

## **POLS 2332.01**

# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

St. Edward's University, Fall 2016

T/R 9:30–10:45a, Doyle Hall 132

Updated: Aug 28, 2016

Instructor: Cathy Wu

Office: Doyle Hall 217

Office Hours: T 11-12pm<sup>1</sup>

Email: [xwu@stedwards.edu](mailto:xwu@stedwards.edu)

## **Course Description**

This is an introduction course in international relations. It provides an overview of the major concepts, theories, and issues, with a particular focus on the current scholarship of the field. By offering the basic analytic tools, this course helps students better understand international relations and prepare them for more advanced classes. Students will learn how to assess causal processes and analyze the relationship between cause and effect. This course covers specific topics such as causes of war, military alliance, international trade, monetary policy, foreign aid, international institutions, human rights, environmental protection, etc.

## **Grading**

The course grade consists of the following components:

- 40% **First exam (October 20, 9:30–10:45a)**. Ten short answer/essay questions
- 40% **Second exam (December 13, 9–11a)**. Ten short answer/essay questions
- 10% **Written exercises or quizzes**. Given randomly in class
- 10% **Class participation**.

Both of the exams are closed-book in-class format. The first exam covers the lectures and readings until Session 14 (Part I and II). The second exam is cumulative, with at least 2/3 of the questions from materials after the mid-term exam (Part III and IV) and no more than 1/3 of the questions from Part I and II. A study guide will be provided before each exam.

Throughout the course, the instructor will give seven in-class written exercises or quizzes. Written exercises ask students to express your opinion about a question relevant to our course. Quizzes are designed to provide a quick evaluation of how well students understand lectures

---

<sup>1</sup>As I am at St. Edward's only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, students who want to meet outside of my regular office hours are advised to make appointments on these days. Otherwise, communications through emails are strongly preferred. Extra office hours will be available before exams.

and/or keep up with readings. A thoughtful response or a correct answer will earn the writer full credit (2 points), a messy, incomplete response will earn half credit (1 point), and no response will earn no credit. Students will earn a maximum of 10 points this way, for 10% of their total grade. Note that the dates for these exercises and quizzes will *not* be announced in advance. While *no* “make ups” are available for this portion of the course, the instructor will offer at least 7 opportunities to earn these 10 points. Students who submit answers more than 5 times will receive a point extra credit on the final exam for each additional assignment (maximum 2).

Students are the most important part of this seminar; active participation in a civil manner is necessary to succeed in this course. Participation grade will be evaluated over the whole semester. Students are expected to engage actively in class by (i) raising questions about class materials, (ii) answering questions raised by the instructor in class, (iii) participate in discussions and/or debates on the topics provided by the instructor, and (iv) contributing to review sessions, etc. Unless otherwise instructed, students who want to contribute to class discussion must raise hand and wait to be recognized. Questions and comments must be

- related to class and/or the course material;
- respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement;
- aimed to advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs;
- delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

There are 100 possible points, which will correspond to the following letter grades:

93-100: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B
80-82: B-	77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	63-66: D	60-62: D-	0-59: F

Without exception, the instructor will round up scores of 0.5 and higher, and round down scores of less than 0.5.

## Course Policies

- *Classroom Conduct:* Cell phones are to be silenced during class. Please be on time for class. It is inconsiderate and disruptive to arrive late to class or to leave class early. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.
- *Missing Class:* Although there is no attendance point *per se*, missing lectures will prevent you from performing well in the course, for (1) some of lecture materials are not covered in the readings and (2) you are likely to miss in-class exercises and quizzes, which, again, the instructor does *not* offer “make-ups.”

- *Missing Exams*: In case of illness and personal emergency, the instructor will provide make-up exams *only when provided with proper documentation*. Exams missed due to a university-sponsored event or religious holiday may also be excused, but it is the responsibility of students to inform the instructor of the absence *at least two weeks in advance*, with proper documents. Vacation and other social engagements (e.g. weddings) will *not* be excused.
  - *Notes on the final exam*: Students are not required to take three final exams on any one given day. If three officially scheduled exams fall on the same day for a student, he or she has the option of taking one of his or her choice on another day during the exam period, agreeable to both instructor and student. If such a day cannot be satisfactorily determined, the instructor will give the exam on the day before or after the scheduled period. If one of the three exams is not originally or officially scheduled for the same day, the student should work out an agreement with the instructor, making the change for a mutually satisfactory day. The student is required to request an alternate exam period *no later than Nov 14*.
- *Grade Appeals*: If you wish to challenge a grade you received on a specific question on an exam, you must submit a written note explaining why you think you deserve more points within one week upon receiving the grades. Otherwise, I will not accept grade appeals. Once I receive your written note, I will regrade the entire exam and your grades may increase, decrease or remain the same. Please make your travel plans accordingly.
- *Syllabus changes*: The readings and course schedules are subject to change, but any changes will be announced in class, with an updated syllabus on Canvas.

