

INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations Fall 2008

Nathan W. Freeman
nathanf@uga.edu
Office: Candler Hall B02
Office hours: Tues. 3:45-5:00,
Wed. 11:00-12:00, & by appointment

Section 16-846
TR 11:00-12:15
SLC 207

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the social scientific study of international relations. As such, it is intended to provide students (particularly international affairs majors) with the necessary foundation for pursuing further study within this field.

International relations (IR), strictly defined, is the study of political relationships and interactions among nation-states. Broadly defined, it is the study of world politics. Some of the more important questions for which we will be seeking answers this semester include: Why does war occur? Under what circumstances do states cooperate with one another? What effect does domestic politics have on a state's foreign policy? In their pursuit of answers to these kinds of questions, IR scholars have developed a number of competing, but in many cases, complementary theoretical approaches. One of the chief objectives of this course is to expose students to these rival theories, including the assumptions upon which they rest and the debates which they have spawned. In short, this is first and foremost a theoretically-oriented course. One of the most challenging aspects of the course will be applying these theories to real-world events.

Our initial focus will be on those theoretical paradigms which have traditionally dominated the field: Realism, Liberalism (Pluralism), and Institutionalism. We will then move to an examination of alternative theoretical perspectives such as Historical Structuralism (Globalism) and Constructivism. In addition, we will explore various sub-fields of IR such as international political economy and international law. During the course of the semester students will also gain some familiarity with actual empirical research that has been conducted in the field of IR.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not mandatory, but represents an essential ingredient for performing well in this course. You are therefore strongly encouraged to attend every single class session. If you need additional incentive to attend class, you should know that much of the material that will be presented in class *will not be found in the readings*. What is more, since you will be graded for your in-class participation, it is essential that you attend every class session. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Finally, *anything* which takes place in class, including material from videos or class discussions, is fair game for quizzes and exams. Lest there be any confusion regarding this point, let me emphasize it once more: **Attending class is indispensable if you wish to succeed in this course.**

While attendance is not mandatory, I will be keeping an attendance record. I have two reasons for this. First, taking attendance each class session will help me to learn students' names. Second, I will use attendance records as an informal measure of a student's performance in determining border-line grades at the end of the semester. For example, if you end up with a 79 for the course at the end of the semester, but only showed up to class half of the time, the likelihood that I would bump your grade up to a B- will be significantly lower than if you had perfect attendance.

PARTICIPATION

I encourage and expect each of you to participate and contribute to class discussions. While I realize that some students are naturally shy or uncomfortable speaking in front of their peers, public speaking is an essential skill to learn if you hope to be successful in life. I will occasionally call on quiet students to answer questions to ensure that everyone is participating. Those students who are uncomfortable participating in class are encouraged to initiate or participate in discussions on WebCT.

Your participation grade, which constitutes 10% of your final course grade, will be determined in the following manner: First, you will be expected to participate in a handful of in-class simulations. This will comprise half of your participation grade, or 5% of your overall course grade. If you are not in class for this exercise, you forfeit this part of your grade. Second, your overall in-class participation for the entire semester will be *subjectively* judged in terms of both the *quality* and the *quantity* of your contributions to class discussions. This will represent the remaining half of your participation grade. Only those students who frequently and consistently offer thoughtful comments in class will receive full credit. Students who make only a handful of contributions during the semester can

expect to receive a participation grade in the C or D range, while those students who never say a word will not be awarded any credit. This same criteria applies to contributions to the WebCT discussion board.

CLASS TIME & READINGS

I will employ a variety of pedagogical methods, including traditional lecturing, Socratic discussions, and simulations. The material presented in class is intended to complement and reinforce the material found in the assigned readings. You will be expected to have completed all assigned readings prior to the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed. **This will be a relatively reading intensive course.** You will get more out of each class period if you have done the assigned reading before coming to class. You should set aside time each week to do the readings. For some readings, I may provide you with a set of study questions beforehand to consider while doing the reading. This is intended to help you to discern what is important in each reading, to separate the wheat from the chaff so to speak, and to prepare for class discussions. You will be required to purchase the following books:

Paul R. Viotti & Mark V. Kauppi. 1999. *International Relations Theory: Realism, Pluralism, Globalism, and Beyond*, 3rd edition. Allyn & Bacon.

