

PS 3200
Introduction to International Relations

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Objectives:

This class is intended to lay the analytic foundation for a study of international politics. The course is anchored to questions like: Why war? What are the goals of states? When is international cooperation possible? What is the role of international political economy? Together we will explore proposed answers to these questions (and many others). With a critical eye, we will compare and contrast competing explanations.

Requirements:

There will be three unannounced in-class quizzes. Each will be worth 10 points. The midterm will be given the 7th week of class and will be worth 70 points. The cumulative final will be worth 120 points. Students will have two hours to complete the final. Bring bluebooks.

There will be no make-up exams without medical documentation explaining the absence. You will have two hours to complete the final exam for this course. All make-up exams and quizzes will be administered during the third hour allocated for the final exam.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Cheating or plagiarism constitute grounds for course failure.

Grade Scale

A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D	69-60
F	Below 60

Readings:

There are two texts for this class. The first is *International Relations* by Goldstein (2008-09). While a standard introductory text in most respects, it is unique in that the focus is upon the relationship between a state's strategic environment and its ability to pursue foreign policy objectives. It thus serves as a good complement to material presented in class. The second text is *International Relations* by Viotti and Kauppi (3rd ed.). This is a text combined with "selected readings" at the end of each chapter. It emphasizes the current theoretical debates in international relations from competing perspectives. The purpose in assigning both texts is NOT to have you memorize the positions taken by the authors. Instead, you will be asked to critically assess the logical grounding of the authors' comments against the ideas and arguments presented in class.

Both texts are available at the bookstore for your purchase.

Below outlines a timetable for the completion of the assigned readings. These are intended as groundwork for the material presented in class. The lectures will introduce new material, but the order of topics will generally coincide with the readings. Also, the reading burden for this course is not heavy. I intend this deliberately. There are no excuses for not completing the readings in a timely fashion. That is my 'carrot', the incentive for you to stay current with the readings. The 'stick' rests both in the fact that a careful and considered completion of the assigned readings is essential for success in this course, and that the examinations are structured to ensure this.

Readings

Week 1: Introduction & Theorizing about International Politics

G. Ch.1

V&K. Ch.1 (including the selected readings for that chapter)

Week 2: Important Actors

G. Ch.7

Week 3: Anarchy & States Goals

V&K. pp. 55-76 & 82-87

from selected readings in Ch. 2

- The Melian Dialogue / *Thucydides*
- On Princes and the Security of States / *Machiavelli*
- Of the Natural Condition of Mankind / *Thomas Hobbes*

Week 4: State Goals & Power

G. Ch.2

G. Ch.6

Week 5 Power (continued)

G. Ch.3

V&K. from selected readings in Ch.3

- Realism and Complex Interdependence / *Keohane and Nye*

Week 6 Decision Making

G. Ch.4

V&K. pp.205-210

from selected readings in Ch.3

- Perception and Misperception in International Politics / *Jervis*
- Crisis Decision Making / *Holsti*
- Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis / *Allison*

Week 7 Strategic Games

Midterm Exam!

No readings for this week

Week 8 Cooperation/Integration

G. Ch.10

Week 9 Domestic Influences

V&K Ch.4 (including the selected readings for that chapter)

Week 10 War

G. Ch.5

Week 11 War (continued)

V&K from selected readings in Ch.2

- Explaining War / *Waltz*
- War and Change in World Politics / *Gilpin*

Week 12 Trade

G. Ch.8

Week 13 Trade (continued)

G. Ch.9

Week 14 Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation

Reading packet

Week 15 Environment

G. Ch.11

Week 16 Development/ Final Review

G. Ch. 12

G. Ch. 13

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.