

---

## **POLI 1500:0AAA: Introduction to International Relations**

Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:20pm

Macbride Hall Auditorium

*Fall 2019*

---

### **Course Information**

Instructor: Dr. Menninga

Office: 311 Schaeffer Hall

Office Hours: Wed 12:00pm –3:00 pm, or by appointment

E-mail: elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu

Class Website: icon.uiowa.edu

### **Teaching Assistants & Sections**

TA	Sections	Office	Office Hours	E-mail
Addison Huygens	07, 09, 10, 11	330 SH	Tues 2:00-3:00pm Wed 10:00am-12:00pm	addison-huygens@uiowa.edu
Hyein Ko	03, 04, 05	330 SH	Wed 2:00-5:00pm	hyein-ko@uiowa.edu
Saera Lee	01, 12, 13	330 SH	Wed 9:30-11:30am, 1:20-2:20pm	saera-lee@uiowa.edu
Yufan Yang	06, 14, 15	318 SH	Tues 9:30am-12:30pm	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. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions. Third/Fourth 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 student's contributions to the class. Quality is weighted significantly more heavily than quantity. Attendance in section is expected. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Each student has one unexcused absence that does not affect the participation grade. After that, each unexcused absence will count as 0 participation points for the day. Students who miss sections for university events, illness, family emergencies, etc should communicate with their TA *as soon as possible* to discuss the absence and request it to be excused. 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 28** (Monday) by 5:00pm; the second term paper is due on **December 4** (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. If you miss a scheduled exam, you may be allowed to take a make-up test, but there will be a substantial penalty.

### Extra-credit Pop-Quizzes

A few times throughout the semester, 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: Oct. 1
- First paper due: Monday, Oct. 28 at 5:00pm
- Midterm 2: Nov. 7
- Second paper due: Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 5:00pm
- Final Exam: TBA

## Class Policies

*Technology:* Cellphones may not be used during class. If you anticipate an important phone call (e.g. family emergency, on call for work) put your phone on vibrate and leave the classroom should you need to answer it. Other electronic devices like laptops or tablets are only allowed for classroom purposes (e.g. taking notes, looking at the textbook) and are **only permitted in the balcony**. If you'd like to use technology to take notes, please sit in the balcony. 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 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. Replying to long questions about the readings/lectures, however, is highly inefficient for both you and your instructors. If you want to talk about something you don't understand, come to office hours! 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 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 professor or TA.

*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

**Absences and Attendance:** Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing the absence policies for their courses, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, unavoidable circumstances, or University authorized activities (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>). Students may use this absence form to communicate with instructors.

**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>).

**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 is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>.

**Administrative Home of the Course:** 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 related policies. Other colleges may have different policies. CLAS policies may be found here: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

**Communication and the Required Use of UI Email:** Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

**Complaints:** Students with a complaint about a course should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to CLAS in 120 Schaeffer Hall. For more information, see <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

**Final Examination Policies:** The final exam schedule 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 information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals. Visit <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>.

**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](https://diversity.uiowa.edu)).

**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, please see <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 27 (Tues): Introduction
- August 29 (Thurs): No Lecture: APSA Conference
  - Read the background chapter of FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: Chapter 1 “What Shaped Our World?”
- September 3 (Tues): Studying International Relations: Puzzles, Theories, & Evidence
  - FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: “Introduction”
  - Optional: Zinnes “Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher”
- September 5 (Thurs): Grand Theories of IR (Realism, Institutionalism, Constructivism)
  - See Week 3 Section Readings
  - Revisit Tuesday’s FLS Chapter
- September 10 (Tues): Anarchy & Order
  - Ikenberry Chapter 2: “Varieties of Order: Balance of Power, Hegemonic, and Constitutional” pp. 21-49
- September 12 (Thurs): Order as a Public Good
  - Finnemore “Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity” pp. 58-85
- September 17 (Tues): Cooperation and Bargaining
  - FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: Chapter 2 “Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions” pp. 42-79
- September 19 (Thurs): Game Theory
  - FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: “A Primer on Game Theory” pp. 82-87
- September 24 (Tues): Overcoming the Prisoner’s Dilemma: Iteration & Institutions
  - Recommended: Oye “Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies” pp. 1-22

- September 26 (Thurs): Sovereignty
  - Krasner “Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States”
  - See also Week 6 Section Readings
  - NOTE: Week 6 Section readings will not be on Midterm 1 but are *crucial* to Paper 1.

- October 1 (Tues): Midterm 1

### Conflict in the International System

- October 3 (Thurs): Causes of International Conflict
  - FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: Chapter 3 “Why Are There Wars” pp. 88-133
  - Optional: Fearon “Rationalist Explanations for War” pp. 379-410 (See notes in text)
- October 8 (Tues): International Security Institutions
  - FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 5 “International Institutions and War” pp. 184-212
  - FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 5 “International Institutions and War” pp. 186-214
  - NPR “A Primer On The Complicated Battle For The South China Sea” pp. 1-6
  - Optional: O’Hanlon “Can America Still Protect its Allies? How to Make Deterrence Work”
- October 10 (Thurs): Nuclear Proliferation and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
  - FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 14 “The Future of International Politics” pp. 579-589
  - FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 14 “The Future of International Politics” pp. 593-606
- October 15 (Tues): Causes of Civil War
  - FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 6 “Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism” pp. 234-263
  - FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 6 “Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism” pp. 236-268
  - Optional: Kalyvas, Chapter 18 “Civil Wars” pp. 416-431
- October 17 & October 22: Nonstate Actors and Terrorism
  - FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 6 “Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism” pp. 264-287
  - FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 6 “Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism” pp. 268-291
- October 24 (Thurs): Human Rights & Humanitarian Intervention
  - FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: Chapter 12 “Human Rights”
  - NPR’s Talk of the Nation, “The ‘Responsibility to Protect’ in Syria and Beyond”

