POLITICAL SCIENCE 103
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Spring 2016
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45
Birge Hall 145

Instructors
Mark Copelovitch
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Office hours: T/Th 11-12, or by apt.

Teaching assistants
Mark Toukan (Head TA)
Alexander Brown
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Ken Smith
Kendra Thomson
Timothy Williams

Course overview
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, including: the causes of war; civil wars and ethnic conflict; economic development; international trade; exchange rates and international monetary relations; international capital flows and financial crises; foreign direct investment; globalization and the environment; the UN, the IMF, World Bank, WTO, and other international organizations; and international law and human rights. Although this is by no means a history or economics class, we will cover a fair bit of history (and some international economics), in order to provide background and key context for current debates in international relations. We will spend relatively little time discussing particular countries and their internal politics and problems (although we will talk extensively about the links between domestic politics and IR); rather our focus will be on states’ relations with each other and the factors determining the nature and outcomes of these international interactions.

The goal for this course is to further your understanding of 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; the goal is to use conceptual tools that help us understand particular sets of facts about a wide range of topics. My hope is that students will leave the course with a better understanding of world politics and how to think about international affairs in a systematic way.
Course readings

- Textbook: Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, International Relations, 10th ed. 2013-2014 Update (Indicated by "GP" below.). NOTE: The textbook is also now available in a full-text electronic edition edition, at a substantially reduced cost. You may want to consider this option if cost is a significant concern (or consider sharing the textbook with another student in the class). Also, older versions of GP should be available used and are fine, as well.

- E-Reserve or online readings – (Indicated by "LearnUW" below, or with direct web links). These are equally important!

- I also urge you to start regularly reading a major newspaper/magazine with coverage of international affairs. I will announce information on how to obtain a discounted student subscription to the New York Times during the course. Other sources of good international news are the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, the Economist, and the BBC (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news).

Course requirements and evaluation:
This class will consist of two weekly lectures and one weekly discussion section. 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. I expect you to attend class regularly and do the readings on schedule.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be three written examinations in the course: two midterms and a final. The weighting of the exams (as part of your overall grade) will be as follows:

- MIDTERM 1 20%
- MIDTERM 2 25%
- FINAL 35%

PARTICIPATION (20%): Attendance at both lectures and sections is a significant part of your grade and essential for doing well in the class. Discussion sections will focus closely on the readings, and you are expected to have done them in advance and come prepared to discuss them in detail. Please note that, while topics from lecture will also be discussed, sections are not intended to be a substitute for lecture attendance (and vice versa).
Important notes/class policies

• Anything covered in class or in the readings is fair game for the exams. So just doing the reading on the last night before the exam means an almost certain failing grade. Come to class and do your readings carefully and on time. *Note that even readings that have not been explicitly addressed in lecture or discussion section may be covered in the exams!*

• The best way to reach me is via email at copelovitch@wisc.edu or to speak with me before/after class.

• **Attendance**: If you know that you will be absent from class for religious or other reasons that can be known in advance, please let me know. If you have to miss class due to sickness or family emergencies, please keep your TA or me informed as possible. Remember that attendance/participation is fully 20% of your grade, and unexcused/unexplained absences will be noted accordingly.

• **Slides and notes**: My policy is to post my Powerpoint slides for each week after the Wednesday lecture on the Learn@UW website. *Since this means that you will have a full set of my slides to study for both exams, I put quite a bit of material on the slides.* This means that you do not need – and are unlikely to be able – to take “transcript notes” (i.e., to copy everything on the slides). *Your best strategy is to listen carefully to the lectures and take selective notes on things mentioned that are important but not necessarily on the slides already. Then, go back to review the printed slides later on as needed.* Please note, also, that the slides alone are not a substitute for attending lecture AND doing the readings. Much of the material is unlikely to make complete sense if you do not attend class.

• **Grading**: Re-evaluating grades (please read very carefully!): My policy is the following:
  o You must first speak with your TA directly about your exam and grade.
  o If, after speaking to your TA, you still wish to dispute your grade, the procedure is as follows. You have to wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. You then have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work, i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.
  o Your grade will then be fully re-evaluated. This means that I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes – this is not a risk-free process!

• **Exams**: The exam schedule is set. Clear your schedules now. There will be no make-up examinations unless you can provide proper documentation that your absence is due to a) a genuine family emergency, b) illness or injury, or c) travel away from Madison for university-related (!) obligations. If an exam is missed for a valid reason, I will give you a substitute assignment. **This will be an essay of 8-10 pages based on the material covered in the exam and will be due four days after the date of the missed exam.**

• **Accommodations**: Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me as early as possible. All information will remain confidential. You also may contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center regarding questions about campus policies/services.

• **Cheating and plagiarism** are very serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the course. You will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript.
I. INTRODUCTION: TOOLS, CONCEPTS, AND HISTORY

Lectures 1 & 2 (January 19 and 21): Introduction and Key Tools/Concepts in IR
  • GP: Chapter 1, pp. 2-29

  • GP: pp. 29-38.

II. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Lecture 5 (February 2): IR Theories: Realism
  • GP: pp. 43-60; 73-76

Lecture 6 (February 4): IR Theories: Liberal Theories
  • GP: pp. 63-72; 76-79.

Lectures 7& 8 (February 9 & 11): IR Theories: Social Theories
  • GP: pp. 85-122.
  • LearnUW: Stephen Walt. 1998. "One World, Many Theories" Foreign Policy 110 (Spring): 29-44.

February 16: IN-CLASS REVIEW SESSION

February 18: FIRST MIDTERM (IN CLASS, ON MATERIAL THROUGH 2/11)

III. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Lecture 9 (February 23): Introduction to Security/International Conflict
  • GP: pp. 153-160; 193-204.
Lecture 10 (February 25): Causes of War I (General Theories & Material Conflicts)
  • GP: pp. 177-188.

Lecture 11 (March 1): Causes of War II (Ideological Conflicts & Civil Wars)
  • GP: pp. 160-177.5

Lecture 12 (March 3): Terrorism and WMD
  • GP: pp. 204-222.
  • LearnUW: Barak Mendelsohn, “Collateral Damage in Iraq”, Foreign Affairs, June 2014.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Lecture 13 (March 8): International Organizations I (Theories & the UN)
  • GP: pp. 233-254.

Lecture 14 (March 10): International Organizations II (the European Union)
  • GP: pp. 353-370.

Lecture 15 (March 15): International Law & Human Rights

March 17: TBD

March 22 and March 24: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

V. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Lecture 16 (March 29): International Political Economy & International Trade I
  • GP: pp. 283-294

Lecture 17 (March 31): International Trade II: Trade Politics and International Institutions
  • GP: pp. 294-309
(April 5): IN-CLASS REVIEW SESSION

(April 7): SECOND MIDTERM (in class, on material through 3/17)

Lecture 18 (April 12): International Monetary Relations

Lecture 19 (April 14): International Finance I: Financial Crises and the IMF
• GP: pp. 321-341.6

Lecture 20 (April 19): International Finance II: Foreign Direct Investment

VI. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lecture 21 (April 21): International Development I (Problems, Causes, Strategies)

Lecture 22 (April 26): Development II (World Bank and Debt Relief)
• GP: pp. 461-476.

Lecture 23 (April 28): Development III (Foreign Aid, China, and Remittances)
• GP: pp. 476-493.

Lecture 24 (May 3): Environment, Population, and Global Health
• GP: pp. 387-418.

May 5: Conclusion and Review

May 9: FINAL EXAM!! 7:45 AM – 9:45 AM. ROOMS: TBA (EXAM CODE 21)