

# Introduction to International Relations (POL SCI 175-001)

Spring 2022

T/R 9:30-10:45 AM  
Bolton B40

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Office Hours: T/R 11-12; 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 Texts**

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>.

All other required texts and materials will be uploaded to CANVAS.

## **Course Requirements**

In this course, you will prepare for and attend all lectures, take three exams, write two current events papers, and write ten discussion posts. Details of each task are listed below. For this three-credit course, it is estimated that you will undergo approximately 115 hours of reading, lectures, discussion posts, current events papers, and exams. Over the course of the semester, it is estimated that there will be about 30 hours of lecture, 45 hours of reading the textbook and other required material, 20 hours of writing discussion posts and current event papers, 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.

### **Lectures**

Beyond Week 1 of the course, this course will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 10:45 AM in Bolton B40. If COVID-19 protocols ensue, causing a permanent shift from face-to-face to an online format, an immediate email update will be sent on how the rest of the course will move forward.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to prepare for and attend all class periods (with exceptions due to COVID-19, military duty, and religious observances). An attendance sheet will be presented each class period in which students must sign their name. Participation points will come from how engaged students are in classroom activities, including things such as questions asked, questions answered, current event presentations, and other additional contributions. Attendance and participation will make up 10% of the final grade.

### **Discussion Posts**

Over the course of the semester, students must complete ten of the twelve weekly discussion questions composing 30% of the final grade (3% each post). If complete all twelve discussion posts, the lowest two grades will be dropped. Discussion posts are due every Sunday night by 11:59 PM. Late assignments will not be accepted without an approved university excuse.

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 that you have attended the lectures and read the the required materials and thus, understand the topic of the discussion. Be sure to include all relevant information from the course lectures, textbook, and other reading material 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.

### **Current Event Papers**

Students must complete and present two current event papers worth 10% of their final grade (5% each paper). Current event papers will require students to engage with current events and apply these events to the course material. Students can choose any two weeks of the course to complete their current event papers but papers must be uploaded by 11:59 PM prior to the class period they choose to present on.

For each paper, students must summarize and analyze two to three related, reliable news articles that were published within two-weeks of the course topic chosen. News articles chosen must be from reliable news sources such as the Al Jazeera, BBC, CNN, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and so forth. If unsure whether an article is considered a reliable source, please contact me prior to the start of your assignment. All news articles chosen must be properly cited in text and in a reference section at the end of the assignment.

In terms of the format for the current event papers, all assignments must meet a minimum of a 500 words (not including the reference page) and be written in an essay format. There must be a title, introduction, multiple body paragraphs, a conclusion, and a reference section.

In the body paragraphs, students will develop the core objectives of the assignment. The summary of the articles will discuss what the articles are about. Questions that must be answered in the summary portion of the assignment include: What is the event that occurred? Who are the main actors (i.e. states, individuals, international organizations, NGOs, MNCs, etc)? And what the most important facts or arguments of the articles? Following the summaries, the next task is to analyze the news articles. Analysis will examine why these articles are important for international relations and how it relates to the current topic of the course. In your discussion you must include at least three different terms and theories learned in the course. This will first require you to define (or briefly explain) each term or theory chosen before applying it to the news article. In the application stage, you will explain why the article is a good example of the terms or theories chosen.

Once completed the summary and analysis of the two or three articles chosen, you must write a brief conclusion of what you have learned from this assignment. It can address questions like, how these events may affect you (directly or indirectly), why it is important to keep up with current events, or anything else you may have learned (or relearned) from completing the assignment.

After the paper is submitted to CANVAS (by 11:59 PM before the class period chosen to present on), students must prepare a two-minute verbal presentation on their current event paper addressing what event took place and how it relates to the class topic of the week.

### **Exams**

A total of three exams will be administered throughout the semester. Exams are not cumulative. The first exam will cover the topics of the introduction to international relations, globalization, international relations theories (realism, liberalism, and other social theories), and foreign policy. The second exam will cover the topics of international conflict, military force and terrorism, and international organizations, law, and human rights. And the third exam will cover international trade, global finance and business, the North-South gap, international development, and various other international concerns. While the exams are not cumulative, each midterm exams will be worth 15% and the final exam will be worth 20% of the final grade.

The format of exams will consist of true and false, multiple choice, and short answer responses. A study guide will be distributed one week prior to the exam date listed below in the “Course Schedule” section of the syllabus. During exam weeks, Tuesdays will be for exam review while Thursdays will be designated for the exams. No make-up exams will be allowed without an approved university excuse.