- October 29 (Tues): Conflict Resolution & Peacekeeping

- FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 5 “International Institutions and War” pp. 213-229
- FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 5 “International Institutions and War” pp. 214-233
- Autesserre: “The Crisis of Peacekeeping: Why the UN Can’t End Wars” pp. 101-116
- Optional: Walter “Bargaining Failures and Civil War” pp. 244-259
- Optional: Hegre et al “Evaluating the Conflict-Reducing Effect of UN Peacekeeping Operations”

- October 31 (Thurs): The Kantian Peace & The Arab Spring

- RAND “The Democratic Peace Idea” pp. 147-160
- FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 4 “Domestic Politics and War” pp. 166-181
- FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 4 “Domestic Politics and War” pp. 168-183
- Optional: Goldstone “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies” pp. 1-8
- Optional: Robertson “Think Again: Dictators” pp. 1-9

- November 5 (Tues): Wrap Up & Review

- Bring Questions!

- November 7 (Thurs): Midterm 2

### **International Trade and Finance**

- November 12 (Tues): Introduction to IPE & Trade

- FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: Chapter 7 “International Trade”

- November 14 (Thurs): 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 19 (Tues): Monetary Systems & Exchange Rates

- FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 9 “International Monetary Relations”
- FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 8 “International Financial Relations” pp.355-371 & Chapter 9 “International Monetary Relations”

- November 21 (Thurs): Exchange Rates & Financial Crises

- Revisit Tuesday’s Readings
- Optional: Alessi, “The Eurozone in Crisis” pp. 1-7
- Optional: Is China Manipulating its Currency?

- November 26 & 28: No Classes: Thanksgiving Break

### **Economic Development**

- December 3 (Tues): Past Strategies for Growth

- Rosling TED Talk: “Let My Dataset Change Your Mindset”
- Interactive: Gapminder
- FLS 3rd & 4th Edition: Chapter 10 “Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations”

- December 5 (Thurs): Development & Foreign Aid

- Revisit Tuesday’s Readings

- December 10 (Tues): Financial Institutions: The IMF & World Bank

- NPR Planet Money: “Do We Need the IMF” Starting at 2:00
- CFR Backgrounder on the IMF

### **Looking Ahead**

- December 12 (Thurs): The Rise of the BRICs & the Future of World Order

- Ikenberry “The Rise of China and the Future of the West” pp. 1-5
- Weiss “A World Safe for Autocracy? China’s Rise and the Future of Global Politics” pp. 92-102
- Optional: Tammen & Kugler “Power Transition and China-US Conflicts” pp. 35-55
- FLS 3rd Edition: Chapter 14 pp. 590-600
- FLS 4th Edition: Chapter 14 pp. 606-619

## Section Schedule

- **Week 1: Introductions**
  - Introductions, no reading for this week
  - Bring questions about the syllabus or course!
- **Week 2: Evaluating Theories & Evidence in IR**
  - See ICON for instructions from your TA. There will be a short article (or 2) for you to read before class posted to your section page.
- **Week 3: Debating the ISMs**
  - Snyder “One World, Rival Theories” pp. 52-62
  - Gelb, “GDP Now Matters More than Force” pp. 1-6
- **Week 4: Order & Power**
  - Lind and Wohlfarth “The Future of the Liberal Order Is Conservative: A Strategy to Save the System” pp. 70-80
  - Mazarr “The Once and Future Order: What Comes After Hegemony?” pp. 1-8
  - Campbell and Sullivan “Competition Without Catastrophe: How America can both Challenge and Coexist with China” pp. 96-110
- **Week 5: Game Theory in IR**
  - Jervis “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” pp. 248-259
- **Week 6: How to Write a Good Paper & Sovereignty**
  - Check ICON for rubrics, prompts, and other resources. Come to section with questions!
  - Naim “The Five Wars of Globalization” pp. 151-159
  - Optional for section (but mandatory for the paper): Krasner “Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States”
- **Week 7: Alliances**
  - 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 real world events.
- **Week 9: Terrorism**
  - Brands and Feaver “Trump and Terrorism: U.S. Strategy After ISIS” pp. 28-36
  - Zimmerman “The Never-Ending War on Terror” pp. 1-3
  - Optional: Byman “Should We Treat Domestic Terrorists the Way We Treat ISIS?” pp. 1-8

- **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 2**
  
- **Week 12: Trade Simulation**
  - Podcast: Topic: The Last Great Trade War & Why Economists Hate Tariffs
  - Check section page to prepare for in-class activity
  
- **Week 13: Brexit**
  - A Game of Chicken: The vote on Brexit is strangely dependent on the American poultry business
  - See ICON for videos on the UK, EU, and Brexit
  
- **Week 14: No Sections: Thanksgiving Break**
  
- **Week 15: Foreign Aid & Humanitarian Intervention**
  - Easterly “Foreign Aid for Scoundrels” pp. 1-8
  - Sachs “The Case for Aid” pp. 1-7
  - Valentino “The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention: The Hard Truth about a Noble Nation” pp. 1-9
  - Optional: Western & Goldstein “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya” pp. 48-59
  
- **Week 16: Wrap Up & Review**
  - Bring Questions!