

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
PSC. 124 U001 - Fall 2017
Department of Political Science
Syracuse University
Mondays and Wednesdays 17.15 – 18.35
Room: Heroy Geology Building
Instructor: Aykut Ozturk

Contact Information

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory level course to the academic discipline of international relations. Scholars of international relations study political and economic developments crossing national boundaries. Covering all the themes at the center of the discipline, this course provides students with a broad picture of the field.

In terms of its design, this course combines a puzzle-oriented focus with a theory-conscious perspective. On the one hand, the bulk of the course will be centered around empirical puzzles, including why states go to war, when economic protectionism prevails over free trade, or why it is so challenging to solve global environmental problems. On the other hand, however, this course emphasizes that there are contending theories to answer these puzzles, all relying on very different conceptions of the nature of international relations and actors shaping it. Thus, liberal, constructivist and radical perspectives will be discussed along with realist and rationalist perspectives. Assignments are designed to encourage students to bring together these theoretical and empirical dimensions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is built on four learning objectives. Here are these goals:

- By the end of the term, each student will gain factual knowledge of the empirical phenomenon the discipline deals with. Students will be able to describe general developments and trends in world politics during the last century, especially with regards to international security and international political economy.
- By the end of the term, each student will be able to describe key assumptions, concepts, and questions underlying contending theoretical perspectives in the field of international relations.

- By the end of the term, each student will be able to compare explanatory power of rival international relations theories with regards to various empirical puzzles at hand.
- Analytical thinking is the most important skill undergraduate education can provide to a student. Students should learn to discipline their thinking processes to form and convey coherent and strong arguments. This course intends to contribute to this process through writing and critical presentation assignments. By the end of the term, each student will be able to form argumentative essays and presentations, combining theoretical and empirical dimensions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

*Exams: 15*2 points*

There will be two exams in this class. Second exam is not comprehensive; it only covers the period after the first exam.

I use exams towards first and second learning objectives listed above: developing a factual knowledge of world politics during the last century, and learning key concepts, assumptions and questions developed by contending theoretical perspectives.

Exams will be comprised of short questions; there will be no long essay questions. In exams, students have to give precise responses. No more, no less. Irrelevant words or sentences, even when they are accompanied by correct words and sentences, signify that you are confused about the material, resulting in diminishing credits. A vague understanding of the material, only based on your lecture notes, will not bring full credits. To be successful in exams, you have to read assigned readings, memorize the definition of key concepts, and understand relations between concepts.

History Quiz: 5 point.

This quiz intends to make sure that you read the history chapter of FLS book, which will not be discussed during the class. There will be multiple choice and/or short answer questions on the quiz.

Attendance: 10 points.

Regular attendance is necessary to get the most out of this course. Being exposed to class discussions, even when you do not actively participate in those discussions, will help you to better understand concepts and issues discussed in the class. For this reason, I will take attendance at each meeting.

Participation: 10 points.

Each time you participate in class discussions, either asking a question or answering a question, you will deepen your comprehension of the class material, being able to think through new concepts you just learned. Furthermore, student participation makes class more interesting for everyone in the classroom, including the instructor. For this reason, class participation will be highly rewarded. It is impossible that you get an A from this class unless you actively participate in most meetings.

*Essays: 15*2 points.*

You will write two essays throughout the term. Unlike exams, essays are directed towards third and fourth learning objectives: improving your ability to interpret the course material and adapt your knowledge to new contexts. I use these assignments to develop your writing skills too. To be successful in these assignments, you have to write coherent essays, proposing a central argument, supported by logical inferences and empirical examples. I will use one of our meetings to discuss ways to write better essays.

Critical Presentation: 15 point.

Starting from September 20, two students will be responsible at each meeting to provide a critical presentation of the assigned reading. Like essays, this assignment is also directed towards third and fourth learning objectives. In presentations, I expect you to tell us what you did not like with the reading, or what you found missing at the reading, or what further questions the relevant book chapter brought to your mind. One way to criticize readings is to rely on our theoretical discussions during the first month of the course, pointing to assumptions of the reading that seem unwarranted to you. Another way is a careful focus on the text, revealing inconsistencies within the text or inconsistencies between the text and the real world you see around.

Each presentation should be around 5-10 minutes. No summary of the book chapter, please.

GRADING TABLE

Grade	Grade Points	Total Points
A	4	93-100
A-	3.66	90-92
B+	3.33	88-90
B	3	83-87
B-	2.66	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2	73-76
C-	1.66	70-73
D	1	66-70
F	0	0-65

REQUIRED TEXT AND COURSE READING

Frieden, Jeffrey, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz ("FLS"). *World Politics: Interests, Institutions, Interactions*. New York: WW Norton. (Second Edition, 2012).

Additional readings will be made available on our course page available at blackboard.syr.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Note: Over the course of the semester, some reading assignments may change. Stay tuned for updates!

Introduction

August 28, Monday: Introduction to the Class

Part 1: Theoretical Approaches to International Relations

August 30, Wednesday: Theories in Social Sciences

- FLS, Introduction and Chapter 1
- *History Quiz*

September 4: No Class, Monday

- Start reading the Waltz piece; it is a difficult one.

