

PS 1400: Introduction to International Relations

University of Missouri

Fall 2017

M W F 10:00-10:50, Middlebush 309

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Office hours: M W F 11:00 - 12:00 and T and TR 3:00 - 4:00 (or by appointment, just e-mail me)

Course Description and Objectives

Why do countries fight wars with one another? Why is the US news media so focused on the Chinese economy? What are the causes of terrorism? Could international agreements really stop pollution? These questions, and many like them, are becoming impossible to ignore in an increasingly globalized world. This class serves as a first step in both answering these questions and understanding the scientific study of international politics. We will focus on scientific explanations of war, terrorism, political economy, international civil society, human rights, and environmental protection in order to gain better practical insights into world politics. At the completion of this class, you will have an understanding of how world politics works and a clear idea of how social scientific processes govern the political system we live in.

This course is not a history class! Current and historical events will be discussed regularly, but your grade will not depend on your ability to memorize historical facts. Our major goal here is to understand the underlying interests of the actors in the international system (states like China and Russia), the arenas in which they interact (like the United Nations), and the rules which govern their behavior.

We will begin the semester by briefly focusing on the social scientific method and the historical forces that set the stage for international politics in 2017. After this introduction to basic concepts, the course will be divided into 3 major sections: (1) War and Peace, (2) International Political Economy, (3) Emerging Areas in World Politics. The first section will examine scientific explanations for international & civil war, as well as terrorism, and the various instruments used to prevent political violence. The second section will focus on globalization, trade, investment, monetary relations, and economic development. The final section will look at the scientific study of international law, international advocacy and non-governmental organizations (like Amnesty International), human rights, and the environment. After this course, you will be prepared to take upper-level courses on any of these topics. You will also be equipped with the tools to process and explain current events in world politics.

Course Texts: There are two textbooks required for this course. The first one is a general text by Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, which I refer to as “FLS” in the Course Outline below. The second book is an e-reader sold by the University that will provide useful supplemental information for quizzes and exams. I refer to it as the “E-Reader” in the Course Outline.

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. W.W. Norton & Co.
- University of Missouri. Readings in International Relations. E-Reader (available via Canvas).

Readings need to be completed **before** class.

Grades: To give you an incentive to complete readings prior to class and participate during class time, **25% of your grade will come from quizzes given at the beginning of class as well as participation to class discussion.** Quizzes will cover the readings assigned for that class period. There is no attendance component of the grade, but missing quizzes and no participation to class discussion will make it impossible to get a high grade in the course.

The remaining **75% of your grade comes from 3 exams.** Each exam will be worth 25%. The exams will contain multiple choice questions and short essay questions about topics from the most recent preceding coursework (meaning the exams are not cumulative). Exams will cover both lectures and reading materials. There will be no extra credit opportunities.

Final class grades will be assigned with the following grading scale:

- 98 to 100 - A+
- 94 to 97 - A
- 90 to 93 - A-
- 87 to 89 - B+
- 84 to 86 - B
- 80 to 83 - B-
- 77 to 79 - C+
- 74 to 76 - C
- 70 to 73 - C-
- 67 to 69 - D+
- 64 to 66 - D
- 60 to 63 - D-
- 59 and below - F

Canvas: We will be using Canvas (<https://courses.missouri.edu/>) to display grades and for announcements.

Other Useful Information

Make-up Exams/Excused Absences for Quizzes

Making up a test or excusing an absence for a quiz requires proper documentation for a medical or family emergency or for a university-sanctioned event. To be excused and begin the process of making up a test, you must first notify me (an acknowledged e-mail is acceptable) prior to the date of the exam if possible. If you are missing class for a university-sanctioned event, please let me know as early as possible. In cases where you can't let me know ahead of time (e.g. illness, accident, family emergency), you should e-mail me as soon as reasonably possible.

If you miss class the day of a quiz and are able to document a valid reason for the absence, your score for that day will simply be dropped. If you do not have an excused absence you will receive a zero for the exam or the quiz.

Classroom Conduct

Out of respect for fellow students, each person will refrain from talking, whispering, eating, making offensive remarks, and other disruptive behavior during lecture. Cell phones must be silenced and should not be used during class time.

Recording Devices and Note Sharing: Executive Order 38

The use of recording devices by students without my consent is not allowed. Students are prohibited from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without my express written permission. **Do not share class materials with people who are not enrolled in this section of this course. This is a violation of academic integrity as far as the University of Missouri is concerned and has been settled in court already.**

The lecture notes will **Not** be uploaded. I encourage you to take a note for important class materials.

Academic Dishonesty

The following is taken verbatim from <http://provost.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus-information.php>:

“Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.”

Disability Services

Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Class Schedule

Class schedules are subject to change. I will keep you posted with updated schedule.

