

# INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations

## Spring 2008

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Office hours: Wed. 2:00-4:00  
& by appointment

Section 26-760  
TR 12:30-1:45  
SLC 267

### 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 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 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. 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, and Institutionalism. We will then move to an examination of alternative theoretical perspectives such as 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 mandatory.** It will constitute 5% of your final course grade. You will be given a maximum of three unexcused absences, so choose them well. All other absences must be accompanied by a legitimate and officially-documented excuse. Do not waste your absences. Save them for family emergencies or minor sick spells.

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 participation in class, 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.**

## 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 two in-class simulations, each of which will constitute 3% of your participation grade. If you are not in class for a simulation, you forfeit this part of your grade. Second, your overall in-class participation for the entire semester will be *subjectively* judged in terms of the *quality*, not the *quantity*, of your contributions to class discussions, and will constitute the remaining 4% of your participation grade.

## 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 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 most readings, I will 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. There is no text for this class. 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 from WebCT. I reserve the right to add additional readings to the schedule during the course of the semester.

## QUIZZES

There will be at least four 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. I will drop your

lowest quiz grade and take 10% of the average of the three remaining quiz grades. 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. **Be warned, the format of exams may vary.** Exams will only consist of a very small amount of objective material (e.g., multiple choice, true-false, and fill-in-the-blank), if any. They will likely include a large amount of short answer questions. They may also include one or two short essay questions. Finally, I reserve the right to give an all-essay exam. All exams will be cumulative, though each successive one will be more heavily weighted toward new material covered since the previous exam. 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. 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:

Attendance	5 %
Participation	10 %
Quizzes	10 %
First exam	20 %
Second exam	25 %
Final exam	30 %

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

A	93 – 100	C+	77 – 79.9
A-	90 – 92.9	C	73 – 76.9
B+	87 – 89.9	C-	70 – 72.9
B	83 – 86.9	D	60 – 69.9
B-	80 – 82.9	F	≤ 59.9

## 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.

## 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 *The Christian Science Monitor's* daily e-mail summary which includes a "World" section. You can sign up for it free of charge by going to [www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com). 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.



**Tues, Feb 19**

**Interdependence**

- Keohane & Nye, “Realism and Complex Interdependence” (BJP)
- Milner, “The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique” (BJP)

**Thurs, Feb 21**

**International Regimes**

- Krasner, “Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables” (WebCT)
- Keohane, “Cooperation and International Regimes” (BJP)

**Tues, Feb 26**

**Cooperation Theory**

- Axelrod, “The Live-and-Let-Live System in Trench Warfare” (BJP)
- Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics” (BJP)

**Thurs, Feb 28**

**Institutionalism**

- Keohane, “A Functional Theory of Regimes” (BJP)
- Dai, “Information Systems in Treaty Regimes” (WebCT)

**Tues, Mar 4**

**The Gains Debate**

- Grieco, “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism” (WebCT)

**Thurs, Mar 6**

**Constructivism**

- Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics” (WebCT)

**Mar 11 & 13**

**Spring Break!**

**Tues, Mar 18**

**Liberalism Revisited**

- Moravcsik, “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics” (BJP)

**Thurs, Mar 20**

**Second Exam**

**Tues, Mar 25**

**Domestic Politics and Two-Level Games**

- Putnam, “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games” (WebCT)

**Thurs, Mar 27**

**Territorial Dispute Simulation**

**Tues, Apr 1**

**The Democratic Peace**

- Russett, “The Fact of the Democratic Peace” & “Why Democratic Peace?”

**Thurs, Apr 3**                      **Class Canceled**

**Tues, Apr 8**                      **Imperialism**

- Hobson, “The Economic Taproots of Imperialism” (BJP)
- Lenin, “Imperialism: A Special Stage of Capitalism” (BJP)
- Krasner, “Two Alternative Perspectives: Marxism and Liberalism” (BJP)

**Thurs, Apr 10**                      **Historical-Structuralism**

- Frank, “The Thesis of Capitalist Underdevelopment” (BJP)
- Dos Santos, “The Structure of Dependence” (WebCT)
- Wallerstein, “Patterns and Perspectives of the Capitalist World-Economy” (BJP)

**Tues, Apr 15**                      **International Political Economy**

- Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Econmy” (BJP)
- Keohane, “Hegemony in the World Economy” (BJP)

**Thurs, Apr 17**                      **International Law**

- Abbott et al., “The Concept of Legalization.” (WebCT)
- Downs, Rocke, & Barsoom, “Is the Good News About Compliance, Good News About Cooperation?” (WebCT)

**Tues, Apr 22**                      **Open Day**

**Thurs, Apr 24**                      **The Iraq War**

- Charles Krauthammer, “Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World” (WebCT)
- Linda Bilmes and Joseph Stiglitz, “The Economic Costs of the Iraq War” (WebCT)
- New York Times advertisement (BJP)
- John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “An Unnecessary War” (WebCT)

**Tues, May 6**                      **Final Exam, 12:00-3:00**