September 6, Wednesday: Realism, International System of States, Anarchy

- Kenneth Waltz, 1979. *Theory of International Politics*, excerpts from Art and Jervis (2011).

September 11, Monday: Liberalism

- David Baldwin, 1993, "Neoliberalism, Neorealism, and World Politics", pages 3-22.

September 13, Wednesday: Realism vs. Liberalism

September 18, Monday: Constructivism and Radical Critique

- V.I. Lenin, 1917. *Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, excerpts from Mingst and Snyder (2013)

September 20, Wednesday: Approaching Problems of International Relations

- Robert Jervis, 2002, 'Theories of War in an Era of Leading-Power Peace', *American Political Science Review*.

September 25, Monday: Approaching Problems of International Relations- II

- FLS, Chapter 2.

Part 2: Main Themes in International Relations

a) International Security

September 27, Wednesday: Why are There Wars?

- FLS, Chapter 3.

October 2, Monday: Security Dilemma in International Politics

- Robert Jervis. "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma" *World Politics*, 30(2), pp. 186-214 only.

October 4, Wednesday: Domestic Causes of War

- FLS, Chapter 4, 124 to 154.

October 9, Monday: Explaining Democratic Peace

- FLS, Chapter 4, 154 to 164.

October 11, Wednesday: International Institutions and Collective Security

- FLS, Chapter 5.

October 16, Monday: International Institutions: Whose Institutions?

- Walter Russell Mead. 2014. "The Return of Geopolitics: The Revenge of the Revisionist Powers." *Foreign Affairs* May/June.
- G. John Ikenberry. 2014. "The Illusion of Geopolitics." *Foreign Affairs* May/June.

October 18, Wednesday: Civil War and International Terrorism

- FLS, Chapter 6.

October 23, Monday: Exam 1

b) International Political Economy

October 25, Wednesday: Power and International Economic System

- Robert Gilpin, The Nature of Political Economy in *U.S. Power and the Multinational Corporation*
- Robert O. Keohane, excerpt from *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*

October 30, Monday: International Trade

- FLS, Chapter 7, 264 to 287.

November 1, Wednesday: International Trade II

- FLS, Chapter 7, 287 to 306.

November 6, Monday: International Financial Relations

- FLS Chapter 8.

November 8, International Monetary Relations

- FLS Chapter 9.

November 13, Monday: Paper Writing Session

- Assignment 1 due on November 15.

November 15, Wednesday: Global Economic Inequality

- FLS Chapter 10.

November 19, Monday: Thanksgiving Break

November 22, Wednesday: Thanksgiving Break

c) Transnational Problems

November 27, Monday: Wednesday: Global Environmental Issues

- FLS, Chapter 13.

November 29, Wednesday: International Law and Human Rights

- FLS, Chapter 11 and 12.

December 4, Monday: No Class

- Study for Exam- I will hold extended office hours.

December 6, Wednesday:

- Second Exam

Final Exam Day- TBD

- No final exam, assignment 2 is due on the final exam day.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University policies regarding Disability-Related Accommodation, Diversity and Disability, the Religious Observances Notification and Policy, the Academic Integrity Policy, and Orange Success can be accessed via the Office of the Provost's website at: <http://provost.syr.edu/>

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in classes is expected in all courses at Syracuse University. Students are expected to arrive on campus in time to attend the first meeting of all classes for which they are registered. Students who do not attend classes starting with the first scheduled meeting may be academically withdrawn as not making progress toward degree by failure to attend. Instructors set course-specific policies for absences from scheduled class meetings in their syllabi. It is a federal requirement that students who do not attend or cease to attend a class to be reported at the time of determination by the faculty. Faculty should use "ESPR" and "MSPR" in Orange Success to alert the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Financial Aid. Students should also review the university's religious observance policy and make the required arrangements at the beginning of each semester.

Excuses for class absences for medical reasons will be given only if such absences are advised by a health care provider at the Health Center, based on clinical findings and prescribed treatment recommendations. Excused notes will not be given solely to confirm a visit to the Health Center. For complete details on excuse notes, visit:

<http://health.syr.edu/faqs/index.html>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our

expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

This class will use the plagiarism detection and prevention system Turnitin. You will have the option to submit your papers to Turnitin to check that all sources you use have been properly acknowledged and cited before you submit the paper to me. I will also submit all papers you write for this class to Turnitin, which compares submitted documents against documents on the Internet and against student papers submitted to Turnitin at Syracuse University and at other colleges and universities. I will take your knowledge of the subject matter of this course and your writing level and style into account in interpreting the originality report. Keep in mind that all papers you submit for this class will become part of the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

DISABILITY-RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) located at 804 University Avenue, third floor or go to the ODS website at disabilityservices.syr.edu and click current students tab to register on-line. You may also call 315.443.4498 to speak to someone regarding specific access needs. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue 'Accommodation Letters' to students as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. My goal as your instructor is to create a learning environments that are useable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, I invite you to meet with me to discuss additional strategies beyond accommodations that may be helpful to your success.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES POLICY

SU's religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.