
POLI 1500:0AAA: Introduction to International Relations
Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:20pm Macbride Hall Auditorium
Fall 2018

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Menninga
Office: 311 Schaeffer Hall
Office Hours: Mon 9:00–11:00am, Wed 4:00-5:00pm, or by appointment
E-mail: elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu
Class Website: icon.uiowa.edu

Teaching Assistants & Sections

TA	Sections	Office	Office Hours	E-mail
JongHwan Han	02, 03, 15	318 SH	W 9:00-11:00am Thur 9:30-10:30am	jonghwan-han@uiowa.edu
Addison Huygens	04, 11, 13	330 SH	Mon 1:00-2:30pm Fri 12:00-1:30pm	addison-huygens@uiowa.edu
Hyein Ko	08, 09, 14	330 SH	Tues 1:00-3:00pm Wed 1:00-2:00pm	hyein-ko@uiowa.edu
Hoshik Nam	01, 05 07	367 SH	Thur 9:30am-12:30pm	hoshik-nam@uiowa.edu
Yufan Yang	06, 10, 12	330 SH	Tues 9:00am–12:00pm	yufan-yang@uiowa.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to achieve two objectives: (1) to introduce you to some of the most important topics and puzzles in the study of international relations, and (2) to provide you with some analytic concepts that can be used to study world politics. The course is designed to teach you how to think about politics in the global area and to prepare you for more advanced courses in international relations. There are no prerequisites for the course. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course, so if you do not already have your favorite source of news or history, now is a good time to find one. Newspapers including The Economist, BBC World News, The Wall Street Journal, NYTimes, Washington Post, or Foreign Policy all have pretty good coverage of international affairs, but any favorite news source, or two, will do.

Course Materials

The following required book is available in the Iowa Hawk Shop as well as on-line. All other readings are available on the course website.

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions. Third Edition* W. W. Norton & Company: New York, London.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade for the course will be determined by performance in three areas: class participation, response papers, and exams.

Participation in Section (15% of final grade)

Your sections provide an important opportunity for active learning and discussing the material critically. The sections allow you explore topics in depth that we cannot adequately cover in class. Sections will involve a variety of activities from discussion to simulations. Each student is expected to think critically about the readings before the class period listed. Participation points are assigned based upon the quantity and quality of a students contributions to the class. Quality is weighted significantly more heavily than quantity. Attendance in section is mandatory. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Each student has one unexcused absence that does not affect his/her participation grade. After that, each unexcused absence will count as 0 participation points for the day. See section syllabi for other details and useful information.

Response Papers (12.5% x 2 = 25%)

Students are also required to write two response papers (approximately **3-5 pages each**). The paper prompts will be uploaded to ICON. The first term paper is due on **October 22** (Monday) by 5:00pm; the second term paper is due on **November 28** (Wednesday) at 5pm. Please submit your papers to the appropriate Dropbox in ICON as a pdf. No other file formats will be accepted. It is your responsibility to ensure that your paper has been uploaded by the deadline. Failure to upload your paper in a timely manner will result in the paper being considered late. If you have technical issues, contact your TA (attaching a copy of your finished paper) as soon as possible. Additional details on the response papers and advice on writing a good response paper will be posted to the class website. Outside research is not required, but the use of current or historical events to defend your claims is always beneficial. The goal of these papers is to demonstrate that you have thought critically about the readings and lectures and that you can generate and defend a solid written argument. **Please do not summarize the readings.** We have already read them; Your TAs and I am interested in what you have to say in response to those readings. Remember to include any necessary citations and references. The issue of plagiarism is taken very seriously at Iowa.

Submitting a paper late will incur a penalty of 10% per day late unless evidence of a medical or family emergency in provided or arrangements were made *prior* to the due date. Please let your TA know as soon as possible if an emergency will prevent you from completing an assignment on time.

Exams (20% x 3 = 60%)

There will be two midterms and a final exam. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. Each exam will be a combination of short answer and multiple choice questions taken from the lectures, readings, and class discussions. Please come early on exam days in order to have the entire class period for writing the exam. The final exam will be weakly cumulative, meaning that topics that cut across sections of the course will be fair game and likely to show up on the final. Details from the readings in the first two sections of the course will not be covered on the final. The format of each exam will be discussed more completely in class when the exam date is closer.

Policy on Absences and Exams: You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency or university event. Make-up exams will only be allowed for documented emergencies or university events. All non-emergency make-ups must be discussed and scheduled *in advance* of the scheduled exam date and time.

