

Political Science 250, Section 102
International Relations
Spring 2012

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Ross <rossa@ohio.edu>
Office: Bentley Annex 255
Office Hours: Tu 3-4; W 10-12

Meeting times: Tu/Th 10:10-12:00
Location: Bentley Hall 132

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations (or “IR”). It examines political, economic, and social relations among states and non-state actors in international politics. The course focuses especially on the causes, remedies, and future implications of international conflict. We address questions such as: Why do states go to war? Why has it been so difficult to create international institutions to prevent states from going to war? What kind of institutions do exist, and how have these affected the likelihood of war? How does the way a society talks about war shape the way it is perceived as a foreign policy option? How do socially constructed identities and norms affect the way states and other actors behave? What role do ‘marginal’ groups (e.g. nationalist movements, colonized peoples, and religious communities) and other non-state actors (e.g. international non-governmental organizations, social movements, and terrorist networks) play in international politics? In exploring these questions, the course prepares students for advanced POLS courses in international security, international political economy, international organization and law, and international human rights.

Learning Outcomes

Students should complete this course with an ability to:

1. define and explain key terms and concepts in international relations;
2. understand and apply key theoretical approaches to the study of international relations;
3. explain, from different levels of analysis, major cases of international conflict and cooperation;
4. use different theories to analyze political outcomes in cases of international conflict and cooperation;
5. assess the principal forces affecting the behavior of state- and non-state actors in contemporary international politics.

Assignments

Participation: Students are required to attend each class having completed the assigned readings. Your participation grade (10% of course grade) is based on: attendance record, contributions to class discussion, and participation outside class time (e.g. during office hours). All students may miss *up to three classes** without documentation or explanation. As long as you do not miss more than three classes, I will not allow your participation grade to impact negatively your overall course grade. Starting with the fourth missed class, your participation grade will be reduced for each class missed. If you miss seven or more classes, you will get zero for your participation grade. If you arrive very late or leave at or before the break, do not expect attendance credit for that class. Students are responsible for course materials covered and announcements made during missed classes. I will use a seating chart to help me learn names and to make sure you get attendance credit. I may also circulate a sign-in sheet. If you are missing class due to on-going health problems (physical or mental), please schedule a meeting with me.

* I strongly recommend reserving some or all of these three allowed absences in case you get sick later in the quarter. If you miss class due to minor illness, traffic delays, student conferences, athletics events, family obligations, or the like, that missed class will count toward these three allowed absences.

In-class Exams: There will be two exams held in-class: **Tuesday 4/24** and **Thursday 5/17**. Both exams will have the same format: 10 fill-in-the-blank questions (20% of exam grade), plus a longer section in which you write eight paragraph-length answers from a list of 10 questions (80% of exam grade). You will write your answers directly on the exam handouts. All exams for this course will cover material from both readings and lectures.

Reading Quizzes: There will be eight reading quizzes over the course of the quarter—one for each reading marked with an * below. Each quiz will consist of four multiple-choice questions. The quizzes will be taken on Blackboard (under “Reading quizzes”); each one will be made available at 9:30am the day before class and will close at 9:30am the day of class. You will have to complete each quiz in one sitting (i.e. you only have one opportunity to complete each quiz). I will count **only your top five quiz scores** toward your overall quiz grade, which comprises 10% of your overall grade for the course.

Final Exam: There will be a cumulative final exam in our regular classroom on **Tuesday 6/5 at 8:00am**. This exam will contain questions in the same format as the mid-terms, as well as three essay questions, of which you’ll answer two. You will need at least one exam book (blue or green booklets for exam answers, available at local bookstores); I will collect, shuffle, and re-distribute these before you start writing.

There will be no make-up exams, except in cases involving serious illness. If you get very sick before an exam, you must inform me and get approval for missing the exam (and I may have to ask for official documentation); without prior approval, I cannot give you credit for the exam. I also cannot schedule alternative exam times to accommodate your travel schedule, so plan around the dates listed here.

Your overall grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation	10 %
Quizzes	10 %
First in-class exam	20 %
Second in-class exam	25 %
Final exam	35 %

I do not use Blackboard’s Gradebook for this course. You should keep track of your exam and quiz scores yourself. If you want to check in with me about your progress during the quarter, please come to office hours or send me an email.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	Work demonstrates an excellent grasp of the material, both readings and lectures, and contains especially thorough and sometimes creative analysis.
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Work demonstrates a good grasp of the material, but with less precision and original analysis than A-level work. It often focuses on lecture material and neglects to mention ideas from specific course readings.
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Work demonstrates an adequate understanding of the material but neglects certain aspects of the question, reveals some confusion about the material, or is vague in connecting specific cases or problems to the broader themes of the course.
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work demonstrates an inadequate understanding of the material and/or the basic themes of the course. May also contain problems with writing that are serious enough to obscure the student’s ideas.
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	< 60	Work is unacceptable. It demonstrates no understanding of the course materials, is submitted incomplete or extremely late, is not submitted at all, and/or involves academic dishonesty.

