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

TV Episode

The West Wing, Season 3, Episode 14, "Hartsfield's Landing." (Available via Netflix)

Week 7

Exam, Finish Domestic Politics

March 3rd

Test #1

March 5th

Review Exam, Domestic Politics II

Week 8

International Institutions and Regimes

March 10th

Alliances

March 12th

Reigning in other states

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 5

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 9

States versus Non-states

March 17th

March 19th

Civil War

Terrorism

Required Reading

Article:

FLS Chapter 6

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

Blog Post:

Foreign Policy: Why Dictators Should Fear Big Cities

Song:

Ring of Revolution - Phil Ochs

Ring of Revolution - The Weakerthans Cover

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).

Spring Break

Week 10

Trade I

March 31st

April 2nd

Trade I, Hypothesis Proposal Due

No Class

Required Reading

Due:

FLS Chapter 7

Hypothesis Proposal 3/31

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 11

Trade II and Exam

April 7th

April 9th

Trade II

Test #2

Week 12

International Monetary and Financial Relations

April 14th	Introduction to Monetary Relations
April 16th	International Financial Relations I

Required Reading FLS Chapter 9 followed by Chapter 8

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 9
Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 8
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
Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 8
Podcast:	This American Life #:455: Continental Breakup

Week 13

Financial Relations II and Development

April 21st	International Financial Relations II
April 23rd	Development, Bates Paper Due

Required Reading FLS Chapter 8, 10
Due: Bates Paper, 4/23

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 14

Human Rights

April 28th	The Practice of Human Rights
April 30th	The Study of Human Rights

Required Reading FLS Chapter 11-12

Related material that expand upon this week's topics

Study Guide:	W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 12
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.
Film:	The Act of Killing

Week 15

The Future of IR

May 5th

May 7th

The Environment/Weapons of Mass Destruction

Rise of China, Hypothesis Paper Due

Required Reading

FLS Chapter 13-14

Due:

Hypothesis paper due 5/7

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

Wednesday, May 14th, 2:30-4:30