

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political Science 1380–001, Fall 2021
MW: 4:00–5:20pm, Heroy Building 153
Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

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Office hours: MW 1:30–3:00pm

Course Description and Objectives

This course is a basic introduction to the field of international relations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) identify the types of interactions and influences that arise between or among individual, social, cultural, political, or economic experiences;
- (2) use the main analytical concepts and theories in the study of international relations to write analytical essays that demonstrate *clearly stated theses* to explain political events;
- (3) discuss the facts associated with important historical events and contemporary issues in international relations to *support* the thesis; and
- (4) evaluate competing arguments about behavior in international relations by using *evidence* from historical and contemporary events.

We begin in Part I by considering various concepts used in the study of international relations. These theoretical approaches provide us with the analytical framework to examine key issues and events. In Part II, we apply these concepts to one of the most important issues in international relations: war and peace. We consider several important cases of international conflict in the twentieth century and this century in order to apply the analytical framework to account for the cases of war. Part III provides an introduction to the politics of international economic relations. We examine the sources of international conflict and cooperation in areas such as trade, finance, and development in the globalized world. Part IV then surveys several issues that have particular salience in the contemporary world: such as the global environment, terrorism, civil war and international intervention, and nuclear proliferation. In this concluding section, we will see not only how the analytical framework informs our understanding of current events, but also how it can help us predict future patterns and formulate policy responses.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (including memo assignments) (20% of a student's course grade): Attendance at lecture and participation in discussion are mandatory. The readings vary in length and difficulty but average about 100–150 pages per week. You are expected to attend all the lectures in-person and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. Most importantly, *students are required to turn in a memo to the instructor by 11:59pm of the due date on Canvas.*

An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, participating without being prepared, or attending online via Zoom. If you cannot make class, you are responsible for the material you missed. Your attendance will be counted as long as you let me know your absence (preferably in advance, but if not then as soon as possible). In short, you must communicate with me as soon as possible when you have to be absent from class.

After four unexcused absences, I may give an FA (F for attendance) to your course grade. An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities require communication with me at the **beginning** of the semester. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Ultimately your attendance and participation grade turns on **my** impression of how seriously you take this course. It is **your** responsibility to take this course seriously and let me know that. How? Attend class in-person following the mask requirement rules; be prepared for class—complete the reading assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions, and especially write a good memo; **arrive early** to class; remain for the entire class; *be attentive in class without distracting me or your classmates with phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips, coming-and-going, and so forth*; complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the papers and other assignments. Laptops, cell phones, smart phones, and *any electronic devices may not be used in class—**not even for note-taking.***

Masks Recommended: While masks are not required in this course, individuals should use their own discretion if they prefer to wear masks. The instructor and students will show respect for individual decisions and responses to the health concerns of the pandemic for those who choose to continue wearing masks. Your vaccine status is private information and will neither be requested nor made public.

[Note: This masking policy will go into effect when the university's *temporary* masking policy is repealed.]

2. **Three short papers (60%):** Over the course of the semester, each student will write **three** short papers. Each short paper will require 5–7 pages (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font) of writing. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of: demonstrated mastery of the assigned readings; skill in exposing nuances of similarity and difference in various defensible positions; cogency, clarity, precision and organization of presentation; and relevance of evidence marshaled to *support your argument(s)*. Papers shorter than the indicated length will receive deduction of your grade unless you receive my consent prior to submission. Same if your paper is single-spaced, you use abnormally small or large margins or fonts (12-point), or your paper is not typed. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a serious illness or a death in the family. **Please plan to finish the assignment prior to the due date, and leave adequate time to work out any computer problems that may arise.**

3. **Take-home final exam (20%):** The take-home final will be made available on December 1 (Wednesday) and **due at 11:59pm on December 11 (Saturday) on Canvas**. It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Parts IV of the course. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 5–7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond your control: e.g., illness or family emergencies.

