

## POLS 2500: International Relations

Fall 2022 (rev.1)

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Ross [rossa@ohio.edu](mailto:rossa@ohio.edu)

Office: Bentley Annex 261

Office hours: Tu 4-5, W 9-10

Location: Bentley Hall 240

Meeting time: Tu/Th 12:30-1:50pm

TopHat Join Code: 751331

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### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations (or “IR”). It examines political, economic, and social relations among states, the work of international institutions in ordering and regulating those relations, and the contributions of non-state actors to world politics. We address questions such as: Why do states go to war? Why has it been so difficult to prevent states from going to war? What kind of institutions exist to maintain international peace and justice, and how have these changed the way states behave? How do states’ identities and international norms affect the way states and others behave? What role do actors such as non-governmental organizations, nationalist movements, religious communities, and populist leaders play in international politics? In exploring these questions, the course prepares students for political science courses in international security, foreign policy, international political economy, international organization and law, and human rights.

### Learning Outcomes

Students should complete the course with an ability to:

1. Read and comprehend diverse types of primary and secondary sources in the study of international relations;
2. Define important theories and concepts in the study of international relations;
3. Summarize theoretical approaches and arguments and apply them to problems and cases in international relations;
4. Compare and evaluate competing policies, theories, and/or concepts from different perspectives within the discipline of international relations.

### Assignments

**Reading Markup Assignment:** All students will submit a marked up version of **two readings assigned for 8/25**, along with a 250-300-word report on the system you have used to highlight and take notes on your reading. This assignment is due **Sunday, September 4 by 11:59pm** and is worth 4% of your course grade. Grades are check, check+, check-. More details are posted on Blackboard (Bb).

**Participation Assignments (PA):** Students will complete five PAs between Week 2 and Week 13; the purpose of these assignments is to facilitate exposure to and engagement with events and resources relating to international relations. Each PA will involve doing some activity--either attending a campus lecture, attending a virtual/online event, or engaging with some online resource--and then submitting (via Bb) a brief report of 250-300 words in which you reflect on your experience. More details are on Bb. The last week with a PA is Week 13; while there could be one or two weeks with multiple options for a PA, you will only submit a maximum of one in a week. The five PAs together will count for 10% of your overall course grade.

**Reading Quizzes:** There are reading quizzes available on Bb for all weeks with new reading assignments. Each quiz consists of a small number of multiple choice questions. These are optional and will not count toward your grade, but some questions may appear on the exams. I would strongly recommend completing all quizzes and investigating any incorrect answers (which may involve going back to the reading for review and clarification).

**Mapfare Project (MFP):** For the MFP, you will write a 1,000 to 1,200-word critical analysis of a political map and its impact on how states see themselves and/or relate to one another. Details are posted on Bb. The MFP is due **Sunday, December 4 by 11:59pm** and is worth 20% of your final grade. Students may obtain permission to work in groups of two, but the “deliverable” in this case will be a longer paper of 2,000 words (for this option, permission must be secured from me in writing by November 1, and students working in groups will receive the same grade).

**Exams:** There are three exams for this course: two in-class mid-terms (each is 20% of course grade) and a final exam (26% of course grade) in the same room we meet but during the University-scheduled exam time assigned to this course. The final exam is mostly non-cumulative (i.e. will not cover material on the mid-terms), but there is one short essay question asking you to reflect on themes from the entire semester. All exams will cover concepts, topics, and themes discussed in required course materials (i.e. readings, lectures, and video materials). You will have 75 minutes to complete the mid-terms and 100 minutes to complete the final. Exam dates are:

- Mid-term exam #1: **in-class Thursday, September 29**
- Mid-term exam #2: **in-class Thursday, October 27**
- Final exam: **Thursday, December 8, at 10:10am**

**Grades:** If you have concerns about your grade, please come to office hours as early as possible in the semester. I use this grading scale: A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <60. I calculate “check+” grades as A/95, “check” grades as B/85, and “check-” as C/75. Overall grades will be calculated as follows:

Reading Markup Assignment	4 %
Participation activities	10 %
Reading quizzes	(for practice only)
Mid-term exam #1	20 %
Mid-term exam #2	20 %
Mapfare project	20 %
Final exam	26 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## Course Policies

**Academic misconduct:** Students in this course are expected to follow the University’s standards of academic integrity and honesty and are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. One reference is here: <http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/academic/students.cfm>. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you may receive a grade deduction on the assignment, a failing grade for the assignment, or a failing grade for the class. You may also be reported to the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility for additional sanctions. Students may appeal academic sanctions through the grade appeal process.

**Accessibility accommodations:** Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and provide written documentation

from Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, please contact Accessibility Services at 740-593-2620 or visit the office in Alden Library, Suite 230.

**Attendance and absences:** Attendance does not comprise a formal component of your grade for this course. However, I strongly encourage students to attend every class: missing even a few classes can significantly impact your performance on writing assignments and exams. Students are responsible for all course materials covered and announcements made during missed classes, including sessions that precede your enrollment in the course (if you're registering after classes begin). That I do not attach a portion of your grade to attendance does not mean that I do not care if you attend my class. I will use the TopHat sign-in system at the beginning of each class to keep a record of attendance; I use this information in two ways: (1) to inform your academic advisors if I see a pattern of non-attendance, so they can reach out to see what help you might need; and (2) if you ask for my help in the course, to check for any correlation between material you're struggling with and material covered during missed classes. If you are missing class due to major, on-going health problems (physical or mental), please discuss the situation with me as early as possible.

**Blackboard (Bb):** You will need regular access to Bb for this course. If you encounter a broken link, missing content, or something else I need to fix, please let me know asap (thank you in advance for your patience ☺). If you are having general problems with Bb, please contact the Help Desk.

