

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Florida State University
Department of Political Science
Summer 2011

Contact Information

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Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 PM

Course Information

Course: INR 2002-02
Time: M-F 2:00-3:15 PM
Location: BEL 004
Website: Blackboard

1 Course Description

The goals of this course are to expose you to the major theories and topics in international relations, familiarize you with international issues and events, increase your ability to generate solutions to international problems, and improve your ability to think critically and analytically about international relations. The foundations of politics are interests, interactions, and institutions, both domestic and international. After discussing the primary actors in world politics and the goals they pursue, we will analyze why actors do not always get what they want. Next, we address why war occurs and what can be done to promote peace. Then, we turn our attention to the international political economy. We will address the following questions: Why do all countries restrict trade in some way? How do countries get what they want in terms of trade? How do nations manage the relationship between currencies? How and why do people invest overseas? Why are some countries rich and others poor? In the final part of the course, we turn our attention to transnational advocacy networks, terrorism, human rights, and the global environment. How do transnational networks influence politics? Why do some transnational actors use terrorism? What can be done to prevent terrorism? Why do states protect the human rights of people in other countries? Which human rights are universal? What are the foundations of international law? Why is it so hard to cooperate internationally to protect the global environment?

2 Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the key interests, actors, and institutions in international politics

- Generate theories about how individuals, states, and international institutions interact to produce outcomes in world politics
- Understand the core theories in international relations and apply them to current events in world politics
- Make policy recommendations based in theory regarding various topics in international relations

3 Required Book

There is one required book for the course, and it is available at the campus bookstore and a wide variety of online retailers. Note that purchase of the eBook is less expensive than purchase of the traditional text. You are expected to do the assigned readings before the class period indicated on the syllabus and come to class prepared with questions and comments. There are also some additional readings that will be posted on Blackboard.

- Frieden, Jeff, Lake, David, and Ken Schultz. 2009. *World Politics*. W.W. Norton Press.

4 Blackboard and Email

This course has a Blackboard website that can be accessed at <http://campus.fsu.edu>. You can login using your FSUID and password. Please check this site regularly for readings, assignments, and other updates. Announcements may be sent out via email to your FSU email account or posted directly on Blackboard. You are responsible for all information disseminated via Blackboard and/or email. If you primarily use a non-FSU email account, please set up email forwarding. I will respond to email during normal working hours, typically 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays. While I will do my best to respond to your email in a timely fashion, please do not send me an email on Sunday evening or an hour before an exam and expect an immediate response.

5 Evaluation

Your final grade is a weighted average of the following components, described in detail below:

- Attendance/Participation: 15%
- Exam 1: 30%
- Exam 2: 30%

- Exam 3 (lowest grade): 25%

5.1 Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

5.2 Attendance/Participation

The study of international relations is best understood through discussion and evaluation of alternative perspectives. Participation in class discussion increases active learning. While this class will have a large lecture component, there will also be opportunities for participation in classroom discussion. As such, it is vital that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings for the day.

I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester. I will also take note of how regularly you participate in class, both in productive and distractive ways. Your base attendance and participation grade will be based on the proportion of times I take attendance and you are in class. Then, I will adjust your grade up or down depending on your participation. In order to receive full points, it is highly recommended that you come to class prepared and willing to participate; merely showing up and occupying a seat will not constitute full participation. Other ways to lose participation points are: being a disruption to others (e.g. side conversations with friends, reading for other classes), repeatedly failing to answer questions if called upon, and not participating in classroom discussions in a productive manner.

5.3 Exams

All students will take three multiple-choice exams. The exams will be based on class lectures, assigned readings, and class discussion. Study guides will be posted prior to the exam. Your lowest exam grade will be worth less than the other two exam grades. The dates for the exams are listed on the accompanying course calendar.

6 Administrative Policies

6.1 Absences from Exams and Late Work

If you cannot attend one of the exams, you need to notify me as soon as possible by email or in person. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness or emergencies. Makeup exams and late assignments will be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam or assignment is due. If any assignment is submitted late and without proper documentation, students will receive no credit for the assignment.

6.2 Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

- Turn off your phone BEFORE class begins. You will not be penalized for a single accident of forgetting to turn off your phone and having it ring during class, but do not let this happen repeatedly.
- You MAY use a laptop during lectures. However, those caught using laptops for messaging, internet browsing, gaming, or other non-course purposes will lose this privilege.
- Use of earbuds/earphones is prohibited.
- NO electronic devices of any kind are to be powered up or visible during an exam. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic zero on the exam.

6.3 Classroom Courtesy

- Entering and leaving the classroom once class has started is distracting to me and to other students. If you must leave early or for a moment, please sit near an exit and leave as quietly as possible (i.e. do not let the door slam).
- Please be respectful of others' opinions and treat others with respect in the classroom. Repeated failure to demonstrate classroom courtesy will result in a reduction of your final grade.

7 FSU's Academic Honor Code

The academic honor system of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility: (1) To uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) To refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) To foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community.

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>.)

8 Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

9 Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

10 Class Schedule

Week 1

Monday, May 9th: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE AND DISCUSSION OF SYLLABUS

- No Required Reading

Tuesday, May 10th: INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

- FLS Introduction and Chapter 1
- Questions to Consider: What historical events have shaped the state of international relations?

