

**POLS 306 — Spring 2015**  
**Introduction to International Relations**

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Class: TTh 10:30–11:45pm, RFH 102A  
Office Hours: Tu 2:00–4:00pm  
*and by appointment.*

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## 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 Thursday, when nothing else major is due that day, I will have a short five question quiz covering the blogs from the previous week. I will post a list of articles the quiz may cover at the end of the week (by Sunday 5pm). 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 Paper 20%**

For each of the books (Drezner and Bates), you will write a 6 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 Drezner, this is 2/12. For Bates, this is 4/9.

### 3. **Hypothesis Testing Paper 25%**

Each student will write a 10–15 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 3/12**). The remaining 20% of the project will be from the final paper which is due on the last day of class **Due 4/28**.

### 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 3rd will take place during the final day and time for the course.

## 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/files/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) The recordings will only remain available for two weeks, after which, I will remove them from Blackboard. If you think you want the videos in the future, make sure to download them.
  - (e) 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. **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.
- 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 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](mailto: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+:97-100%    A: 93-96%    A-: 90-92%  
B+: 87-89%    B: 83-86%    B-:80-82%  
C+: 77-79%    C: 73-76%    C-:70-72%  
D+: 67-69%    D: 63-66%    D-: 60-62%  
F: 0-59%

## 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*

January 13th                                    Introduction, Syllabus, State of Nature Game  
January 15th                                    From Hunting and Gathering to Empires and Nation-States; The History of Violence

#### **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

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## Week 2

### *Interests, Institutions, and the State*

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 20th | Game Theory, The Prisoner's Dilemma |
| January 22nd | Game Theory II                      |

|                         |                                                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Required Reading</b> | 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          |

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## Week 3

### *International Relations and the Scientific Method*

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|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| January 27th | Political Science as a Science I                       |
| January 29th | Political Science as a Science II, Rock-Paper-Scissors |

|                         |                                                                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Required Reading</b> | 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                                                    |

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## Week 4

### *Theories of War*

|              |                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| February 3rd | Introduction to Realism and Liberalism |
| February 5th | Introduction to Bargaining             |

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Required Reading</b> | 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                                                            |

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## Week 5

### *Domestic Politics and War*

February 10th

February 12th

Bargaining Part II

Bargaining Part III, Domestic Politics, Democracy Simulation, **Drezner Paper Due**

### **Required Reading**

Book

**Due:**

FLS Chapter 4

Drezner, "Theories of International Politics and Zombies"

**Drezner, 2/12**

### **Related material that expand upon this week's topics**

Study Guide:

Film

TV Episode

W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 4

Charlie Wilson's War

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

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## Week 6

### *Test*

February 17th

February 19th

**Test #1**

Review Exam, Finish Domestic Politics II

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## Week 7

### *International Institutions and Regimes*

February 24th

February 26th

Alliances

Reigning in other states

### **Required Reading**

FLS Chapter 5

### **Related material that expand upon this week's topics**

Study Guide:

Podcast:

Podcast:

W.W. Norton's Study Plan for Chapter 5

Stuff You Should Know: How the Rules of War Work

Stuff You Should Know: "No Fly Zones"

## Week 8

### *States Versus Non-state Actors*

|                         |                                                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| March 3rd               | Civil War                                              |
| March 5th               | Terrorism                                              |
| <b>Required Reading</b> | FLS Chapter 6                                          |
| 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                                                 |
| Blog Post:   | Foreign Policy: Why Dictators Should Fear Big Cities                                   |
| Song:        | Ring of Revolution - Phil Ochs<br>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). |

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## Week 9

### *Globalization and Trade*

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|------------|------------------------------------|
| March 10th | Trade I                            |
| March 12th | Trade II, Hypothesis Proposals Due |

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Required Reading</b> | FLS Chapter 7                   |
| <b>Due:</b>             | Hypothesis <b>Proposal 3/12</b> |

### **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)                                   |

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## Week 10

### *International Monetary Relations*

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| March 17th | <b>Test #2</b>                     |
| March 19th | Introduction to Monetary Relations |

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Required Reading</b> | FLS Chapter 9 |
|-------------------------|---------------|

### **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    |

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## *Spring Break*



## Week 11

### *International Finance*

March 31st

April 2nd

International Financial Relations I

**NO CLASS — WPSA**

#### **Required Reading**

FLS Chapter 8

#### **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

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## Week 12

### *Development*

April 7th

April 9th

International Financial Relations II

Development, **Bates Paper Due**

#### **Required Reading**

FLS Chapter 10 FLS

**Due:**

**Bates Paper 4/9**

#### **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

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## Week 13

### *Human Rights*

April 14th

April 16th

The Practice of Human Rights

**NO CLASS — MPSA**

#### **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 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.

Film:

The Act of Killing

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## Week 14

*The Environment*

April 21st

April 23rd

**Required Reading**

The Study of Human Rights

The Environment

FLS Chapter 13

**Related material that expand upon this week's topics**

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

Podcast: Planet Money #433: Holding a Rainforest Hostage?

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## Week 15

*The Future of IR*

April 28th

April 30th

Weapons of Mass Destruction, **Hypothesis Paper Due**

Rise of China

**Required Reading**

FLS Chapter 14

**Due:**

**Hypothesis paper due 4/28**

**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)

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## Final

Thursday, May 7th, 10:00am-12:00pm