

INTL 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 May 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

Cheating or plagiarism constitute grounds for course failure. Students failing the class at the time they request a withdrawal will receive a WF.

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 = 59 and below

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

### **May 12th: Introduction & Theorizing about International Politics**

G. Ch.1

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

### **May 13th: Important Actors**

G. Ch.7

### **May 14<sup>th</sup> : 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*

### **May 15<sup>th</sup>: State Goals & Power**

G. Ch.2

G. Ch.6

### **May 18th: Power (continued)**

G. Ch.3

V&K. from selected readings in Ch.3

- Realism and Complex Interdependence / *Keohane and Nye*

**May 19<sup>th</sup>: 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*

**May 20th: 7 Strategic Games**

*Midterm Exam!*

No readings for this day

**May 21st: Cooperation/Integration**

G. Ch.10

**May 22nd : Domestic Influences**

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

May 25—Holiday

**May 26<sup>th</sup>st: War**

G. Ch.5

**May 27th: War (continued)**

V&K from selected readings in Ch.2

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

**May 28th: Trade**

G. Ch.8

**May 29th: Trade (continued)**

G. Ch.9

**June 1st: Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation/Environment/Development**

G. Ch.11

G. Ch. 12

**Final Exam June 2nd**