

PSC 124: M001 (70043) International Relations

Summer II, 2017

Lecture Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10:00 to 11:45 – CH001

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Office Hours:

Monday 12:00-1:30

Tuesday 12:00-1:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides students with the background information and theoretical tools required to comprehend and analyze the past and contemporary international events at the introductory level. The class will initially introduce students to main theoretical traditions developed in the discipline of international relations over decades. Then, it will be focused on the main areas of study in international relations such as statecraft, foreign policy, conflict and war, terrorism, international integration and trade, international law and human rights, environmental issues and global economy. The class will familiarize students with international processes and interactions and enable them to recognize and appreciate the complexity, interconnectedness and multifacetedness of international politics. Throughout the semester, the key concepts and puzzles of the discipline such as nature of anarchy, sources of power, causes of war, the role of non-state actors, functions of international regimes, and the future of international relations will be scrutinized. Beyond the use of the textbook and the lecture slides, the class will be enriched with a wide variety of activities such as documentary screenings, guest lectures and simulations. Students' active participation and involvement will be routinized through assignment of individual and team projects as well as in-class group discussions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this class, students should be able to:

- Apply the main theories of IR to comprehend and account for international interactions, relations and processes at the basic level.
- Form and present informed oral and written arguments on international events and developments.
- Understand and explain the key terms and events in international relations.
- Better understand the international affairs section of a prominent newspaper which they read on a regular basis.
- Improve their critical thinking, writing and reading abilities and skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements include participation, quizzes, a team project, an individual critical film analysis report and two exams.

Participation and Attendance: You are expected to attend all lectures, read the textbook chapters and additional articles assigned weekly, come ready to be called by your name and contribute to the class discussion. Your attendance and class participation will comprise %10 of your final grade.

Attendance Points (50%)

20-19	A	100
18	A-	90
17	B	85
16	B-	80
15	C	75
14	C-	70
13	D	65
12	D-	60
11 and below F		

Participation Points (50%)

Demonstrates excellent preparation	A	90-100
Demonstrates good preparation	B	80-90
Demonstrates adequate preparation	C	70-80
Present not disruptive	D	60-70
Present but disruptive	F	0-60

Quizzes: The scheduled quizzes will be given at the start or end of the classes to keep you up to date with the class material. The quizzes and exams will cover the weekly assigned readings and the information provided in the lectures that can be found in the lecture slides. The quizzes will involve short answer questions and make up 15% of your final grade.

Critical Film Analysis Report: Students will be required to watch a film that furthers their understanding of the topics covered during the lectures. This individual assignment will provide an opportunity for students to acquaint themselves with the specific political, economic and historical context of a political event.

After watching the film that they chose and is relevant to the main themes of the class, students will be expected to write a critical analysis report. The aim of this report is to make you assess a contemporary or historical event through IR lenses with the aid of the theoretical tools and concepts introduced in the class. The report is worth 15% of your final grade. You can find some film suggestions below. Please consult with me if you would like to watch another film that you think could be more relevant to themes of the class.

Hotel Rwanda	V for Vendetta	Modern Times	Al-Risalah	Three Kings
Dr. Strangelove	1984	The God Father	Margin Call	Whistleblower
Lawrence of Arabia	Wag the Dog	Munich	Argo	Paradise Now
The Battle of Algiers	Schindler's List	The Great Dictator	Syriana	Bridge of Spies

Deadlines:

July 21, 5 p.m.: The title of the movie submitted for review via e-mail.

August 1, 5 p.m.: An outline of the report is submitted for review via e-mail. Outlines will be used to understand the progress you have made and check if you are on the right track. Outlines will include at least a half page preliminary explanation in regards to how this movie helps to illuminate and illustrate some of the concepts and theories learned in the class.

August 10, 5 p.m.: Final report is due via e-mail.

The final paper should include:

1. Brief summary of the movie plot (1 page)
2. Brief summary of the history of the political event that constitutes the main theme of the film, of the positions taken by the stakeholders, and of the arguments being proposed by those stakeholders (2 page)

3. Applying to IR theories introduced in the class to interpret and analyze the political event that constitutes the main theme of the film concerned. (2-3 pages)

Format:

- 1) 6-7 pages (excluding title and reference page)
 - 2) 12 font Times New Roman, double spaced, 1 inch margins, and with page numbers
 - 3) American Political Science Association (APSA) citation and reference format (or any other acceptable citation format: MLA or APA)
- <http://www.apsanet.org/files/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>.