Extra-credit Pop-Quizzes

From time to time, pop extra credit opportunities will be provided during lecture. Typically these will consist of a few questions about current events in world politics. Because these are extra-credit, no make-ups will be given.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for the course is as follows. Note that grades of A+ are reserved for exceptional circumstances when a student demonstrates intellectual capacity and rigorous scholarship.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	99-100
A	93-98
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	59 or below

Important Dates

- Midterm 1: Sept. 18
- First paper due: Monday, Oct. 22 at 5:00pm
- Midterm 2: Oct. 30
- Second paper due: Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 5:00pm
- Final Exam: TBA

Class Policies

Technology: Electronic devices, such as laptops, cellphones, tablets, and readers may not be used during class. This policy is aimed at providing the best possible learning environment for all students. The TAs will monitor the classroom looking for any student violating this policy. Violations will result in loss of participation points.

Email: All email communication with the professor or TAs should include a subject line that begins with Poli:1500 followed by a dash and more specific information regarding the purpose of the email. For example, "Poli:1500-meeting to discuss paper ideas". We all receive many emails a day, this helps ensure that yours doesn't get lost.

Email is a useful way to ask quick questions. However, replying to long questions about the readings or lectures is highly inefficient for both you and your instructors. If you want to talk about something you don't understand, come to office hours. In general, while we respond to student emails, we prefer to talk in person. Come see us during office hours!

Contesting a Grade: If a student wishes to have a grade on his/her work reconsidered, the student must submit a written statement to the appropriate TA within 48 hours of having the graded assignment returned. The written statement must include the student's rationale for why additional points should be given. The TA will then review the written statement and the assignment. After review the TA has the right to subtract points as well as add points. If the TA and student cannot resolve the concern, then the professor will adjudicate.

When Problems Arise: Students may find it hard to discuss difficulties, dilemmas, dissatisfaction, and the like with the instructors. Please resist the temptation to remain anonymous and let the problem fester. If you have any concerns about your class performance or anything related to the course, please email the instructor.

Honor Code: The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Code's application. All exams, written work, and other projects are expected to be the work of the student, and only the student, submitting the assignment unless stated otherwise explicitly in writing.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Information and Policies for Undergraduates

Administrative Home: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (<http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).

Electronic Communication: Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Accommodations for Disabilities: UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (<http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom: UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (diversity.uiowa.edu).

Academic Integrity: All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions communicated to the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

CLAS Final Examination Policies: The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policiesresources-examination-policies>).

Making a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chiar (Wenfang Tang, 335-2358). Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>).

Understanding Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy (<https://osmrc.uiowa.edu>).

Course Outline

Students are expected to keep up with the reading assignments and do the readings *before* coming to class. **Readings that are NOT labeled “FLS” (the Frieden, Lake, and Schultz textbook for this course) are uploaded on ICON.**

Conceptualizing International Relations: Theories & Frameworks

- August 21 (Tues): Introduction
- August 23 (Thurs): Studying International Relations: Puzzles, Theories, & Evidence
 - FLS, “Introduction”
 - Optional: Zinnes, “Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher”
- August 28 (Tues): Grand Theories of IR (Realism, Institutionalism, Constructivism)
 - See Week 2 Section Readings
- August 30 (Thurs): Anarchy & Order
 - Ikenberry, Chapter 2: “Varieties of Order: Balance of Power, Hegemonic, and Constitutional” pp. 21-49
 - *skim* FLS, Chapter 1: “What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction” pp. 2-41
- September 4 (Tues): Order as a Public Good
 - Finnemore, “Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity” pp. 58-85
 - See also Week 3 Section Readings
- September 6 (Thurs): Cooperation and Bargaining
 - FLS, Chapter 2: “Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions” pp. 42-79
- September 11 (Tues): Game Theory
 - FLS, “A Primer on Game Theory” pp. 82-87
- September 13 (Thurs): Overcoming the Prisoner’s Dilemma: Iteration & Institutions
 - Recommended: Oye, “Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies” pp. 1-22
- September 18 (Tues): Midterm 1

Conflict in the International System

- September 20 (Thurs): Sovereignty
 - See Week 6 Section Readings
- September 25 (Tues): Causes of International Conflict
 - FLS, Chapter 3: “Why Are There Wars” pp. 88-133
 - Optional: Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War” pp. 379-410 (See notes in text)
- September 27 (Thurs): International Security Institutions
 - FLS, Chapter 5: “International Institutions and War” pp. 184-212
- October 2 (Tues): Nuclear Proliferation and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
 - FLS, Chapter 14: “The Future of International Politics” pp. 579-589
- October 4 (Thurs): Causes of Civil War
 - Kalyvas, Chapter 18: “Civil Wars” pp. 416-431
 - FLS, Chapter 6: “Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism” pp. 234-263
- October 9 & October 11: Nonstate Actors and Terrorism
 - FLS, Chapter 6: “Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism” pp. 264-287
 - Cronin, “ISIS is not a terrorist group: Why counterterrorism won’t stop the latest jihadist threat” pp. 1-7
- October 16 (Tues): Human Rights & Humanitarian Intervention
 - FLS, Chapter 12: “Human Rights” pp. 490-528
 - NPR’s Talk of the Nation, “The ‘Responsibility to Protect’ in Syria and Beyond”
<http://www.npr.org/2012/02/06/146474734/the-worlds-responsibility-to-protect>
- October 18 (Thurs): Conflict Resolution
 - Walter, “Bargaining Failures and Civil War” pp. 244-259
- October 23 (Tues): Peacekeeping
 - FLS, Chapter 5 pp. 213-229
 - Optional: Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace”