Wednesday, May 11th: INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

- FLS Introduction and Chapter 1
- Questions to Consider: What historical events have shaped the state of international relations?

Thursday, May 12th: INTERESTS, INTERACTIONS, and INSTITUTIONS / GAME THEORY PRIMER

- FLS Chapter 2, FLS Pages 75-79
- Questions to Consider: What do actors want from politics? Why do actors not always get what they want? How do institutions affect world politics?

Friday, May 13th: INTERESTS, INTERACTIONS, INSTIUTIONS

- FLS Chapter 2
- Questions to Consider: What do actors want from politics? Why do actors not always get what they want? How do institutions affect world politics?

Week 2

Monday, May 16th: WAR AND PEACE

- FLS Chapter 3
- Questions to Consider: Why does war occur? What is the purpose of war?

Tuesday, May 17th: WAR AND PEACE

- FLS Chapter 3
- Questions to Consider: How can we make war less likely and promote cooperation and peace?

Wednesday, May 18th: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND WAR

- FLS Chapter 4
- Questions to Consider: Whose interests influence the occurrence of war? Does war occur as a result of the national interest or special and individual interests? How do domestic institutions, such as democracy, influence the likelihood of war?

Thursday, May 19th: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND WAR

- FLS Chapter 4
- FILM: Why We Fight

Friday, May 20th: **EXAM 1**

Week 3

Monday, May 23rd: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND WAR

- Feinstein, Lee, and Anne-Marie Slaughter. 2004. "A Duty to Prevent." *Foreign Affairs* 83(1):136-150.
- Review FLS Chapter 4
- Questions to Consider: How do domestic institutions, such as democracy, influence the likelihood of war?

Tuesday, May 24th: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WAR

- FLS Chapter 5
- Questions to Consider: Why do states form alliances?

Wednesday, May 25th: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WAR: PEACEKEEPING / HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

- Evans, Gareth, and Mohamed Sahnoun. 2002. "The Responsibility to Protect." *Foreign Affairs* 81(6):99-110.
- Autesserre, Severine. 2008. "The Trouble with Congo." *Foreign Affairs* 87(3):94-110.
- Review FLS Chapter 5
- Questions to Consider: How does collective security work? How effective is the United Nations in guaranteeing international peace? Why is humanitarian intervention so controversial? What constitutes a just war?

Thursday, May 26th: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WAR: PEACEKEEPING HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

- Power, Samantha. 2002. *The Problem from Hell: America in the Age of Genocide*. Chapter 10 and conclusion.
- FILM: *Ghosts of Rwanda*

Friday, May 27th: INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- FLS Chapter 6
- Questions to Consider: Why do governments restrict trade? What influences national trade policy?

Week 4

Monday, May 30th: MEMORIAL DAY - NO CLASS

Tuesday, May 31st: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- FLS Chapters 7
- Questions to Consider: Why do people invest abroad? What role do international financial institutions play in international relations? What is the role of multinational corporations in the international arena?

Wednesday, June 1st: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- FLS Chapter 7
- FILM: Life and Debt

Thursday, June 2nd: INTERNATIONAL MONETARY RELATIONS

- FLS Chapter 8
- Questions to Consider: How do countries manage exchange rates and the relationship between currencies?

Friday, June 3rd: **EXAM 2**

Week 5

Monday, June 6th: DEVELOPMENT

- FLS Chapter 9
- Questions to Consider: What causes wealth and poverty among nations? Why are some countries rich and others poor? How do international politics and economics affect development?

Tuesday, June 7th: DEVELOPMENT

- Easterly, William. 2003 “Can Foreign Aid Buy Growth?” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(3): 23-48.
- Review FLS Chapter 9
- FILM: Good Fortune

Wednesday, June 8th: TRANSNATIONAL ADVOCACY NETWORKS

- FLS Chapter 10
- Questions to Consider: Do transnational advocacy networks make a difference?

Thursday, June 9th: TERRORISM

- FLS Chapter 10
- Questions to Consider: Why do some transnational advocacy networks use terrorism?

Friday, June 10th: TERRORISM

- Robert A. Pape. 2005. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361
- Review FLS Chapter 10
- Questions to Consider: Why do some transnational advocacy networks use terrorism?

Week 6

Monday, June 13th: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

- FLS Chapter 11
- Questions to Consider: What influenced the formation of the international human rights regime? Why are human rights controversial? Which human rights are universal?

Tuesday, June 14th: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES / RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- Hathaway, Oona. 2007. "Why do States Commit to Human Rights Treaties?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(4): 588-621.
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie. 2005. "Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression." *International Organization* 59:293-629.
- Review FLS Chapter 11
- Questions to Consider: What human rights are guaranteed in international human rights treaties? Why do states sign human rights agreements? What influences compliance with human rights treaties? Do they lead to improved respect for human rights? What factors influence improvement in respect for human rights?

Wednesday, June 15th: THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

- FLS Chapter 12
- Questions to Consider: Why is it so hard to cooperate internationally to protect the global environment?

Thursday, June 16th: THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS / EXAM REVIEW

- FLS Chapter 13
- Questions to Consider: What states are future global leaders? What is the effect of globalization on international politics?

Friday, June 17th: **EXAM 3**