Fareed Zakaria. 2008. *The Post-American World*. W. W. Norton & Company.

Additional readings can be found in either of two sources, a course packet which can be purchased from Bel-Jean Copy/Print Center (denoted as BJP in the schedule below) located downtown or as PDF files posted on WebCT. I reserve the right to add additional readings to the schedule during the course of the semester.

QUIZZES

There will be at least five unannounced quizzes. These quizzes will function as a device for encouraging attendance, checking to see whether you are keeping up with assigned readings, and giving you an additional indicator of your performance in the course. Collectively, quizzes will constitute 10% of your final course grade. Individually, your four highest quiz grades will each constitute 2.5% of your final course grade (I will drop your lowest quiz grade).

Please do not ask me when any of the quizzes are to be administered. Quizzes can be given at any time, including back-to-back class sessions. If you miss a

quiz because of an absence, then that will be your dropped quiz. There are no exceptions to this rule.

EXAMS

A total of three exams will be administered during the semester – two midterms and a final. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall course grade. While the format of exams may vary, they will largely consist of objective-type questions (e.g., multiple choice, true-false, and fill-in-the-blank) as well as short-answer-type questions. They may also include one or two short essay questions. All exams will be cumulative, though each successive one will be more heavily weighted toward new material covered since the previous exam. Students who perform well on the second exam may elect not to take the final exam, and instead have their second exam count as 50% of the overall course grade. You will only have two hours (out of the three allotted) to complete the final exam.

ABSENCES & MAKE-UP EXAMS

No make-up exams will be administered except under the gravest circumstances and only with proper documentation (i.e., proof). Only the following types of situations will be deemed as warranting a make-up exam:

- A *serious* illness (as documented by a visit to a physician; common colds, allergies, etc. don't count)
- The hospitalization of a member of your immediate family (i.e., your mom, dad, brother, or sister)
- A death in the family (as documented by a copy of the obituary and a note from your parent).

Documentation of your excuse must be provided the very next class period following the class period in which the absence occurred. However, you should try and make an effort to contact me beforehand if you know that you will miss a scheduled exam. Make-up exams will be administered during the last hour of the three hour time period allotted for the final exam.

GRADE APPEALS

If you feel that one of your exams, quizzes, or any other assignment was graded incorrectly you must submit a type-written explanation of the problem. I will then re-evaluate your work and determine whether the original grade should be changed. Note, this re-evaluation could result in a higher or lower grade than the one which you originally received. I am always willing to meet with you to discuss how your work was evaluated and how you can improve your

performance in the course but I *will not* change any grade without a written request and explanation. The only exception to this policy is for simple errors in the calculation of points. Grade appeals will only be accepted for 10 days after an assignment, exam, or quiz has been returned.

FINAL GRADE

Your final grade for the entire course will be determined according to the following distribution:

Participation	10 %
Quizzes	15 %
First exam	25 %
Second exam	25 % (or 50% if you choose not to take the final exam)
Final exam (optional)	25 %

The precise letter grade you receive for the course will be determined according to the following grading scale:

A	93 - 100	C+	77 - 79.5
A-	90 - 92.5	C	73 - 76.5
B+	87 - 89.5	C-	70 - 72.5
B	83 - 86.5	D	60 - 69.5
B-	80 - 82.5	F	≤ 59.5

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the University's academic honesty policy. This policy, titled "A Culture of Honesty," can be accessed at the following website: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf>. Any and all instances of suspected cheating, plagiarism, lying, or other forms of academically objectionable behavior will be referred to the appropriate University authorities for immediate disciplinary action.

COMMUNICATION

I encourage all of you to come see me during my office hours, especially if you are having any difficulty grasping the material. If you have a course-related question or need to contact me in order to set up an appointment, I am most easily reached by e-mail. I will also likely send out numerous e-mails to the entire class during the course of the semester, so please make sure that I have your preferred e-mail address or that your UGA account is not full. These e-

mails may clarify or elaborate upon points raised in class, suggest additional readings, or concern other important course-related matters.