General Introduction

Week 1 (August 21, 23 & 25): Introduction

- Mon: Course Introduction and Eclipse Day
- Wed: An Introduction to World Politics **Readings:** FLS Chapter Introduction
- Fri: Social Science and the Scientific Method **Readings:** E-Reader: *Lake-Why "isms" are evil*

Week 2 (August 28, 30 & September 1): Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

- Mon: What do Actors want from Politics? Why can't actors always get what they want? **Readings:** FLS Chapter 2
- Wed: Why can't actors.. cont **Readings:** FLS Chapter 2
- Fri: A Historical Introduction -**Readings:** FLS Chapter 1

War & Peace

Week 3 (September 6 & 8): Understanding Interstate War

- Mon: No Class (Labor Day)
- Wed: Understanding Interstate War **Readings:** FLS Chapter 3

- Fri: Understanding Interstate War cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 3 & E-Reader: Quackenbush and Rudy *Evaluating the Monadic Democratic Peace*

Week 4 (September 11, 13 & 15): The Intersection of Domestic and World Politics

- Mon: The Domestic Determinants of Conflict **Readings:** FLS Chapter 4 (first half).
- Wed: The Domestic Determinants.. cont **Readings:** FLS Chapter 4 (second half) and E-Reader: Drury, Overby, & Ang-*Pretty Prudent or Rhetorically Responsive?*
- Fri: International Community **Readings:** FLS Chapter 5 (first half)

Week 5 (September 18, 20 & 22): International Community and Non-state Actors

- Mon: Conflict and the International Community cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 5 (second half) and E-Reader: Oneal, Russett, and Davis-*The Third Leg of the Kantian Tripod for Peace*
- Wed: Civil War and Terrorism **Readings:** FLS Chapter 6 thru page 242.
- Fri: Civil War and Terrorism cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 6: Page 242-262

Week 6 (September 25, 27 & 29): Exam 1 either on WED or FRI

- Mon: E-Reader: Townsen and Reeder-*Where Do Peacekeepers Go* and Summing up War and Peace
- Wed: TBA (Exam 1 or summing up)
- Fri: TBA (Exam 1 or class discussion)

International Political Economy

Week 7 (October 2, 4 & 6): Introduction to IPE and International Trade

- Mon: IPE and Trade **Readings:** FLS Chapter 7 (first half)
- Wed: IPE & Trade cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 7 (second half)
- Fri: Trade cont. E-Reader: Drury et al. -*How Democracy Facilitates S. Korean interest in FTA*

Week 8 (October 9, 11 & 13): International Financial Relations

- Mon: International Finance and Foreign Direct Investment **Readings:** FLS Chapter 8 (first half)
- Wed: International Finance cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 8 (second half)
- Fri: Sovereign Debt and the IMF **Readings:** E-Reader: Skonieczny-*Constructing NAFTA*

Week 9 (October 16, 18 & 20): International Monetary Relations

- Mon: International Monetary Relations **Readings:** FLS Chapter 9 (first half)
- Wed: International Monetary cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 9 (second half)
- Fri: **Readings:** E-Reader: Peksen and Drury-*Economic Sanctions and Recession*

Week 10 (October 23, 25 & 27): Wealth and Poverty

- Mon: Development **Readings:** FLS Chapter 10 (first half)
- Wed: Development cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 10 (second half)
- Fri: **Readings:** E-Reader: Scott and Steele-Sponsoring Democracy

Week 11 (October 30, November 1 & 3): Exam 2

- Mon: What do we know about IPE (Review for Exam 2) **Readings:**
- Wed: TBA (**Exam 2** or Summing up IPE)
- Fri: TBA (**Exam 2** or class discussion)

Emerging Areas of Interest in World Politics

Week 12 (November 6, 8 & 10): International Law and Norms

- Mon: Laws and Norms in World Politics **Readings:** FLS Chapter 11 (first half)
- Wed: Laws and Norms cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 11 (second half)
- Fri: **Readings:** E-Reader: Peterson and Graham-*Shared Human Rights Norms and Military Conflict*

Week 13 (November 13, 15 & 17): Human Rights

- Mon: The Scientific Study of Human Rights **Readings:** FLS Chapter 12 (first half)
- Wed: Human Rights cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 12 (second half) E-Reader: Murdie-*Shaming and Blaming*
- Fri: **No Class** (ISA-Midwest Conference)

Week 14 (November 20, 22 & 24): Thanksgiving Week

- No Class
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Week 15 (November 27, 29 & December 1): The Global Environment

- Mon: The Global Environment **Readings:** FLS Chapter 13 (first half)
- Tue: The Environment cont. **Readings:** FLS Chapter 13 (second half)
- Fri: **Readings:** E-Reader: Petersen - *Whaler, Cetologists, Environmentalists and the International Management of Whaling*

Week 16 (December 4 and 6): Exam 3

- Mon: Review for Exam 3 **Readings:** None
- Wed: **Exam 3**