## University and Campus Policies

- *Academic Honor Code*: Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances. If you have any questions or concerns about the university's academic integrity standards consult with the St Edwards University Student Conduct Code.
- *Students with Disabilities*: Student Disability Services coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities (medical, learning or psychological). Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should follow the university's accommodation procedure by contacting Student Disability Services (512-448-8561 or Moody Hall 155). More information can be found at: <https://www.stedwards.edu/student-disability-services>.
- *Title IX Statement*: "Title IX makes it clear that violence, harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources, both on and off campus, at <http://think.stedwards.edu/titleix/>."

- *Firearms Policy*: The carrying or possession of any type of weapon or firearm is strictly prohibited (a) on all university premises, including university parking lots and (b) at campus related activities, and (c) while conducting university business. This policy excludes law enforcement personnel and others who are storing such firearms in a locked vehicle in full compliance with Section 411.2032 of the Texas Government Code.

## Required Readings

We will use the book below, denoted as **FLS**, as the main text:

- Frieden, Jeffrey, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 3rd Edition. W. W. Norton & Company, 2015.

All other readings will be available on Canvas. Students are expected to complete readings by the day for which they are assigned, and are encouraged to meet with me during office hours to discuss the assigned readings and/or further interest in specific topics.

## Course Outline and Schedule

### Part I: Introduction and Traditions of International Relations

**Session 1** (Aug 30): Course overview

- No reading

**Session 2** (Sep 1): Reading day; class do not meet

- FLS. pp xx–xxxii

**Session 3** (Sep 6): History of International Relations

- FLS. pp 2–41

**Session 4** (Sep 8): Pessimistic Take

- Wohlforth, William C. “Realism.”

**Session 5** (Sep 13): Optimistic Take

- Arthur, Stein. “Neoliberal Institutionalism.” pp: 201–209, 212–217
- Moravcsik, Andrew. “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics.” pp: 513–533, 541–549

**Session 6** (Sep 15): Constructivism and Reflections

- Hurd, Ian. “Constructivism.”

**Session 7** (Sep 20): Shifting Approaches of International Relations

- FLS. pp 42–79

## **Part II: Modern Theories of International Security**

### **Session 8** (Sep 22): A Primer on Game Theory

- FLS. pp 82–87

### **Session 9** (Sep 27): Explanations of War I: Informational Problem

- FLS. pp 89–117

### **Session 10** (Sep 29): Explanations of War II: Commitment Problem

- FLS. pp 118–134

### **Session 11** (Oct 4): Domestic Politics and War I: Domestic Actors

- FLS. pp 136–165

### **Session 12** (Oct 6): Domestic Politics and War II: Democratic Peace

- FLS. pp 166–182

### **Session 13** (Oct 11): Military Alliances and Coalitions

- FLS. pp 184–202

### **Session 14** (Oct 13): Civil War

- FLS. pp 234–263

### **Session 15** (Oct 18): Review Session I

- Study guide available by Oct 14; Prepared with questions

### **Session 16 (Oct 20): Exam I**

## **Part III: International Political Economy**

### **Session 17** (Oct 25): International Trade I

- FLS. pp 334–349, 290–301

### **Session 18** (Oct 27): International Trade II

- FLS. pp 302–333

### **Session 19** (Nov 1): International Monetary Policies

- FLS. pp 380–418

### **Session 20** (Nov 3): International Finance and Foreign Investment

- FLS. pp 340–378

**Session 21** (Nov 8): International Development

- FLS. pp 420–454

**Session 22** (Nov 10): Political Consequences of Globalization

- Rodrik, Dani. (2011). Bretton Woods, GATT and the WTO, in Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox* (Norton): 67-88.
- Rodrik, Dani. (2011). The Political Trilemma of the World Economy, in Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox* (Norton): 184-206.

*Request an alternative schedule of the final exam by Nov. 14*

**Part IV: International Relations in the New Era**

**Session 23** (Nov 15): International Law and Norms

- FLS. pp 456–488

**Session 24** (Nov 17): Human Rights

- FLS. pp 490–530

**Session 25** (Nov 22): Global Environment

- FLS. pp 532–566

*Nov 24: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)*

**Session 26** (Nov 29): United Nations and Peacekeeping

- FLS. pp 203–232

**Session 27** (Dec 1): Terrorism and WMD

- FLS. pp 264–289, 579–589

**Session 28** (Dec 6): Obama Doctrine?

- Goldberg, Jeffrey. “The Obama Doctrine.” *The Atlantic* (2016).

**Session 29** (Dec 8): Review Session II

- Study guide available by Dec 6; Prepared with questions

**Exam II: December 13, 9–11a**