

POLI 12: Introduction to International Relations

Summer 2013
Becker
MW 11 AM -1:50 PM
HSS 2305A

Instructor: Megan

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Office Hours: Tues 10-12
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This course introduces students to the study of international politics. No prior background in international relations is assumed. Students will acquire the basic analytic tools necessary to understand and explain a variety of international phenomena including war, terrorism, globalization, environmental cooperation, and human rights practices.

Goals of the Course

By the end of the course, students will...

- 1) Understand various arguments and concepts from the study of IR that help us explain international phenomena.
- 2) Apply these concepts to particular cases, both historical and current.
- 3) Engage with classmates regarding course content via class discussions and organized debates.

Readings

Readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned so that you can understand lecture and participate in discussion.

The textbook for this course is Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, Second Edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2013). Denoted as FLS below. It is available for purchase at the UCSD Bookstore and at various online dealers (Amazon \$95, used \$75 and up). An Ebook version of the text can be purchased at: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail-formats.aspx?ID=4294971747> (\$67.49 for downloadable version; \$33.75 for 180 day web access). Please note that the first edition, available used, is substantially different from the second edition.

The Student Studyspace through W. W. Norton is available at: <http://wwnorton.com/college/polisci/worldpolitics2/welcome.aspx>. Here you will find study plans, chapter outlines, practice quizzes, etc.

Grades

Grades for this course will be based on 1) Class Attendance and Preparation (20%), 2) Debate Participation (20%), 3) Midterm (30%), and 4) Final (30%).

Class Attendance and Preparation

Coming to class regularly having done the assigned reading is of the utmost importance, especially in a condensed summer course. Students' understanding of the material and the

quality of discussion will benefit from preparation in advance. To support this end, I will be giving an attendance quiz at the beginning of most class meetings. Each quiz will be worth three points—one for signing your name and one point for each of the two questions on the quiz. Students who arrive late may turn in a piece of paper with their name on it at the end of class to receive attendance credit, but no missed quizzes can be made up.

Class Participation

All students are expected to prepare for and actively participate in class discussions. In support of class engagement, you will be asked to prepare for discussion outside of class. Come to class prepared with any questions you may have about the day's assigned material. In addition, students are encouraged to find news articles related to course topics to share with the class. Students who bring in a printed copy of an article with a one page write-up relating the article to course themes and concepts (and share it with the class) will be given three extra credit points to put towards their quiz grade. Students can only earn extra credit for one article, but are encouraged to share frequently (informally) if they like. Further details and a model for the assignment will be given in class.

Class Debates

There will be four debates held over the course of our time together, two before the midterm and two after (see schedule of readings for exact dates). Each student will participate in two debates (one from each half of the course). Working in teams of ~5, students will represent one side of a current debate related to course topics and current events. Further details of the assignment will be distributed in class on July 3rd.

Exams

Both the midterm and final exam will be a mix of short answer/identification and essay questions. All students must bring their own blue books and take the midterm and final exams at the scheduled times. Missed exams may be made up only with proper documentation (doctor's note, etc). No exceptions.

While the mid-term will feature an in-class ID and essay portion, students will only complete in-class IDs for the final. The essay portion of the exam will be replaced with a 5-page position paper based on a debate of the student's choosing (must be one in which you participate). Further details on this assignment will be distributed in class on July 17th.

Academic Honesty

All work produced for this class must be original student work. Instances of plagiarism or cheating will be reported to the University administration and will result in an F for the course. Plagiarism is the direct reproduction of another scholar's written work without proper citation or the use of another scholar's idea(s) without proper citation. Students will be expected to submit certain assignments to turnitin.com, as directed by the instructor.

Students Needing Accommodation

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), which is located in University Center 202. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

Schedule of Readings

I. Introduction

July 1: FLS Introduction and Ch. 1 “What Shaped Our World”

July 3: FLS Ch. 2 “Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions”

II. War and Peace

July 8: FLS Ch. 3 “Why are There Wars?”

July 10: FLS Ch. 4 & 5 “Domestic Politics and War” and “International Institutions and War”

Debate 1: Should we negotiate with ‘rogue’ regimes?

July 15: FLS Ch. 6 “Civil War and Terrorism”

Debate 2: Should the international community intervene militarily in civil conflicts?

July 17: *Midterm Exam*

III. International Political Economy

July 22: FLS Ch. 7 “International Trade”

July 24: FLS Ch. 8 & 9 “International Monetary and Financial Relations”

Debate 3: Does the WTO hurt the global poor?

IV. Transnational Politics

July 29: FLS Ch. 11 “International Law and Norms”

Debate 4: Should economic sanctions be imposed on governments that violate human rights?

July 31: FLS Ch. 12 & 13 “Human Rights” and “The Global Environment”

August 2 (Friday), 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM: *Final Exam*

Disclaimer

This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.