Each of you must meet with me for 15 minutes in the first weeks of the semester. Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. Be punctual.

Disability Accommodations

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214–768–1470 or visit www.smu.edu/Provost/SASP/DASS to begin the process. Once approved and registered, students will submit a DASS Accommodation Letter to faculty through the electronic portal *DASS Link* and then communicate directly with each instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/ChaplainandReligious-Life/ReligiousHolidays>).

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2020–2021 SMU Undergraduate Catalog](#) under “Enrollment and Academic Records/Excused Absences.”)

Student Academic Success Programs (SASP)

Students needing assistance with writing assignments for SMU courses may schedule an appointment with the Writing Center through Canvas. Students wishing support with subject-specific tutoring or success strategies should contact SASP, Loyd All Sports Center, Suite 202; 214–768–3648; <https://www.smu.edu/sasp>.

Books and Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available electronically on the course webpage at Canvas (<http://canvas.smu.edu>). There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of Canvas.

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (indicated as FLS below), *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, fourth edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Readings provide background on topics covered in class lectures and discussions, so read the assignments **before** the class for which they are assigned. Because the course will make frequent reference to current events, you should make a habit of *reading a respectable newspaper on a regular basis*.

I. Foundations of World Politics

1. Introduction (Aug. 23)

* Uri Friedman, “Why America Resists Learning from Other Countries,” *Atlantic*, May 14, 2020 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/05/coronavirus-could-end-american-exceptionalism/611605/>)

2. What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction (Aug. 25)

FLS, introduction & chapter 1 (pp. xxiv–xxxix & 2–41)

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Commanding Heights, The Battle for the World Economy: Episode 1, The Battle of Ideas**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfRTpoYpHfw>) by Aug. 25.

3. Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (Aug. 30)

FLS, chapter 2 (pp. 42–87)

4. Realism: Power, Anarchy, and the State (Sep. 1)

* John J. Mearsheimer, “Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order,” *International Security* 43(4) (Spring 2019): pp. 7–50.

* Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (New York: Random House, 1951): pp. 330–337.

5. Liberalism: Wealth, Rules, and Democracy (Sep. 8)

* Patrick J. McDonald, *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009): pp. 1–76.

* Hiroki Takeuchi, “Trade as a Pathway to Peace,” *The Catalyst*, Fall 2020
(<https://www.bushcenter.org/catalyst/china/takeuchi-trade-and-peace-china.html>)

Memo Assignment 1 due Sep. 10, 11:59pm on Canvas.

II. War and Peace

6. Why Are There Wars? (Sep. 13)

FLS, chapter 3 (pp. 88–135)

Recommended Film: “**The Fog of War**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 01309).

7–8. The Rise of China and Challenges to the Global Order (Sep. 15 & 20)

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 606–619)

* Kurt M. Campbell and Ely Ratner, “The China Reckoning: How Beijing Defied American Expectations,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(2) (March/April 2018): pp. 60–70.

* Alastair Iain Johnston, “The Failure of the ‘Failure of Engagement’ with China,” *The Washington Quarterly* 42(2) (Summer 2019): pp. 99–114.

* Barry Naughton, “A Perspective on Chinese Economics: What Have We Learned? What Did We Fail to Anticipate?” in Anne F. Thurston, ed., *Engaging China: Fifty Years of Sino-American Relations* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2021): pp. 174–196.

* Yeling Tan, “How the WTO Changed China: The Mixed Legacy of Economic Engagement,” *Foreign Affairs* 100(2) (March/April, 2021): 90–102.

* Hiroki Takeuchi, “Domestic Politics of Chinese Foreign Policy: Where Will Xi Jinping Bring China?” *Asian Security* 15(2) (May 2019): 205–213.

* Elizabeth Economy, “China’s Inconvenient Truth,” *Foreign Affairs* (May 28, 2021).

