

# POLS 2361.003

## Introduction to International Relations

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Office: Holden Hall 9

Office Hours: MWF 12-1:00pm

Web: **Blackboard**

Class Room: Holden Hall 154

Class Hours: MWF 11-11:50am

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### Course Description

The goal of this class is to discover how international politics affect our everyday lives. We investigate international relations through the framework of "interests, interactions, and institutions." We learn that global actors have various interests, unique interactions, and work under different institutions. But we also uncover broad patterns of international behavior that allow us to explain and make predictions about world events.

Throughout the course of the semester, we will identify different actors in international politics and investigate why those actors conflict at some times and cooperate at others. Our focus will then turn to international political economy, where we will discuss theories of global trade and interdependence between nations. By the end of the semester, you will understand a variety of political challenges facing the world today.

### Required Materials

- Pevehouse, Jon and Joshua Goldstein. 2017. *International Relations, 11th Edition*. New York: Pearson.
- Drezner, Daniel. 2015. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies: Revised Edition*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Course Objectives

Successful students:

1. Identify and critique different explanations for human behavior and social issues.

2. Describe the roles of the U.S. in the international community.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the broad theories of international politics
4. Demonstrate understanding of the causes and consequences of international conflict.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of transnational issues.

## **Course Structure**

The primary method of instruction will be lecture, however participation in discussion is also a required component of this course. The professor reserves the right to include other methods of instruction, such as, videos, group activities, and other similar methods that facilitate the learning process.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Readings**

Daily reading assignments are listed in the syllabus. Students are required to complete all reading assignments PRIOR to attending the class for which they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading assignments will be essential for success in this class and will facilitate lecture and discussion. Although the overall theme between daily reading assignments and lecture will be the same, the exact material may not. There will be reading assignments that are not covered in class and class lectures that are not covered in the readings. Students are responsible for all information covered by readings and lectures on the exams.

### **Quizzes**

Each chapter of the Pevehouse and Goldstein textbook will include a quiz over the whole chapter after you complete the readings. These quizzes will total 20% of your final grade.

### **Midterm Exams**

There will be two in-class midterm exams that will encompass 15% each of your final grade. These exams will consist of multiple choice questions and at least one short answer essay. The dates of these exams are listed in the schedule, but are subject to change.

### **Final Exam**

There will be a final exam that will total 20% of your final grade. This exam will be similar to the midterm exams, by consisting of multiple choice questions and at least two short answer essays. One of these essays will be cumulative, but the remainder of the exam will not be cumulative.

## **Group Project**

There will be a group policy paper that will include 30% of your final grade. 5% of this will come from teammate assessments and another 5% will come from a 10-12 minute presentation at the end of the semester. The remainder of this grade will come from a paper written by the group as a whole. This paper will be written as a aid request paper in which the group is representing a developing country that will be chosen by the group after the groups have been RANDOMLY assigned. This paper will be about 10 pages long of content, with a max of 15 pages. Reference pages do not count towards this page count. These groups will be using concepts learned from the throughout the course to determine how their developing country can utilize the \$50 million dollars that are up for grabs. The group that gives the best presentation and shows the most creativity will receive a bonus of 2% on their overall final grades. Groups and countries will be decided during the third week of class. The final paper and presentations will be due on the first day of presentations for all groups.

## **Front Row Extra Credit and Participation**

Students sitting in the front row, center section of the class are eligible for extra credit. At the beginning of a period featuring a normal class (thus barring the first meeting and meetings with exams, etc), front row students will sign a sheet of paper passed out by the Instructor. Students coming in tardy after the sheet is signed receive no extra credit. For each day students sit in the front row, they earn about .111 percentage points of extra credit, therefore a student sitting in the front row for every day of normal class will earn 3% in extra credit. The downside of this extra credit is that students seated in this section may be asked discussion and other questions whether they have raised their hands or not and are obliged to answer, and if they are unable to answer they do not receive the bonus points for that day. Front Row seats are first come, first serve, and there is no reserving them. If conflict arises for these seats I will discontinue the extra credit opportunity.

Participation is not a grade in this course, but when it comes to rounding grades up at the end of the semester, participation and attendance will be taken into account in this situation. If the Instructor determines that a student has been active and attended regularly then their grades can be rounded up at the end of the semester. This rounding up will only occur within reason meaning about a percentage point. No student should request this change, and will only be done at the Instructors discretion. Requesting this to occur will only reduce the odds of it actually occurring.

## **Grading Policy**

Grading Scale is as follows:

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = 59 and below

Any curve will only ever make it easier to obtain a certain letter grade, and not lower the students final grade. The grade will count the assessments using the following proportions:

- 20% Quizzes
- 30% Midterm Exams (15% each)
- 20% Final Exam
- 20% Group Paper
- 5% Group Presentation
- 5% Peer Evaluations

## Course Policies

### During Class

I understand that the electronic recording of notes will be important for class and so computers will be allowed in class. Please refrain from using computers for anything but activities related to the class. Phones are prohibited as they are rarely useful for anything in the course. Eating and drinking are allowed in class but please refrain from it affecting the course. Try not to eat your lunch in class as the classes are typically active.

### Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected in all lectures, however it is not required. Valid excuses for absence will be accepted before class. In extenuating circumstances, valid excuses with proof will be accepted after class.

### Make-up Exams and Missed Assignments

Missed exams will be excused and made-up after the fact in case of illness or personal emergency *only with proper documentation*. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency arises that prevents you from taking the exam. Exams missed due to university sponsored events or religious holidays may also be excused, provided that the student informs me of the absence *at least two weeks in advance*. Vacation (e.g. leaving early for fall, spring or semester break) and social engagements will *not* be excused. Absolutely *no* excuse will be accepted for late assignments or missed exams, unless they are formally approved by the university. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Additionally, the documentation must explicitly state that the student was unable to attend class on the date in question.

Students must provide proper documentation and make-up the missed assignment (or exam) within two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Failure to do so will result in a zero. Make-up exams may differ significantly in both structure and content from the original exam.

## **Academic Integrity and Honesty**

Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct found at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php>. Don't cheat. Don't be that guy. Yes, you. You know exactly what I'm talking about.

## **Classroom Conduct**

Activities that are disruptive to class will not be tolerated. Arriving late for class, reading newspapers, speaking while others are speaking, packing prior to the end of class, and cell phones are all highly disruptive. Cell phones, ipods, and other similar devices must be turned off during class. Laptops may be used for note-taking only; use of laptops for purposes other than note-taking will result in the banning of laptops from the classroom.

In addition, students are encouraged to discuss and express opinions on the many issues, some controversial, that are covered in class. Although differing opinions are encouraged, I will not tolerate any attacks of a personal nature or statements that single out students based on their race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, nationality, or sexual orientation. Any student engaging in disruptive or disrespectful activities will be asked to leave the classroom. For more information, please see the student code of conduct: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/conductcode.php>

## **Religious Observances**

Texas House Bill 256 regarding religious observances requires that faculty and the university make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students are advised to notify the course instructor well in advance of the conflict and must make-up the missed assignment within two weeks of the original due date.

## **Other Policies**

Any student requiring additional time or accommodations should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester (within the first week). Official university documentation regarding disabilities will be required. For more information, please consult Student Disability Services: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/sds/>

## **TTU Resources for Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Violence**

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other Title IX violations are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at [titleix.ttu.edu/students](http://titleix.ttu.edu/students). Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are: TTU Student Counseling Center, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (Provides confidential support on campus.) TTU Student Counseling Center 24-hour Helpline, 806-742-5555, (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal

violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.) Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, 806-763-7273, <http://www.voiceofhopelubbock.org> (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.) The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office, 806-742-2110, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/rise/> (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.) Texas Tech Police Department, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tttd/> (To report criminal activity that occurs on or near Texas Tech campus.)

## Course Schedule

The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

### **Week 01, 08/27 - 08/31:** Introduction and Foundational Concepts

- Chapter 1 PG
- Chapters 1-4 Drezner

### **Week 02, 09/03 - 09/07:** Realism

- **No Class Monday, September 3rd**
- Chapter 2 PG
- Chapter 5 Drezner

### **Week 03, 09/10 - 09/14:** Liberalism and Social Constructivism

- Chapter 3 PG
- Chapters 6-8 Drezner
- Team Selection on Friday

### **Week 04, 09/17 - 09/21:** Midterm 1 and Foreign Policy

- Midterm 1 - Monday, September 17th
- Chapter 4 PG
- Chapters 9-10

### **Week 05, 09/24 - 09/28:** International Conflict

- Chapter 5 PG
- Chapters 11-12

**Week 06, 10/01 - 10/05:** Military Force and Terrorism

- Chapter 6 PG
- Chapters 13-14

**Week 07, 10/08 - 10/12:** International Organizations

- Chapter 7 PG

**Week 08, 10/15 - 10/19:** International Trade

- Chapter 8 PG

**Week 09, 10/22 - 10/26:** **Midterm 2** and Global Finance

- Midterm 2 - Monday, October 22nd
- Chapter 9 PG

**Week 10, 10/29 - 11/02:** International Integration

- Chapter 10 PG

**Week 11, 11/05 - 11/09:** Environment and Population

- Chapter 11 PG

**Week 12, 11/12 - 11/16:** The North-South Gap

- Chapter 11 PG

**Week 13, 11/19 - 11/23:** International Development and Thanksgiving Break

- Chapter 13 PG
- **Thanksgiving Break No Class Wednesday or Friday**

**Week 14, 11/26 - 11/30:** International Development and Presentations

- Chapter 13 PG
- **Group Project Paper and Slides Due Wednesday, November 28th**
- Presentations
- Presentations

**Week 15, 12/03 - 12/07:** Presentations and **FINAL EXAM**

- Presentations
- Review

**FINAL EXAM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1:30pm-4:00pm**