

**PSCI 120.02    Fall 2008**  
**Introduction to International Relations**

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Meets: MWF 12-12:50 PM  
Location: 136 Kauke Hall  
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The world is comprised of 190-odd states and other territories. Some of them get along very well, like the United States and Canada; others fight frequently, like India and Pakistan. Some states are heavily integrated into the world's economic and political systems; others like North Korea actively withdraw from contact with the world. This course examines how states and other bodies interact in the modern world and draws attention to ways that scholars study world politics, in search of systematic explanations for the patterns we observe. We explore the nature of the international system and consider several explanations for why conflict occurs. Then, we study peaceful interaction: trade and financial relations, the formation of international institutions, and cooperation on issues such as human rights and the environment.

**Objectives**

Specifically, after the completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify strategic behavior in world politics and incentives that produce it in both conflict and cooperation contexts.
- Apply theory to explain the outbreak (or non-outbreak) of war, and compare the effectiveness of theoretical explanations across two or more theories.
- Explain how the logic of comparative advantage generates incentives for both free trade and protectionism, and how the global trade system responds to these incentives.
- Identify ways in which the global economic system facilitates or impedes economic development in less-developed countries.
- Apply theory to explain why states cooperate in world politics, and discuss ways in which they can create institutions to facilitate this cooperation.

In addition this course has two process-oriented goals. After this course, you will be able to:

- Identify key components of an empirical scholarly article, and, given an article, identify the independent and dependent variables and the hypotheses, interpret the results, and critique the article's design and theory.
- Locate and use online sources for world news and informational content, evaluate the credibility of online sources, and cite these sources correctly.

As an introductory course in political science, this course aims both to give you an orientation to the substantive matter of world politics, including key concepts, theories, and vocabulary, and also to provide you with critical skills needed for success in advanced political science courses and related social science fields.

This course has no prerequisites; it counts towards the international relations field (Area II) of the political science major. It meets the Studies in Cultural Differences Requirement as well as the Learning Across the Discipline: History and Social Sciences requirement.

## Assessment

This is an introductory course designed for students with no prior exposure either to the study of international relations or the study of political science more generally. Because of this, I have opted for more frequent assessments. This will allow you to obtain more frequent feedback on your performance and understanding. The midterm exams will likely consist of short answers and a short response. The Final Exam will be cumulative and consist of short answers, a short response, and an essay. You must submit all graded assignments in this course to pass.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Due</u>
In-class assignments, participation, and mini-homeworks	10%	Various dates
Group Project	5%	
Midterm 1	15%	
Midterm 2	15%	
Final Exam	25%	
Theories of War Paper	15%	
Empirical Article Paper	15%	

You are expected to come to class prepared, with any assigned reading or homework completed before the start of class. Attention to current events is a critical part of being prepared to discuss; you should review at least two credible sources of news daily. Most major news outlets (BBC, CBC, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, etc.) offer free daily email digests with links to headline articles; other reliable sources include the *Economist* and other major newsweekly magazines, NPR news radio, and CNN. I have also enabled RSS feeds from some of these sources on our Woodle site. You are also expected to participate in in-class activities, including but not limited to discussion. You must submit all major graded assignments of this class to pass.

**Policies:** YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION IN THIS SYLLABUS. Any changes to due dates or class policies will be sent to your Wooster.edu email address; you are responsible for monitoring it regularly.

**Required Materials:** This course requires two books and a course pack:

Joseph S. Nye, *Understanding International Conflict*, Pearson (7<sup>th</sup> edition).

Thomas Lairson and David Skidmore, *International Political Economy: The Struggle for Power and Wealth.*, Thompson/Wadsworth (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). (L&S)

Both book titles are currently available at the Wilson Bookstore and are also easily obtained online. The course pack (by James Morrow) is not yet published but should be available in the Wilson Bookstore by the time we need it. In addition, some additional reading will be made available on e-Reserve (marked (ER) in the syllabus).

**Communication:** Email is by far the best way to reach me for brief questions. I typically do not read my email after 5 PM, and I normally respond within one business day. I have regularly scheduled office hours, which will be announced during the second week of class, and I encourage you to make use of them. Appointments can be scheduled on the calendar outside my office, or by email for dates not on the calendar. Unclaimed appointments are available for walk-in visitors.

**Academic Integrity, Citation, and Plagiarism:** As we will discuss on several occasions, academic honesty – giving credit where credit is due – is a key element in creating credible work. Always

acknowledge ideas and text that are not your own. ***Any presentation of others' ideas or words as your own constitutes plagiarism, and it will be prosecuted through the procedure outlined in the Scot's Key.*** When in doubt, add a citation. There is no such thing as having 'too many cites,' but having too few cites is called plagiarism.<sup>1</sup> If you are unfamiliar with citation conventions in US academic writing, *please consult me or a reference librarian.* For this course, you must use the American Political Science Association (APSA) citation style. Links to the style guides are on my website.

**Special Needs:** If you have a medical or other condition or circumstance which could interfere with your ability to achieve your best performance in this class, including any which may entitle you to extended testing time or other accommodations, ***please consult with me as soon as possible*** to make appropriate arrangements.

**Attendance and Conflicts:** After three unexcused absences (absence without documentary evidence of family emergency or medical attention for illness), expect a grade penalty. I reserve the right of final determination of the excusability of an absence. In accordance with the *Code on Conflicts*, students with family responsibilities, athletic commitments, or religious conflicts should indicate these *as soon as possible*; accommodations may not be possible without sufficient notice.