* Thomas J. Christensen, “There Will Not Be a New Cold War: The Limits of U.S.-Chinese Competition,” *Foreign Affairs* (March 24, 2021).

* Jisi Wang, “The Plot Against China? How Beijing Sees the New Washington Consensus,” *Foreign Affairs* 100(4) (July/August 2021): pp. 48–57.

* Oriana Skylar Mastro, “The Taiwan Temptation: Why Beijing Might Resort to Force,” *Foreign Affairs* 100(4) (July/August 2021): pp. 58–67.

* Suisheng Zhao, “Rhetoric and Reality of China’s Global Leadership in the Context of COVID-19: Implications for the US-led World Order and Liberal Globalization,” *Journal of Contemporary China* (2020): 1–16.

Recommended videos:

SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “The Belt, Road, and Beyond: Domestic Motivations and Implications for the World” (with Min Ye), November 5, 2020:

<https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2020/11/18/sun-star-the-belt-road-and-beyond-domestic-motivations-and-implications-for-the-world/>.

SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “The Emperor’s New Road: China and the Project of the Century” (with Jonathan Hillman), February 25, 2021:

<https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2021/02/25/sun-star-webinar-series-the-emperors-new-road-china-and-the-project-of-the-century/>.

9. Review (Sep. 22)

THE FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE SEP. 24, 11:59PM ON CANVAS

10–12. Domestic Politics and War (Sep. 27, 29, & Oct. 4)

FLS, chapter 4 (pp. 136–183)

* Bruce Russett, *Controlling the Sword: The Democratic Governance of National Security* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990): pp. 20–51.

* Arthur MacEwan, “Is It Oil?” *Dollars & Sense* (May–June 2003): pp. 20–24.

* Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post–Cold War World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993): pp. 3–42.

13. U.S. Policy Making in a Global Age (Oct. 6)

[Guest Speaker: Professor Diana Newton]

Memo Assignment 2 due Oct. 8, 11:59pm on Canvas.

14. The Iraq War: Containment, Prevention, and Domestic Politics (Oct. 13)

* Kenneth M. Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad?” *Foreign Affairs* 81(2) (March/April 2002): pp. 32–47.

* John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “An Unnecessary War,” *Foreign Policy* 134 (January/February 2003): pp. 50–59.

* John Zaller, “Elite Leadership of Mass Opinion: New Evidence from the Gulf War,” in W. Lance Bennett and David L. Paletz, *Taken by Storm: The Media, Public Opinion, and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Gulf War* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1994): pp. 186–209.

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Buying the War**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD03283; also available at: <http://vimeo.com/33033186>) by Oct. 13.

15. Review (Oct. 18)

16. U.S. Policy Making in the Middle East (Oct. 20)

[Guest Speaker: Ambassador Robert Jordan, former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia]

THE SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE OCT. 22, 11:59PM ON CANVAS

III. International Political Economy

17. Politics of International Trade (Oct. 25)

FLS, chapters 7 (pp. 294–345)

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Commanding Heights, The Battle for the World Economy: Episode 2, Agony of Reform**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eSeaBSFHW8>) by Oct. 25.

18. Global Value Chains and New Globalization (Oct. 27)

* Richard Baldwin, *The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016): pp. 79–110 & 142–176.

* Hiroki Takeuchi, “Is the Liberal International Order Dead? Global Value Chains and the CPTPP.”

Recommended video:

SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “Networked Japanese Investment in Mexico’s Automotive Sector: Cooperation, Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprises and Challenges Under the USMCA” (with Melba Falck and Leo Guzman), April 29, 2021:
<https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2021/06/15/smu-tower-center-sun-star-webinar-on-japan-and-east-asia-in-partnership-with-smu-mission-foods-texas-mexico-center-networked-japanese-investment-in-mexicos-automotive-sector-cooperation-small-a/>.