**Classroom COVID-19 Policies:** If you do test positive or need to isolate or quarantine this semester, after you have taken care of yourself and followed all the steps in the [OHIO COVID-19 Protocol](#), please email me so that we can develop a plan for you to receive the necessary course content. COVID-related illness, quarantine, isolation, and remain-in-room directives are legitimate university absences, and I will work with you to manage your academic requirements and connect you to resources. If you feel that your class performance is being impacted by COVID-19, please talk with me and/or contact Public Health Operations by email ([PHO@ohio.edu](mailto:PHO@ohio.edu)). The University has information about [resources available to help with quarantine and isolation here](#). The university's [policy on masking indoors and in the classroom is here](#).

**Email:** Check your OU email regularly for announcements or other communications. You may contact me via email, but please try first to answer your question using the syllabus and the resources on Bb. I do my best to reply to student emails same or next day M-F, and Monday for messages sent Friday. If you want to discuss course themes and readings, or if you have a complex or sensitive question, let's discuss during office hours.

**Exam attendance:** I will schedule a make-up exam only in cases of an "excused absence" as described in the Undergraduate Catalog and generally only if you notify me, with proper documentation, in advance of the exam date. Except in documented cases of emergency the day of the exam, students who miss an exam and do not contact me in advance of the scheduled exam time will receive a grade of zero for that exam. The date of the final exam is fixed by the Registrar's Office, and no early or late exams will be offered to accommodate travel plans or scheduling conflicts. If you cannot attend the final exam, you should not take this course.

**Late papers:** Late assignments will be penalized 6 points per day (e.g. a paper awarded an 88/B+ submitted one day late will receive an 82/B-), including weekend days, to a maximum of three days (after which the assignment will not be graded). No exceptions in cases of computer malfunction, loss of data, or incomplete Bb submission. Cases of serious illness (physical or mental) or family emergency should be brought to my attention, with documentation from the appropriate University office, prior to or immediately following the missed assignment.

**Office hours:** These are designated blocks of time for consultation with students. You do not need an appointment to use office hours; they are first-come, first-served. Please feel free to stop by to discuss your progress in this course, the Political Science major, or general educational and career plans. If you find yourself struggling in this course, please let me know about it as soon as possible! We can work to diagnose the problem and identify strategies for the remainder of the semester.

**Required texts:** All course readings are available on Bb. A number of earlier readings are included in an open-access textbook [available online](#); it is abbreviated below as MWS. Minor modifications to weekly readings may become necessary; I will notify you of any changes in class and/or via email.

**Syllabus changes:** In the event of further disruptions related to COVID-19 or other emergency beyond the instructor’s control, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated via Bb/email.

All materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Andrew Ross on August 23, 2022.

**Course Topics and Readings**

Date	Topic	Required Reading
<b>MODULE I: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>		
8/23	Introduction	Entire syllabus and Blackboard Site McGlinchey, Walters, & Gold, “Getting Started with International Relations Theory” in MWS
8/25	States & Levels of Analysis	Lowe, “Nations Under Law” Branch, “Territory” Acharya, “Towards a Global IR” in MWS
<b>MODULE II: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>		
8/30	Realism	Antunes and Camisao, “Realism” in MWS
9/1	Neorealism	Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” O’Brien, “Ukraine Has Exposed Russia as a Not-So-Great Power”
9/6	Liberalism	Meiser, “Liberalism” in MWS
9/8	Neoliberalism	Deudney and Ikenberry, “Liberal World: The Resilient Order”
9/13	Social Constructivism	Theys, “Constructivism” in MWS Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It...”
9/15	Constructivism & Pop Culture	Weldes, “Going Cultural: <i>Star Trek</i> , State Action, and Popular Culture”
9/20	Critical Theories	Smith, “Feminism” in MWS
9/22	Critical Theories cont’d	Nair, “Postcolonialism” in MWS Zvogbo & Loken, “Why Race Matters in International Relations”
9/27	Exam review	Review readings Week 1-5
<b>9/29</b>	<b>Mid-term Exam #1</b>	

MODULE III: PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY		
10/4	Causes of War I	Karas and Parent, "World War I, in Theory"
10/6	Causes of War II	Murray, "Constructing the July Crisis..."
10/11	Constructions of War I	Dover, "Patterns of a Race War"
10/13	Constructions of War II	Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals"
10/18	Nuclear Weapons I	Deutsche Welle, <a href="#">The New Cold War documentary</a>
10/20	Nuclear Weapons II	Tannenwald, "How Strong is the Nuclear Taboo Today?"
10/25	New Wars	Mueller, "The Obsolescence of Major War" Chinkin and Kaldor, "Gender and New Wars"
<b>10/27</b>	<b>Mid-term Exam #2</b>	
MODULE IV: PROBLEMS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE		
11/1	International Law (IL)	Mazower, "Introduction," <i>No Enchanted Palace</i> (pp. 1-19)
11/3	Contesting IL	Birdsall and Sanders, "Trumping International Law?"
11/8	Intergovernmental organizations	Hurd, "Legitimacy, Power, and the Symbolic Life of the UN Security Council"
11/10	Transnational politics	Carpenter, "Governing the Global Agenda"
11/15	Human Rights	Ford, "Introduction," <i>Human Rights Down to Earth</i>
11/17	Case Study: South Africa	Ignatieff, "Human Rights, Global Ethics, and the Ordinary Virtues"*
11/22	Race & Racial Justice	Shilliam, "When Did Racism Become Solely a Domestic Issue?"
MODULE V: FINAL PROJECTS & REVIEW		
11/29	Mapfare Projects	Bring your materials for an in-class workshop
12/1	Exam Review	Review readings from Weeks 11-14
<b>12/8</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	

\*I may substitute another reading here, pending input from a guest speaker scheduled for 11/17