KEEPING UP WITH CURRENT EVENTS

Students should also make a concerted effort to stay abreast of the news since we will be applying what we learn to current events. I recommend subscribing to daily e-mails from prominent national newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*. From time to time, I may also show television news clips or segments in class which will set the stage for in-class discussions of current events.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, & EXAMS

8/19 INTRODUCTIONS / COURSE OVERVIEW

8/21 THEORIES & PARADIGMS

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 1

Suggested reading:

- Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories" (WebCT)
- Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories" (WebCT)

8/26 RATIONALITY

- Morrow, "A Rational Choice Approach to International Conflict" (handout)
- Mearsheimer & Walt, "An Unnecessary War" (WebCT)

8/28 PHILOSOPHICAL ROOTS OF REALISM

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 2, pgs. 55-64, 100-130 (Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, & Bull)

9/2 REALISM: HUMAN NATURE OR STRUCTURE?

- Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism" (BJP)
- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 2, pgs. 64-99, 130-144 (Waltz)
- Video: Peter Brook's *Lord of the Flies* (1963)

9/4 REALISM: HUMAN NATURE OR STRUCTURE? (CONTINUED)

- Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics" (BJP)
- Mearsheimer, Introduction to *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (WebCT)
- Video: *Lord of the Flies* (continued)

9/9 REALISM: HUMAN NATURE OR STRUCTURE? (CONTINUED)

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 2, pgs. 145-183 (Gilpin & Keohane)

9/11 REALISM: DEFENSE VS. OFFENSE

- Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" (WebCT)

9/16 SIMULATION: THE POWER POLITICS GAME

9/18 SIMULATION: THE POWER POLITICS GAME (CONTINUED)

- Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power" (WebCT)

9/23 FIRST EXAM

9/25 LIBERALISM

- Wilson, "The Fourteen Points" (handout)
- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 3, pgs. 184-204, 246-256 (Moravcsik)

9/30 THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 3, pgs. 233-245 (Doyle)
- Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace* (chapters 1 & 2)

10/2 THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE (CONTINUED)

- Gartzke, "The Capitalist Peace" (WebCT)
- Gartzke, "Future Depends on Capitalizing on Capitalist Peace" (http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=5133)
- Bandow, "A Capitalist Peace?" (<http://www.reason.com/news/show/32985.html>)

10/7 SIMULATION: TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

10/9 SIMULATION: TERRITORIAL DISPUTE (CONTINUED)

- ✓ Midterm withdrawal deadline

10/14 DECISION-MAKING

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 3, pgs. 205-210, 257-306 (Jervis, Holsti, Allison, Goldstein & Keohane)
- Janus, chapter 1 of *Groupthink* (BJP)

10/16 DECISION-MAKING (CONTINUED)

- Berejikian, "A Cognitive Theory of Deterrence" (WebCT)

10/21 INTERDEPENDENCE

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 3, pgs. 210-232, 307-318 (Keohane & Nye)

10/23 RATIONALITY & COOPERATION

- Axelrod, "The Live-and-Let-Live System in Trench Warfare in World War I" (BJP)
- Tomz, "The Puzzle of Cooperation in International Debt" (BJP)

10/28 INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 3, pgs. 319-339 (Haas & Ruggie)
- Keohane, "Cooperation and International Regimes" (BJP)
- Keohane, "The Demand for International Regimes" (WebCT)

10/30 OPEN DAY

- Video: To be determined
- ✓ Start reading Zakaria

11/4 RATIONALITY & INSTITUTIONS

- Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation" (BJP)

11/6 HISTORICAL STRUCTURALISM

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 4, pgs. 341-347, 365-368 (Hobson)

11/11 HISTORICAL STRUCTURALISM (CONTINUED)

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 4, pgs. 347-364, 369-396 (Wallerstein, Gills & Palan, & Murphy)

11/13 SECOND EXAM

11/18 RISING POWERS

- Zakaria, chapters 1-5
- Video: *China Rising*

11/20 AMERICAN POWER

- Brooks & Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective" (WebCT)
- Waltz, "Balancing Power: Not Today but Tomorrow" (BJP)
- Zakaria, chapter 6

11/25 NORMATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 5
- Zakaria, chapter 7

12/2 CONSTRUCTIVISM

- Viotti & Kauppi, chapter 6

12/4 CONSTRUCTIVISM (CONTINUED)

12/11 FINAL EXAM, 12:00-3:00