Introduction to International Relations  
(POLS 175)

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OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to survey some of the major theories and issues in the study of international relations for a better understanding of international political phenomena. These include approaches (traditional and scientific) and perspectives in international relations (idealism and realism), actors in international system (nation-state, sub-state and non-state actors, such as IGO and NGO), power and measurement of power, international conflict (Balance of Power, Alliance, Bargaining, cause of war, conflicts of interest, means of leverage), Post WWII (American) foreign policy, international political economy (Mercantilism, Liberalism, Marxism, International Trade and Monetary Regime, North-South Relations etc.), international law and organization, environment issues, the political economy of defense (arms race, arms control, the impact of defense spending on economic performance, conversion, etc.), international integration and international development.

Required Readings:


** Two copies of the textbook (one new and one old version) are on reserve. You do not have to purchase the textbook if you decide to use the textbook on reserve. The old version is still good although some information is not up to date. It is your responsibility that you make sure you do not miss anything from the new edition.

Grades:

Your grade for this course will be based on three exams (25% each) and five discussion questions (5% each). In addition, there is another discussion question for extra credit (3%), which is optional. The same grading criteria which appear below are applied to get the 3 extra points. Exam schedules are in the syllabus. Exams will be multiple choice and taken through the D2L site. **You can take an exam at any time during the given time period, but you will only have one opportunity to take it. Once you begin the exam, you MUST finish it. You cannot start an exam, then enter again at a later time to finish it. Also, exams will be timed (50 minutes), so you will have a set amount of time to take the exam once you begin. You should make sure that you have set aside the whole time allotted to take the exam just in case you need it. You should also make sure that you have a secure connection before you begin. This is your responsibility. I&MT strongly encourage you NOT to use wireless connection when you take the test.** You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would any closed-book exam and be prepared to complete the exam on your own. Some sample questions for each exam are posted on D2L. I strongly encourage you to take a look at the posted sample questions before you take the test for two reasons: 1) you can get yourself familiar with the types of questions asked on the exam; 2) these are actual exam questions.
I will post a discussion question five times. You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) in the “Discussion Questions Forum” on the D2L site by the designated date at midnight. You will get full credit for your discussion response as long as it is 200 words long and you comment on another student’s response. Again, your response **MUST be at least 200 words** in length. If your response is shorter than 200 words or if you fail to comment on another student’s response, you will get partial credit for your discussion response. **Keep in mind that all responses and posting on the Discussion Questions forum must follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face to face classroom. Your responses to the discussion questions should address the question itself and demonstrate that you understand the topic under discussion. When you respond to someone else’s post, do so with respect and thought. Personal attacks or excessive opinion-spouting will not be tolerated.** You should engage each other’s ideas and respond in a thoughtful, constructive, informed manner.

Grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale that breaks down as follows. There is no other extra credit or curve.

- A = 90-100
- A- = 85-89.9
- B+ = 80-84.9
- B = 75-79.9
- B- = 70-74.9
- C+ = 65-69.9
- C = 60-64.9
- C- = 55-59.9
- D+ = 50-54.9
- D = 45-49.9
- D- = 40-44.9
- F = Below 40

Any student who cheats on an exam or commits any other act of academic dishonesty will receive an F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate University authorities.

**Flow of the Class:** For this course, a week will start on Monday at 12:01 AM and end on Sunday 11:59PM. Lecture notes outlines and discussion questions posted on D2L combined with the readings from the textbook, will constitute the materials for the course. You are expected to read the chapter, access the lecture notes, and answer the discussion question. I will grade your response and comment on them. Please remember that I will be sending everything to your UWM e-mail accounts. If you don’t regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly. When you need to e-mail me something for the class, send it to me at heouk@uwm.edu.

**Course Outline**

July 20-21. Understanding International Relations
- IR as a Field of Study, Approaches in studying IR, Actors in International System, Level of Analysis
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 1
  - **Post a brief introduction of yourself in the discussion forum.**

July 22-25. Power Politics and Alternatives to Power Politics
- Idealism vs. Realism, Power, Bargaining, International System, Alliance,
Liberalism, Feminism, Postmodernism, Peace Studies
Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 2 & 3

**Discussion Questions 1 (due: July 25)**

July 26-27. Foreign Policy
- Decision Making, Sub-state Actors, U.S. Foreign Policy
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 4

**First Exam (due: July 27, covers chapters 1-4)**

- The Cause of War, Conflicts of Interest, Conflicts of Ideas, Means of Leverage,
- The Use of Force, Defense Economics, Weapon Systems, Deterrence
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 5 & 6

**Discussion Question 2 (due: July 31)**

August 1-3. International Organization and Law
- World Order, The United Nations, International Law and Sovereignty
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 7

**Discussion Question 3 (due: August 3)**

August 4-7. International Political Economy and Money and Business
- Markets, Trade Strategies, Trade Regimes, Ideologies in IPE, Globalism vs. Regionalism,
- The Currency System, State Financial Positions, Multinational Business
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 8 & 9

**Discussion Question 4 (due: August 7)**

August 1-8. **Second Exam (due: August 8, covers chapters 5-9)**

August 9-10. The Environment
- Interdependence and the Environment, Managing the Environment, Natural Resources,
- Pollution, Population,
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 11

**Discussion Question 5 (due: August 10)**

August 11-14. The North-South Gap
- Poverty, Theories of Accumulation, Imperialism, The State of South, Revolution, NICs,
- International Economic Development
- Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch 12 & 13

**Final Exam (due: August 14: covers chapters 11-13)**