**Introduction to International Politics**

PSC 1003-10

Spring 2018

MF 11:10AM - 12:00PM

Funger Hall 108

Professor Rachel M. Stein

Office: 479 Monroe

Office hours: Friday, 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Email: steinr@gwu.edu

**Overview of the course**

This course introduces undergraduates to the major issues and viewpoints that animate contemporary scholarship in the field of International Relations. We will approach the field as a series of puzzles or questions that have inspired and bedeviled both scholars and policymakers. For example, why do countries go to war instead of negotiating an agreement that would save them both the (often immense) costs of fighting? Why are barriers to trade so common despite the benefits of their reduction? Why does inequality among countries persist in the age of globalization? Why is it so difficult to achieve global cooperation on issues like climate change even though there is widespread agreement that such cooperation is necessary? This course aims to provide students with the knowledge and tools to begin thinking rigorously about these and other questions in international politics.

**Prerequisites**

This course is open to all undergraduate students. There are no prerequisites.

**Learning objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the major approaches that scholars have taken to the study of international politics.
2. Apply those approaches to contemporary issues and events.
3. Make and evaluate arguments based on logic and evidence.

**General requirements**

1. *Attend lecture*. Lectures will be held on Mondays and Fridays from 11:10am – 12:00pm. They will both reinforce and supplement the course readings. In other words, there will be material covered in lecture that is not in the course readings. I will not take attendance in lecture, but it is in your best interest to come to lecture regularly. I will not post lecture slides on blackboard or provide them to students who missed lecture. If you are not able to attend class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from your fellow students.

1. *Complete the readings*. Material covered in the assigned readings (both the textbook and the supplemental readings) will form the basis of discussion in your sections and will be considered fair game for the exams.
2. *Discussion section*. All students must attend and actively participate in their discussion section each week. You should come to section having done the required reading and prepared to ask and answer questions.

**Average minimum amount of independent learning**

Students are expected to put in a minimum of 5 hours of independent learning per week (on average). This out-of-class work includes reading, taking notes, studying for exams (alone or in study groups), and working on writing assignments.

**Assignments and evaluation**

Your final grade in this course will be based on:

1. *Section participation* (25%). Your TA will take attendance and evaluate your contribution to the discussion.
2. *Quiz 1* (25%). Quiz 1 will take place in class on **March 2nd**.It will cover lectures and course readings from 1/22-2/26.
3. *Quiz 2* (25%). Quiz 2 will take place in class on **April 30th**. It will cover lectures and course readings from 3/5-4/27.
4. *Final take home exam* (30%). The final for this class will be a take home exam that you will submit via Blackboard. Due date TBD.

At the end of the semester, I will calculate your grade and then round up to the nearest whole number. I will assign letter grades as follows: A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-59). Note that there are no +/- grades in the D or F range. Grades for this course will not be curved.

**Course policies**

1. *Technology*. Laptops are not permitted in lecture. This policy is based on academic research showing that students learn more effectively when taking notes by hand. Students who require an exception to this policy due to a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242.
2. *E-mail.* The best option for discussing course material and assignments is to attend my regular office hours. For questions that cannot wait for office hours, you can email me at steinr@gwu.edu. However, please keep in mind that I will not respond to email after 6 PM or on the weekends. Additionally, I will not respond to emails received on the day an assignment is due. In general, I will do my best to respond to all student emails within 24 hours.
3. *Grade appeals*. If you have any questions about the grade you received on a particular assignment, I am happy to discuss them with you and to suggest strategies for improving your grades in the future. If you do not think that the grade you received reflects the quality of your work you may formally request a re-grade. To do so, you must submit a one-page written petition that explains why your grade does not reflect the quality of your work. Be aware that if I re-grade your assignment, your grade may go up or down and the new grade you receive will be final.
4. *Late assignments.* Legitimate excuses for missing an exam or turning in a late assignment include: religious holidays, conflicting school-sponsored events (e.g., sports or model UN), serious illness (colds do not count), and family emergency. If any of these circumstances arises, you must notify me before the assignment is due and you must provide written documentation. Otherwise, I do not offer makeup exams. If you turn in an assignment late, your grade will be lowered by one-half of a letter grade for each day it is late. If you do not complete an assignment you will receive a grade of zero.
5. *Academic integrity*. Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously in this course. All assignments must be solely the original work of the student. Violations include cheating on examinations and quoting or paraphrasing another author without attribution on written assignments. Avoid plagiarism by using footnotes (with page numbers) whenever you quote, paraphrase, or otherwise borrow someone else’s ideas. If you are unsure whether you are committing plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask your teaching assistant for guidance (before you submit your work). Note that forming a group to study for exams or offering feedback on a draft of another student’s paper are not considered violations of academic integrity. On the other hand, writing portions of a classmate’s paper or copying a paragraph from a book or website without attribution are very serious violations. Suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity. Please review the GW Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>.