Extraordinary Circumstances

In the event of a flu epidemic or other campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised quarter calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Such changes will be communicated in class and/or via Blackboard and email.

Electronic Devices

Please turn off and put away mp3 players and cell phones at the beginning of class. To minimize distraction for you and those seated around you, laptops and tablets are not allowed. If you need special accommodation for note-taking, please see me.

Contacting Me

There are three good ways to get in touch with me: in person before or after class, in person during office hours, and by email. If you have a complicated question requiring extended discussion, please use office hours; we often have limited time before and after class. You do not need an appointment to come to office hours; these are blocks of time set aside to meet with students on a first-come, first-served basis. I am always happy to see students during office hours, so don't be a stranger. Feel free to pose important but quick questions via email. I try to reply to email messages within 24 hours, except on weekends. If you send an email in the latter half of Friday, I may not reply until Monday. I may occasionally use Blackboard to post announcements and/or send emails; you are responsible for checking Blackboard and accessing messages sent to your ohio.edu email accounts.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Students in this course are expected to follow the university's standards of academic integrity and honesty. All electronic devices, notes, study sheets, books, and other printed materials must be put out of sight during exams. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or class and may be reported to the University Judiciaries. It is the student's responsibility to understand what constitutes cheating and plagiarism.

Required textbooks

The following textbook is available at the bookstores on Court St., at other retailers, and on reserve at the library (two-hour loan):

Nau, Henry R. *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, Ideas*. Third Edition. Washington: CQ Press, 2011.

Some additional required readings will be available in PDF format on Blackboard; they are coded below with a **[Bb]**. These are the ones you will need to read for your reading quizzes. I recommend that you print these out and bring them to the class for which they are assigned.

CLASS TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

**3/27 Introduction to International Relations;
What Is “State Sovereignty”?**

Nau, Introduction, pp. 1-11, 15-20

1. Explaining International Conflict and Cooperation

3/29 Realism

Nau, Ch. 1, pp. 21-24, 29-36

*Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” [Bb]

4/3 Instructor away at a conference

Begin reading for next class

4/5 Realist explanations of WWII and the Cold War

Nau, Ch. 4, pp. 129-31, 139-50; Ch. 5, pp. 160-78

4/10 Liberalism

Nau, Ch. 1, pp. 24-27, 36-44

*Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” [Bb]

4/12 Film: *The Fog of War*

There will be one or more questions about this film on the first exam.

4/17 Liberal explanations of WWII and the Cold War

Nau, Ch. 4, pp. 131-39, 158-9; Ch. 5, pp. 187-98

4/19 Levels of Analysis

Nau, Ch. 1, pp. 56-68

4/24 First in-class Exam

2. New Approaches in International Relations

4/26 Constructivism, part 1

Nau, Ch. 1, pp. 27-28, 45-53

*Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals” [Bb]

5/1 Constructivism, part 2

*Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It...” [Bb]

- 5/3 The End of The Cold War, plus WWII Revisited**
 Nau, Ch. 4, pp. 150-56; Ch. 5, pp. 179-87
- 5/8 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict**
 Nau, Ch. 7, pp. 227-59
- 5/10 Global Politics after 9/11**
 *Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations” **[Bb]**
 *Said, “The Clash of Ignorance” **[Bb]**
 (one reading quiz covers both Huntington and Said)
- 5/15 The United Nations**
 Nau, Ch. 6, pp. 201-11; Ch. 16, pp. 489-99
 *Hurd, “Legitimacy, Power, and the Symbolic Life of the UN Security Council” **[Bb]**
- 5/17 Second in-class exam**

3. Globalization and Global Governance

- 5/22 Critical Theories**
 Nau, Ch. 1, pp. 53-56; Ch. 13, pp. 418-37
 Two short videos in-class: David Harvey and Mark Blyth on the global financial crisis
- 5/24 International Development**
 Nau, Ch. 8, pp. 263-301; Ch. 16, pp. 499-503; Ch. 12, pp. 393-409
 Short film in-class: *The New Rulers of the World*
- 5/29 Human Rights**
 Nau, Ch. 15, pp. 478-88
 *Ignatieff, “The Attack on Human Rights” **[Bb]**
- 5/31 Global Civil Society;
 Exam Review**
 Nau, Ch. 15, 463-78
 *Bob, “Merchants of Morality” **[Bb]**
- 6/5 Final Exam @ 8:00a**