19. Politics of International Finance (Nov. 1)

FLS, chapters 8–9 (pp. 346–423)

20. Foreign Policy Making in Action: Canada and USMCA (Nov. 3)

[Guest Speaker: Dr. Rachel McCormick, Consul-General of Canada in Dallas]

Memo Assignment 3 due Nov. 5, 11:59pm on Canvas.

21. Politics of Development (Nov. 8)

FLS, chapter 10 (pp. 424–461)

In preparation for the class discussion, you are required to watch the documentary film, “**Commanding Heights, The Battle for the World Economy: Episode 3, The New Rules of the Game**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD00890; also available at the You Tube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgFrBedellA>) by Nov. 3.

22–23. Globalization and Politics of the Populist Backlash (Nov. 10 & 15)

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 619–635)

* John Engler, Penny Pritzker, Edward Alden, and Laura Taylor-Kale, *The Work Ahead: Machines, Skills, and U.S. Leadership in the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2018): entire (108 pages).

* Gordon H. Hanson, “Can Trade Work for Workers? The Right Way to Redress Harms and Redistributive Gains,” *Foreign Affairs* 100(3) (May/June 2021): pp. 20–27.

* Adam S. Posen, “The Price of Nostalgia: America’s Self-Defeating Economic Retreat,” *Foreign Affairs* 100(3) (May/June 2021): pp. 28–43.

24. Review (Nov. 17)

THE THIRD SHORT PAPER DUE NOV. 19, 11:59PM ON CANVAS

IV. Contemporary Problems and Looking Ahead

25. Politics of the Global Environment (Nov. 22)

FLS, chapter 13 (pp. 540–583)

* Joshua Busby, “Warming World: Why Climate Change Matters More than Anything Else,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(4) (July/August 2018): pp. 49–55.

Recommended video:

SMU Tower Center Sun & Star Webinar: “Integrating Air Pollution and Climate Policy in Asia” (with Eric Zusman), October 8, 2020: <https://blog.smu.edu/towercenter/2020/10/20/integrating-air-pollution-and-climate-change-policy-in-asia/>.

26. Terrorism and War in Afghanistan (Nov. 29)

FLS, chapter 6 (pp. 268–293)

[Additional required readings on War in Afghanistan TBA]

Recommended Films: “**The Battle of Algiers**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 01535); “**Charlie Wilson’s War**” (available at the Hamon Arts Library AV Collection: call number IDD 03938).

27. Civil War and International Intervention (Dec. 1)

[Guest Speaker: Professor Karisa Cloward]

FLS, chapter 6 (pp. 236 – 268)

* Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done about It* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007): pp. 17–37.

* Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya,” *Foreign Affairs* 90(6) (November/December 2011): pp. 48–59.

* Severine Autesserre, “Hobbes and the Congo: Frames, Local Violence, and International Intervention,” *International Organization* 63(2) (2009): pp. 249–280.

* Virginia Page Fortna, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2) (June 2004): pp. 269–292.

Recommended Films: “**Hotel Rwanda**” (available at the Hamon Library AV Collection: call number IDD01762); “**Sometimes in April**” (available at the Hamon Library AV Collection: call number IDD02865).

Memo Assignment 4 due Dec. 3, 11:59pm on Canvas.

28. Nuclear Proliferation (Dec. 6)

FLS, chapter 14 (pp. 593–606)

* John Mueller, “Nuclear Weapons Don’t Matter: But Nuclear Hysteria Does,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 10–15.

* Nina Tannenwald, “The Vanishing Nuclear Taboo? How Disarmament Fell Apart,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 16–24.

* Elbridge Colby, “If You Want Peace, Prepare for Nuclear War: A Strategy for the New Great-Power Rivalry,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 25–32.

* Scott D. Sagan, “Armed and Dangerous: When Dictators Get the Bomb,” *Foreign Affairs* 97(6) (November/December 2018): pp. 35–43.

TAKE-HOME FINAL – Distributed on Dec. 1 and due Dec. 11, 11:59pm on Canvas.