**Due Dates and Extensions:** Assignments are due at the start of class on the indicated day. Absence from class on a due date does not grant an automatic extension. Extensions are granted only in cases of medical or religious conflict or other major situation. Late work will be penalized at least one grade.

### **Tentative Schedule of Course Topics**

Reading assignments are subject to minor adjustments if more topical material becomes available. Topic schedule may be adjusted slightly to accommodate student interests and class needs. Items indicated (ER) are available on eReserve. Items marked (W) are linked on Woodle; (HO) indicates an item handed out in class.

- M, Aug 25    Orientation and Overview
- W, Aug 27    The (Excerpted) History of the World  
Read:    Goldstein, Ch 1 (ER)
- F, Aug 29    No class. Prof. Powner at American Political Science Association meetings.  
Read:    Morrow, Ch 1, 2  
Assignment: Respond to the question posted on Woodle.
- M, Sep 1    International Relations as a Social Science  
Read:    Nye, pages 1-20, 33-37, 50-53  
              Russett, Starr and Kinsella, pp 32-48 (ER)
- W, Sep 3    Theories of IR: Realism and Liberalism  
Read:    Lamborn and Leggold, Ch 2 (ER)  
              *Bits and Clips:* Machiavelli, Wilson (HO)

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<sup>1</sup> This statement originates with Prof. Cindy Bair van Dam at American University, I believe; at a minimum, she was the first to say it to me. A statement like this constitutes acknowledgement that the expression is not my own.

- F, Sep 5 Theories: Marxism, Domestic Politics, and Other Alternatives  
Read: Lamborn and Leggold, Ch 3 (ER)  
*Bits and Clips:* Marx (HO)
- M, Sep 8 Intro to Conflict and Security Studies  
Read: Nye, pages 38-50
- W, Sep 10 Power and Conflict  
Read: Morrow, Ch 6
- F, Sep 12 World War I  
Read: Nye, Ch 3
- M, Sep 15 World War II  
Read: Nye, Ch 4  
 Van Evera, "Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War" (ER)
- W, Sep 17 Wanting War?  
Read: Morrow, Ch 5, 7
- F, Sep 19 Alliances and Security Policy  
Read: Morrow, Ch 11  
 Christensen and Snyder, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks" (ER)
- M, Sep 22 The Red Threat  
Read: Nye, Ch 5  
 Morrow, Ch 3
- W, Sep 24 The Cold War, Continued  
Read: Bueno de Mesquita, 207-19 (ER)
- F, Sep 26 Bureaucracies, Individuals and Conflict  
Read: Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis" (ER)
- M, Sep 29 **Exam 1: In class.**
- W, Oct 1 Ending the Cold War and Other Major Shifts  
Read: Morrow, Ch 8
- F, Oct 3 Alternative Explanations for War 1: Bargaining and Information  
Read: Morrow, Ch 9
- M, Oct 6 Alternative Explanations for War 2: Commitment  
Read: Morrow, Ch 10
- W, Oct 8 Intervention  
Read: Nye, Ch 6  
 Walter, "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement" (ER)

- F, Oct 10 Coercive Diplomacy  
Read: Pape, “Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work” (ER)  
Drezner, “The Hidden Hand of Economic Coercion” (ER)
- M, Oct 13** No class. Fall break.
- W, Oct 15 Weapons of Mass Destruction and Non-Conventional Warfare  
Read: Wirtz, “Introduction,” in *Planning the Unthinkable* (ER)  
Drell et al., “Overview,” in *The New Terror* (ER)  
**Theories of War paper due.**
- F, Oct 17 Human Rights  
Read: Moravcsik, “The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe” (ER)  
Hathaway, in *Torture: A Collection* (ER)
- M, Oct 20 Catch-Up and Exam Review
- W, Oct 22 **Exam 2: In class.**
- F, Oct 24 A History of the World Economy (Abridged, Part 1)  
Read: L&S 3  
Spruyt, “Institutional Selection in International Relations” (ER)
- M, Oct 27 A History of the World Economy (Abridged, Part 2)  
Read: L&S 4
- W, Oct 29 Introduction to IPE and International Economics  
Read: L&S 1, 2
- F, Oct 31 Introduction to IPE and International Economics, Continued  
Read: L&S 2
- M, Nov 3 International Trade  
Read: Rogowski, “Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade” (ER)
- W, Nov 5 Globalization and the World Economy  
Read: L&S 5
- F, Nov 7 Cooperation Among Advanced Industrial States  
Read: L&S 6
- M, Nov 10 Cooperation, Continued  
Read: Morrow, “Modeling the Forms of International Cooperation”
- W, Nov 12 Institutions and Cooperation  
Read: [To be announced]
- F, Nov 14 Competition and Conflict Among Advanced Industrial States  
Read: L&S 7

- M, Nov 17 **Group Project Presentations: In class.**
- W, Nov 19 Global Inequality  
Read: L&S 8
- F, Nov 21 Trade and Development  
Read: L&S 9  
**Empirical Article Paper Due.**
- M, Nov 24 Aid and Development  
Read: L&S 10  
[ARTICLE?]
- W, Nov 26 Environment and Development  
Read: [To be announced]
- F, Nov 28** No class. Thanksgiving recess.
- M, Dec 1 Debt and Finance  
Read: L&S 12
- W, Dec 3 Hunger, Population, and Sustainable Development  
Read: L&S 13
- F, Dec 5 Final Exam Review

**FINAL EXAMINATION:**  
Tuesday, December 9, 9 AM – 12 PM  
Kauke 136