### **Grading Policies**

Consistent with the descriptions above, the course will be based on ten discussion posts (3% each), two current events papers (5% each), two midterms (15% each), a final exam (20%), and attendance and participation (10%). In other words, 10% of the final grade will consist of attendance and participation, 30% discussion posts, 10% of current events papers, and 50% of exams.

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 = 66-64
A- = 93-90	B- = 83-80	C- = 70-73	D- = 60-63
B+ = 89-87	C+ = 79-77	D+ = 69-67	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**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
Syllabus and Introduction to the Course	January 25	- Post a brief introduction of yourself on the Discussion Board in Canvas labeled "Introduction"
The Globalization of International Relations	January 27	- Required readings: - Chapter 1, The Globalization of International Relations (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Collective Action and Property Rights for Sustainable Development: Understanding Collective Action (Ostrom 2004) - Defining Globalization (Scholte 2008) <b>- Discussion Post 1 due by Sunday, January 30 at 11:59 PM</b>
Realism	February 1, 3	- Required Reading: - Chapter 2, Realist Theories (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020) - Anarchy and the Struggle for Power (Mearsheimer 2014) <b>- Discussion Post 2 due by Sunday, February 6 at 11:59 PM</b>

Liberalism and Other Social Theories	February 8, 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 3, Liberal and Social Theories (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- International Relations: One World, Many Theories (Walt 1998)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Suggested Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender Makes the World Go Round: Where are the Women? (Enole 2014)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 3 due by Sunday, February 13 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
Foreign Policy	February 15, 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 4, Foreign Policy (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- International Decision Making: Leadership Matters (Hermann and Hagan 1998)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Suggested Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Allison 1969)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 4 due by Sunday, February 20 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
Exam Week 1	February 22, 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete Study Guide</li> <li>- Catch Up and Review Day: February 22</li> <li>- <b>Midterm 1: February 24</b></li> </ul>
International Conflict	March 1, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 5, International Conflict (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- Videos posted to CANVAS: India-Pakistan Conflict (approx. 30 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 5 due by Sunday, March 6 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
Military Force and Terrorism	March 8, 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 6, Military Force and Terrorism (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- Nuclear Weapons Don't Matter: But Nuclear Hysteria Does (Mueller 2018)</li> <li>- The Good Enough Doctrine: Learning to Live with Terrorism (Byman 2021)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 6 due by Sunday, March 13 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>

International Organization, Law, and Human Rights	March 15, 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 7, International Organization, Law, and Human Rights (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- UN Charter</li> <li>- Universal Declaration of Human Rights</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 7 due by Sunday, March 20 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
Spring Break	March 22, 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enjoy your break!</li> </ul>
Exam Week 2	March 29, 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete Study Guide</li> <li>- Catch Up and Review Day: March 29</li> <li>- <b>Midterm 2: March 31</b></li> </ul>
International Trade	April 5, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 8, International Trade (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- The Free Trade Paradox: The Bad Politics of a Good Idea (Blinder 2019)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 8 due by Sunday, April 10 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
Global Finance and Buisness	April 12, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 9, Global Finance and Business (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- Selections from Chapter 13, International Development (13.3.1 Foreign Investment, 13.3.2 North-South Debt, and 13.3.3 IMF Conditionality) (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- The Role of the IMF: Past, Present, and Future (Camdessus 1998)</li> <li>- Why We Still Need the World Bank: Looking Beyond Aid (Zoellick 2012)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 9 due by Sunday, April 17 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>



The North-South Gap and International Development	April 19, 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 12, The North-South Gap (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- Selections from Chapter 13, International Development (13.2.3 Corruption, 13.4 Foreign Assistance, 13.4.1 Patterns of Foreign Assistance, 13.4.2 Types of Foreign Assistance, 13.4.3 The Politics of Foreign Assistance, 13.4.4, The Impact of Foreign Assistance) (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- More than 1 Billion People are Hungry in the World (Banerjee and Duflo 2011)</li> <li>- Don't Fear Refugees: Why They Pose Little Threat to National Security (Bollfrass, Shaver, and Zhou 2015)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 10 due by Sunday, April 24 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
International Concerns	April 26, 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 11, Environment and Population (Goldstein and Pevehouse 2020)</li> <li>- With Great Demographic Comes Great Power: Why Population Will Drive Geopolitics (Eberstadt 2019)</li> <li>- <i>Climate Change article TBD</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 11 due by Sunday, May 1 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
International Concerns Continued	May 3, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TBD</li> <li>- <b>Discussion Post 12 due by Sunday, May 8 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul>
Exam Week 3	May 10, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete Study Guide</li> <li>- Catch Up and Review Day: May 10</li> <li>- <b>Final Exam: May 12</b></li> </ul>