Team Project: The class will be broken up into groups where each group will be representing an actor (NGOs, the US, the UN, Russia, and the EU) in an international conference on climate change. I will hand out a guideline explaining what these actors’ interests and intended goals are so that each group will be able to identify the best and worst outcomes of the summit for them and act accordingly. The actors will be expected to form and present their arguments in the conference and utilize all diplomatic and political tools available to them (bargaining, withdrawing from the summit, imposing sanctions and the like) to get the best outcome that they can get. The groups will be given two and half weeks (from July 17 to August 3) to prepare for their part in the simulation after their roles are assigned.

Exams: There will be one midterm and one final exam in the class. The exams will include ID questions and one or two essay questions. Each exam will comprise %25 of your final grade.

GRADING

The table below shows the overall breakdown of your final grade. You can also use it to calculate your final grade on your own.

Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Critical Film Analysis Report	15%
Team Project	10%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

READING

One textbook “Joshua S. Goldstein & Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations*” is required for the class. We will use the 11th edition 2016 which is available at the SU Bookstore. The book is also available electronically from the publisher.

Besides the textbook chapters, there will be additional articles assigned which are included in the schedule below and accessible online.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1:

Monday, July 3

Course Introduction

Introduction & Discussion on Course Requirements

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day (no classes, university offices closed)

Wednesday, July 5

Globalization of IR (1.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 1 – pp. 3-21
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikecollins/2015/05/06/the-pros-and-cons-of-globalization/#6afefd02ccce>

Thursday, July 6

Globalization of IR (1.2)

Reading: G & P: chapter 1 – pp. 21-38

WEEK 2:

Monday, July 10

Realist Theories (2.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 2 – pp. 43-63
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/realism-intl-relations/>

Tuesday, July 11

Realist Theories (2.2)

Reading: G & P: chapter 2 – pp. 63-79

QUIZ #1 on chapter 1 and 2

Wednesday, July 12

Liberal and Social Theories (3.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 3 – pp. 85-103
<http://www.e-ir.info/2017/01/09/international-relations-theory/>

Handing out the scenario and the role preference ranking form for the simulation project.

Thursday, July 13

Liberal and Social Theories (3.2)

Reading: G & P: chapter 3 – pp. 103-122
Walt, Stephen M., “The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations,” *Annual Review of Political Science* (2005), 23-48.
Guest Lecturer, Catriona Standfield, Feminism in International Relations

WEEK 3:

Monday, July 17 Foreign Policy (4.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 4 – pp. 127-134

Jervis, R. “Hypotheses on Misperception,” *World Politics* 20, no. 3 (1968).

Ascertaining the simulation groups

Tuesday, July 18 Foreign Policy (4.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 4 – pp. 127-134

D. Trump, “Transcript: Trump’s Foreign Policy Speech” (April 2016) at <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/28/us/politics/transcript-trump-foreign-policy.html>

QUIZ #2 on chapter 3 and 4

Wednesday, July 19 International Conflict (5.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 5 – pp. 153-168

Levy, J.S. “The Causes of War and Conditions of Peace,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 1 (1998) pp. 139-165.

Thursday, July 20 International Conflict (5.2)

Reading: G & P: chapter 5 – pp. 168-188

Huntington, S. P. “The Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993).

Documentary Movie Screening, Promises
Edward Said on Clash of Civilizations

WEEK 4:

Monday, July 24 Military Force and Terrorism (6.1)

Reading: G & P: chapter 6 – pp. 193-209

Tuesday, July 25 Military Force and Terrorism (6.2)

Reading: G & P: chapter 6 – pp. 209-226

Lake, David A. 2002. “Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century.” *Dialogue-IO* 1. pp.15-29.

QUIZ #3 on chapter 5 and 6

Guest Lecturer, David Arceneaux, Nuclear Weapons

Wednesday, July 26

EXAM #1 (Chapters 1 through 6)

Thursday, July 27 International Integration (10)

Reading: G & P: chapter 10 – pp. 355-381
Haas, E. (1961). International Integration: The European and the Universal Process. *International Organization*, 15(3), 366-392.

WEEK 5:

Monday, July 31 International Organization, Law, and HR

Reading: G & P: chapter 7 – pp. 233-276
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/international-law> (Read all of the entry which is 9 pages)
QUIZ #4 on chapter 10 and 7

Tuesday, August 1 International Trade

Reading: G & P: chapter 8 – pp. 294-314

Wednesday, August 2 Global Finance and Business

Reading: G & P: chapter 9 – pp. 321-349
QUIZ #5 on chapter 8 and 9

Thursday, August 3 Environment and Population

Reading: G & P: chapter 11 – pp. 387-418
International Conference Simulation on Climate Change

WEEK 6:

Monday, August 7 The North-South Gap

Reading: G & P: chapter 12 – pp. 425-455

Tuesday, August 8 International Development

Reading: G & P: chapter 13 – pp. 461-493

Wednesday, August 9

Final Exam (Chapters 7 through 13)
