

## 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, realism, constructivism, and feminism), actors in international system (nation-state, sub-state and non-state actors, such as IGO's and NGO's), power and measurement of power, international conflict (balance of power, alliance, bargaining, cause of war, conflicts of interest, means of leverage), foreign policy, international political economy (mercantilism, liberalism, Marxism, international trade and monetary regime, north-south relations etc.), international law and organization (UN), 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:

Goldstein, Joshua and Jon Pevehouse. 2020. International Relations. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson.

### Grades:

Your grade for this course will be based on three exams (25% each) and five discussion questions (5% each). 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 the exam at ANYTIME, 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. L&S IT strongly encourages 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 the first exam are posted on Canvas. I strongly encourage you to take a close look at the posted sample questions before you take the first test and get yourself familiar with the types of questions asked on the exam.*

There are five discussions. You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) in the "Discussions" on the Canvas site by the designated date at 11:59PM. You will get full credit for your discussion response if it is at least 300 words long and you comment on another student's response on time. **If your response is shorter than 300 words or if you fail to comment on another student's response, you will get partial credit (only 1 point) for your discussion response.** Even 299 words will be penalized. **There is no length requirement for the comment.** That said, in your comment, justify why you agree or disagree with the post. You will

not get credit if you simply say you agree (or like) with the posting. **Keep in mind that all responses and postings on the Discussion must follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face-to-face classroom setting. 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 Canvas 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 questions. 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 26-27. 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** (Introduction is NOT a discussion, so you do not need to comment on another student's introduction and there is no length requirement)

#### July 28-31. 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 31)**

#### August 1-2. Foreign Policy

Decision Making, Sub-state Actors, U.S. Foreign Policy

Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 4

**First Exam (due: August 3, covers chapters 1-4)**

August 4-7. International Conflict and Military Force

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: August 7)**

August 8-9. International Organization and Law

World Order, The United Nations, International Law and Sovereignty

Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 7

**Discussion Question 3 (due: August 9)**

August 10-13. 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 13)**

August 14. **Second Exam (due: August 14, covers chapters 5-9)**

August 15-16. The Environment

Interdependence and the Environment, Managing the Environment, Natural Resources,  
Pollution, Population,

Reading: Goldstein and Pevehouse, Ch. 11

**Discussion Question 5 (due: August 16)**

August 17-20. 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

August 20. **Final Exam (due: August 20, covers chapters 8, 9, 11-13)**