- October 25 (Thurs): **The Kantian Peace & The Arab Spring**
 - RAND, “The Democratic Peace Idea” pp. 147-160
 - Goldstone, “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies” pp. 1-8
 - Robertson, “Think Again: Dictators” pp. 1-9
 - FLS, Chapter 4: “Domestic Politics and War” pp. 166-181
- October 30 (Tues): **Midterm 2**

International Trade and Finance

- November 1 (Thurs): **Introduction to IPE & Trade**
 - FLS, Chapter 7: “International Trade”
- November 6 (Tues): **Trade Institutions**
 - Pelc, “Why the deal to pay Brazil \$300 million to keep U.S. cotton subsidies is bad for the WTO, poor countries, and US taxpayers” pp. 1-3
 - Listen or read: “U.S. Takes Chinese Trade Complaints to WTO” (2.75 minutes) <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9482797>
 - For a 30 second insight into how specific these agreements can be: <http://www.npr.org/2017/02/14/515138463/u-s-court-of-international-trade-resolves-snuggie-issue>
- November 8 (Thurs): **Career Services Presentation**
- November 13 (Tues): **Monetary Systems, Exchange Rates & Financial Crises**
 - FLS, Chapter 9: “International Monetary Relations”
- November 15 (Thurs): **Current Accounts & Global Imbalances**
 - Frieden, “Global Imbalances, National Rebalancing, and the Political Economy of Recovery” pp. 1-11
- November 20 & 22: **No Classes: Thanksgiving Break**

Economic Development

- November 27 (Tues): **Past Strategies for Growth**
 - Rosling, TED Talk: “Let My Dataset Change Your Mindset” http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_at_state.html
 - Interactive: Gapminder <http://www.gapminder.org/world/>
 - FLS, Chapter 10: “Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations”

- November 29 (Thurs): **Development & Foreign Aid**

- FLS, Chapter 10: “Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations”

- December 4 (Tues): **Financial Institutions: The IMF & World Bank**

- NPR, Planet Money: “Do We Need the IMF” Starting at 2:00
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/05/24/136618552/the-tuesday-podcast-do-we-need>
- Riddell, “Things Fall Apart Again: Structural Adjustment Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa” pp. 53-68

Looking Ahead

- December 6 (Thurs): **The Rise of the BRICs and the Future of World Order**

- FLS, Chapter 14 pp. 590-600

Section Schedule

- **Week 1: Evaluating Theories & Evidence in IR**
- **Week 2: Debating the ISMs**
 - Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories” pp. 52-62
- **Week 3: Order & Power**
 - Mearsheimer & Walt, “The Case for Offshore Balancing: A Superior U.S. Grand Strategy” pp. 1-14
 - Mazarr, “The Once and Future Order: What Comes After Hegemony?” pp. 1-8
 - Lecture reading relevant to discussion: Finnemore, “Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity” pp. 58-85
- **Week 4: Game Theory in IR**
 - Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” pp. 248-259
- **Week 5: How to Write a Good Paper**
 - Check ICON for rubrics, prompts, and other resources.
 - Come to section with questions!
- **Week 6: Sovereignty**
 - Krasner, “Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States” pp. 85-20, see comments in text
 - Naim, “The Five Wars of Globalization” pp. 151-159
- **Week 7: Alliances**
 - NPR, “A Primer On The Complicated Battle For The South China Sea” pp. 1-6
 - Kahl, “The United States and Turkey are on a Collision Course in Syria” pp. 1-15
- **Week 8: Nuclear Proliferation**
 - See ICON. Readings updated to reflect constant changes in Iran and NK
- **Week 9: Humanitarian Intervention**
 - Valentino, “The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention: The Hard Truth about a Noble Nation” pp. 1-9
 - See ICON for some background on the conflict in Syria
 - Optional: Western & Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya” pp. 48-59

- Week 10: Mediation Simulation
 - See ICON for your role and background. Read over your role and put yourself in the shoes of the person/people you represent.

- Week 11: No Sections: Midterm

- Week 12: Trade Simulation
 - See Instructions on ICON

- Week 13: Brexit
 - See ICON for videos on the UK, EU, and Brexit

- Week 14: No Sections: Thanksgiving Break

- Week 15: Foreign Aid Debate
 - Easterly, “Foreign Aid for Scoundrels” pp. 1-8
 - Sachs, “The Case for Aid” pp. 1-7

- Week 16: Wrap Up & Review