POLS 103: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2015

Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:45  B-10 Ingraham Hall

Professor
Professor Jon Pevehouse
313 North Hall
pevehouse@polisci.wisc.edu
Phone: 262-4839
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00PM; Tuesday 1:00-2:30; and by appointment.

Teaching Assistants

Maayan Mor (Head TA) – mmor@wisc.edu
Office hours: T 1:15-2:15 TA office - North Hall; R 4:00-5:00 Education Bldg. [Cafe]

Noga Ardon – ardon@wisc.edu
Office hours: T 4:00-5:00; R 4:00-5:00; TA office - North Hall

Anna Meier – ameier5@wisc.edu
Office hours: M 3:30-4:30; W 2:15-3:15; TA office - North Hall

Sujeong Shim – sshim22@wisc.edu
Office hours: T 3:50-4:50; W 2:30-3:30; TA office - North Hall

Ken Smith – ksmith42@wisc.edu
Office hours: W 2:30-3:30; R 4:00-5:00; TA office - North Hall

Class Description

This class will cover the major issues in international relations since the end of World War II. We will discuss a variety of topics from both a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Some of the topics we will cover include: the causes of interstate war; ethnic conflict; foreign policy decision-making; economic development; the North-South gap; international trade, globalization; economic interdependence; the environment; population; the UN and other international organizations; and international law.

More than centering on US foreign policy or US history, the class will discuss these topics from a broad international perspective. Although this is by no means a history class, I will go over a fair bit of history to provide context for our current debates in international relations. Also, we will spend relatively little time discussing particular countries and their internal politics and problems, rather focusing on their relations with each other.

The goal for this course is to further your understanding of facts about international relations, but also to help you develop analytical tools for thinking about important questions in world politics regardless of the countries or issues involved. The political science approach to international politics is a mix of ideas and data, that is, conceptual tools that help us understand particular sets of facts about a wide range of topics. It is hoped that students will leave the course with a better understanding of world politics and how to think about world politics.
Book Required:


E-Reserve readings – (Indicated by "LearnUW" below.)

I also urge you to read an international news source - my personal favorite is the BBC (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news). Another option is the New York Times – a good source of material on international relations. I will announce information on how to obtain a student subscription during the course. You may also choose to read the NYT online, although it is now behind a pay wall. Other sources of good international news are the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, and the Economist.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

This class will be primarily lecture with some recitation sections. **I expect you to have done the readings by the date on the syllabus.** There is a moderate amount of reading, but none of it is particularly dense.

There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. Each midterm will be composed of a number of multiple-choice questions and 4-5 short answer (identification) questions. The final will have the same format, covering the material since the second midterm. In addition, the final will contain one comprehensive essay question covering all the material. Five days before the final exam, I will distribute a review sheet that will contain the possible essay questions that will appear on the exam. On the exam itself, you will have no choice of which essay question to answer.

**There will be no make-up exams.** If you have a conflict over the exam, see the professor *in advance*. I understand that emergencies happen. In a genuine emergency, I am very willing to work with you. I will, however, require documentation of emergencies - notes from doctors, emergency room personnel, etc. *in all instances.*

Your class performance will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDTERM 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDTERM 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Recitation Sections

Recitation (or discussion) sections will work a bit differently than in other large courses you may have taken. First, no sections at all in the first week. Then, for the two weeks before each exam ONLY, discussion sections will be held in their regular times and regular rooms. Because exams are on Thursdays (and all Thursday sections are prior to the lecture slot), this means normal sections will begin the Monday two weeks before the exam and run until the afternoon of the exam.
For all other weeks, we will hold optional “drop-in” sections rather than regularly schedule sections. Each TA has chosen one of their discussion sections to hold each week. If your assigned TA’s choice does not work for you because of your class schedule or work, simply choose a different drop-in section to attend. TAs and the professor will also have regularly scheduled office hours throughout the semester. The purpose of these drop-in sections is to clarify material that is unclear from the readings or lecture as well as discussing class concepts with your fellow students. Again, “drop-in” sections are optional: you are encouraged to attend to clarify material, but you are not required to do so, and attendance will not be noted.

Sept. 9-Sept. 24: Drop-in Sections
Sept. 28-Oct. 8: Normal Sections
Oct. 12-Oct. 29: Drop-in Sections
Nov. 2-Nov. 12: Normal Sections
Nov. 16-Dec. 1: Drop-in Sections
Dec. 2-Dec. 15: Normal Sections

TA Drop-in sections:

Maayan Mor  Sec. 313: Thursday 9:55AM  Noland 553
Ken Smith  Sec. 306: Thursday 11:00AM  Engineering Hall 3355
Sujeong Shim  Sec. 309: Tuesday 11:00AM  Engineering Hall 3355
Noga Ardon  Sec. 307: Wednesday 12:05PM  Noland 342
Anna Meier  Sec. 312: Monday 11:00AM  Grainger 1080

Accommodation for Disabilities and Emergencies

For anyone who needs accommodations for a documented disability, please let the professor know immediately. I am happy to work through the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 905 University Avenue, 263-2741. Please contact them regarding this class and we can work out the nature of the accommodations that will be needed.

Course Outline

9/8: Introduction + Levels of Analysis

GP: Chapter 1, pp. 2-19.

9/10: Actors, Principals, and World War I


9/17: History: The Cold War & Introduction to Realism  
GP: pp. 29-38.


9/22: IR Theories: Realism  
GP: pp. 43-60; 73-76.

9/24: IR Theories: Finish Realism & Introduction to Liberal Theories  
GP: pp. 63-72; 76-79.

9/29: IR Theories: Liberal Theories  

10/1: IR Theories: Finish Liberal Theories & Introduction to Social Theories  
GP: pp. 96-106.

10/6: IR Theories: Social Theories  


10/8: **FIRST MIDTERM** (in class)

10/13: Introduction to Security/International Conflict  


10/15: Causes of War I (General Theories & Material Conflicts)  
GP: pp. 177-188.

10/20: Causes of War II (Ideological Conflicts)  

10/22: International Organizations I (Theories & the UN)
10/27: Terrorism & WMD


10/29: International Organizations II (the European Union)

GP: pp. 204-222.

11/3: International Law & Human Rights


11/5: The Power of Information


11/10: Domestic Politics & International Relations

GP: pp. 136-147.


11/12: **SECOND MIDTERM** (in class)

11/17: International Trade


11/19: International Trade Institutions

GP: pp. 294-309.

11/24: International Finance


12/1: The Environment

12/3: Global Health
GP: pp. 409-418.

12/8: North-South Gap (State of the South)

12/10: Development (North-South Business)
GP: pp. 461-476.

12/15: Development (Debt & Foreign Assistance)

12/18: FINAL EXAM!! 5:05 PM - 7:05 PM. ROOMS: TBA