

# **Introduction to International Relations (POLS 175-201)**

Fall 2021

Online

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Office Hours: in-person or online by appointment

## **Course Description**

This introductory course will provide students with a general overview of the field of international relations. No previous coursework or background in international relations or political science is required. We will discuss the basis of key approaches and perspectives (i.e. realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism), determine the role and interests of various actors (i.e. states, non-state actors), and review pressing topics, such as power, international conflict, terrorism, global trade, development, and environmental concerns, in the field of international relations. The objective of the course is for students to understand why and how actors interact with one another in the international arena and how this not only affects those actors involved, but the world itself.

## **Required Text**

Goldstein, Joshua and Jon Pevehouse. 2020. International Relations. 12th ed. Addison Longman. ISBN-13 9780135229255.

The required textbook is available online and via print. I recommend purchasing the textbook online for immediate access. Access to the textbook online will require a 4-month subscription, \$9.99 per month, to Pearson+ available here: <https://www.pearson.com/store/en-us/pearsonplus/p/9780137501328.html>.

## **Course Requirements**

This course will be conducted entirely online and thus, you must have a reliable internet connection. I will be in contact with you through your UWM email as well as through CANVAS. Checking your email regularly will be crucial to the course as it will be the main method of communication. All course materials, except for the textbook, will be available through CANVAS. I will use CANVAS to distribute information, such as reminders of upcoming assignments and the posting of lecture material. I will also collect all assignments and post grades through the CANVAS interface. In other words, all coursework must be conducted on and submitted to CANVAS to receive credit.

Coursework includes weekly discussion posts and three exams. Descriptions of each of the assignments will be provided below. For this three-credit course, it is estimated

that you will undergo approximately 115 hours of reading, lectures, discussion posts, and exams. Over the course of the semester, it is estimated that there will be about 30 hours of lecture, 45 hours of textbook readings, 20 hours of discussion posts and comments, and 20 hours of studying and taking exams. Although the exact breakdown will vary by student and by week, my expectation is that students will spend sufficient time preparing and executing the course requirements.

### **Discussion Posts**

Over the course of the semester, students must complete ten of the eleven weekly discussion questions. If complete all eleven discussion posts, the lowest grade will be dropped. Discussion posts are due every Sunday night by 11:59 PM.

Each week, one or more discussion question(s) will be posted to CANVAS' "Discussion" section. Each of the questions in the prompt must be addressed when completing the weekly discussion post assignment. Responses must demonstrate you have read the textbook material and watched the lecture and thus, understand the topic of the discussion. Be sure to include all relevant information from the course lectures and textbooks to support your answer. Outside sources are not required, however, if choose to use any sources beyond the course material, correct citations must be included. Failure to properly cite outside material will result in a 0 for that week's discussion post. To attain full points for the weekly discussion assignment, discussion responses must be written in complete sentences and reach a minimum of 300 words (approximately just over a half-page single-spaced).

In addition to posting your own original response to the discussion questions listed, you must also comment on another student's post with a minimum of 100 words (approximately a quarter-page length single-spaced). Commenting on another student's post could include things such as why you agree or disagree with their answer (and provide evidence to support your argument) or explaining why you thought their response was interesting or unique (i.e. they addressed something you didn't think of). While you do not have to agree with your classmates, all responses must follow appropriate forms of classroom behavior. Please be thoughtful of your responses to your classmates and treat them with respect. Any responses that are abusive, profane, or are personal attacks against another student will result in a loss of points for the weekly discussion assignment and will result in a warning. If attacks continue, you will be reported to the Dean of Students and will result in a loss of all points for the discussion posts portion of your final grade.

### **Exams**

A total of three exams will be administered over CANVAS throughout the semester. The schedule of exams is posted below in the "Course Schedule" section of the syllabus. During exam weeks, you may take the exam at any time. However, you will only have one opportunity to take the exam. Once the exam is started, you must finish the exam. Exams are timed to 50 minutes. Please plan accordingly, as any exams started after 11:09 PM on Sunday nights will not receive the full time allotted for the exam. Furthermore, make sure you have a secure internet connection before the start of the

exam. As this is an online course, it is your responsibility to ensure an adequate internet connection. Having a poor internet connection cannot be used as an excuse to finish an exam at another time once the exam has already begun.

Exams will consist of true and false, multiple-choice, and short answers. Please prepare for the exams as if you were taking an in-person, closed-book exam. While I cannot prevent you from using your notes or other course material during the exams, I encourage you to study and prepare for the exams. Having to search for every answer is not possible given the 50 minute time slot. Furthermore, exams must be completed individually. Any student who cheats on the exam will receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the appropriate UWM authorities.

### **Grading Policies**

Consistent with the descriptions above, the course will be based on ten discussion posts (4% each) and three exams (20% each). In other words, 40% of the final grade will be composed of discussion posts and the other 60% of exams. The deadline for the completion of each task is stated below in the “Course Schedule”.

Grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale (see below). There will be no other extra credit or grading curve.

A = 100-94	B = 86-84	C = 76-74	D = 67-64
A- = 93-90	B- = 83-80	C- = 70-73	D- = 60-63
B+ = 89-87	C+ = 79-77	D+ = 68-69	F = 59-0

### **UWM Policies**

Information regarding several standing policies of UWM is available at <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>. Below is a review of a few relevant sections to the course.

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students who engage in academic misconduct will be reported to the proper UWM authorities and will face sanctions from the university. Academic misconduct is considered, but not limited to, cheating on exams or assignments, presenting work that is not your own (this includes not properly citing others), working with others on assignments and exams, and assisting other students in such acts. A full list of possible sources of academic misconduct is listed here: <https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/academic-misconduct/>.

## **Special Accommodations**

Students who need special accommodations to the course should contact me as soon as possible.

**Students with disabilities.** The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student or in coordination with the Accessibility Resource Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate materials and test accommodations can be found at the following: <https://uwm.edu/arc/>

**Religious observances.** For those seeking accommodations regarding religious beliefs, please contact me within the first three weeks of class to set new dates for exams or other assignments. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-2.%20Accommodation%20of%20Religious%20Beliefs.pdf>

**Students called to active military duty.** Students with active military duty must contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted. <https://uwm.edu/onestop/students-called-to-active-duty/>

**COVID-19.** Students who become sick with COVID-19 must contact me within the first week of a positive test-result to discuss deadlines for assignments and exams. Further UWM information in regard to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://uwm.edu/coronavirus/students/>

## **Incompletes**

A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. See <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-13.%20Incomplete%20Grades.pdf>

## **Discriminatory conduct**

Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. See <https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%205-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf>

## **Course Schedule**

### **Flow of the Course**

Each week will begin on Monday at 12:00 AM and end on Sunday at 11:59 PM. All discussion posts and exams must be completed and submitted before the Sunday night deadline (11:59 PM) for that week. Any course work submitted after the deadline will not be accepted without an approved university excuse. Having unreliable internet cannot be used as an excuse as the course requires you to have a trustworthy internet service to complete all coursework.

### **Schedule**

#### **Week 1 (September 2-5): Syllabus and Introduction to the Course**

Please review the syllabus and post a brief introduction of yourself on the Discussion Board in Canvas labeled "Introduction".

#### **Week 2 (September 6-12): The Globalization of International Relations**

Required reading: Chapter 1, The Globalization of International Relations  
Discussion Post 1 due by Sunday, September 12 at 11:59 PM

#### **Week 3 (September 13-19): Realism**

Required Reading: Chapter 2, Realist Theories  
Discussion Post 2 due by Sunday, September 19 at 11:59 PM

#### **Week 4 (September 20-26): Liberalism and Other Social Theories**

Required Reading: Chapter 3, Liberal and Social Theories  
Discussion Post 3 due by Sunday, September 26 at 11:59 PM

#### **Week 5 (September 27-October 3): Foreign Policy**

Required Reading: Chapter 4, Foreign Policy  
Discussion Post 4 due by Sunday, October 3 at 11:59 PM

#### **Week 6 (October 4-10): Midterm 1 (covering weeks 2-5)**

Exam must be completed before 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 10

#### **Week 7 (October 11-17): International Conflict**

Required Reading: Chapter 5, International Conflict

Discussion Post 5 due by Sunday, October 17 at 11:59 PM

**Week 8 (October 18-24): Military Force and Terrorism**

Required Reading: Chapter 6, Military Force and Terrorism

Discussion Post 6 due by Sunday, October 24 at 11:59 PM

**Week 9 (October 25-31): International Organization, Law, and Human Rights**

Required Reading: Chapter 7, International Organization, Law, and Human Rights

Discussion Post 7 due by Sunday, October 31 at 11:59 PM

**Week 10 (November 1-7): Midterm 2 (covering weeks 7-9)**

Exam must be completed before 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 7

**Week 11 (November 8-14): International Trade**

Required Reading: Chapter 8, International Trade

Discussion Post 8 due by Sunday, November 14 at 11:59 PM

**Week 12 (November 15-21): Global Finance and Business**

Required Reading: Chapter 9, Global Finance and Business

Discussion Post 9 due by Sunday, November 21 at 11:59 PM

**Week 13 (November 22-28): Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 14 (November 29-December 5): The North-South Gap and International Development**

Required Readings: Chapter 12, The North-South Gap and Chapter 13, International Development (selections TBD)

Discussion Post 10 due by Sunday, December 5 at 11:59 PM

**Week 15 (December 6-12): International Concerns**

Required Reading: Chapter 11, Environment and Population

Discussion Post 11 due by Sunday, December 12 at 11:59 PM

**Week 16 (December 13-19): Final Exam (covering weeks 11-15)**

Exam must be completed before 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 19