**Teaching staff and office hours**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | E-mail | Office hours and location |
| Joseph Cerrone | jcerrone@gwu.edu | TBD |
| Samuel Schutt | sdschutt@gwmail.gwu.edu | TBD |
| Murphy Evers | mevers@gwu.edu | TBD |

**Books and readings**

There is one required book for this course. Please note that you should purchase the 3rd edition.

* Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 3rd ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2015.

All other readings will be available online or on Blackboard under Electronic Reserves. To log on to Blackboard (<http://blackboard.gwu.edu>), you will need to use your Net ID and email password. If you have any questions about how to use the system, try going to <http://helpdesk.gwu.edu>.

**University Policy on Religious Holidays**

Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

**Support for Students Outside the Classroom**

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: [gwired.gwu.edu/dss/](http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

The University's Mental Health Services offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems (202-994-5300). Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. [counselingcenter.gwu.edu/](http://counselingcenter.gwu.edu/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

COURSE SCHEDULE

**January 19th – Introduction to the course**

* FLS Introduction

**January 22nd – Historical background**

* FLS Chapter 1
* Stephen M. Walt, “Back to the Future: World Politics Edition.” Available online at: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/07/08/back-to-the-future-world-politics-edition-russia-isis-europe-china/>

**January 26th – Thinking analytically about international politics**

* FLS Chapter 2

**January 29th – Why are there wars?**

* FLS Chapter 3
* David A. Lake, “Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War”

**February 2nd – Domestic politics and war, part 1**

* FLS Chapter 4, pgs. 136-166
* Dominic Tierney, “The Risks of Foreign Policy as Political Distraction.” Available online at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/06/trump-diversionary-foreign-policy/530079/>

**February 5th – Domestic politics and war, part 2**

* FLS Chapter 4, pgs. 167-181
* John M. Owen IV, “Iraq and the Democratic Peace.”

**February 9th – Alliances**

* FLS Chapter 5, pgs. 184-205
* James M. Goldgeier, “The Future of NATO.” Available online at: <https://www.cfr.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2009/12/NATO_CSR51.pdf>

**February 12th – The United Nations**

* FLS Chapter 5, pgs. 206-231
* Jacob D. Kathman and Molly M. Mellin, “Who Keeps the Peace? Understanding State Contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations.”

**February 16th – Civil War**

* FLS Chapter 6, pgs. 234-264
* Watch Severine Autesserre’s TED Talk: <https://www.ted.com/talks/severine_autesserre_to_solve_mass_violence_look_to_locals#t-620316>

**February 19th – NO CLASS**

* *No assigned reading*

**February 23rd – Causes of Terrorism**

* FLS Chapter 6, pgs. 265-280
* Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.”

**February 26th – Counterterrorism**

* FLS Chapter 6, pgs. 281-288
* Max Abrahms, “What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy.”
* Peter R. Neumann, “Negotiating with Terrorists.”

**March 2nd – QUIZ #1**

* *No assigned reading*

**March 5th – International trade**

* FLS Chapter 7

**March 9th – The WTO**

* James McBride, “The World Trade Organization (WTO).” Available online at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/world-trade-organization-wto>
* Gallagher, Kevin, “Understanding Developing Country Resistance to the Doha Round.”

**March 12th – SPRING BREAK**

* *No assigned reading*

**March 16th – SPRING BREAK**

* *No assigned reading*

**March 19th – International finance**

* FLS Chapter 8

**March 23rd – International monetary relations**

* FLS Chapter 9

**March 26th – Development**

* FLS Chapter 10
* Paul Krugman, “In Praise of Cheap Labor.” Available online at: <http://www.slate.com/articles/business/the_dismal_science/1997/03/in_praise_of_cheap_labor.html>

**March 30th – The foreign aid debate**

* Jeffrey Sachs. 2005. *The End of Poverty*, Chapters 12-13, pp. 226-265.
* William Easterly. 2006. “The big push deja vu – Review of Jeffrey Sachs The End of Poverty,” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 44(1).

**April 2nd – World hunger (guest lecture)**

* Readings TBD

**April 6th – International law**

* FLS Chapter 11, pgs. 459-470
* James D. Morrow, “When Do States Follow the Laws of War?”

**April 9th – International norms**

* FLS Chapter 11, pgs. 470-488
* Nina Tannenwald, “The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use.”

**April 13th – Human rights**

* FLS Chapter 12

**April 16th – Humanitarian intervention**

* Watch the PBS Frontline documentary *Ghosts of Rwanda*. Available online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJAuyIRfYIM>

**April 20th – The global environment**

* FLS Chapter 13
* Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons.”

**April 23rd – Looking ahead: nuclear proliferation**

* FLS Chapter 14, pgs. 576-591
* Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*, Chapters 1 & 2.

**April 27th – Looking ahead: the rise of china**

* FLS Chapter 14, pgs. 591 – 601
* Graham Allison, “The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?” Available online at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/>

**April 30th – QUIZ #2**

* *No assigned reading*