

# **PSC/IR 106: Introduction to International Relations**

## ***Course Description***

This introductory course is designed to provide students with the history, background and analytical tools to understand and analyze contemporary international issues. The course will cover the wide range of issues involved in the field of international relations including (1) the traditional and modern theoretical arguments, including debates on neorealism versus neoliberalism; (2) the causes and effects of international conflicts; and (3) economic development and globalization. In addition, we will also explore increasingly important issues occurring outside the framework of modern state system in the 21<sup>st</sup> century such as transnational terrorism, international law and human rights, global warming, financial crises, and the rise of China.

This course is designed to give students a sense of critical thinking of the field. In the beginning, students will be introduced fundamental theories of international relations. We then consider how international actors (states) interact with each other for security, economic gains, etc. The rest of the course will give students a feel for contemporary issues in a globalized world.

## ***Course Requirements and Grading***

- **Newspaper Article Summary (25%):** Students are required to submit one-page newspaper summaries for **five times**. In this summary, students make sure to include (1) source link (address); (2) brief summary; and (3) your review and critique by using IR theories. The purpose of this summary is to give students a chance to familiarize themselves with current global issues and to be able to apply international relations theories to those issues. Newspaper article sources are available from followings:
  - New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/>)
  - Financial Times (<https://www.ft.com/>)
  - The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/>)
  - China Daily (<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>)
  - Al Jazeera (<http://www.aljazeera.com/>)
  - le Monde diplomatique (<http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/>)

- **Game Theory Homework (10%):** There will be two game theory homework. After we examine basic game theory models, such as prisoners' dilemma, students will have a chance to see their understandings on the models.
- **Exams (60%):** There will be two exams throughout the course (midterm and final). The exams will cover all materials presented in lectures, assignment readings, and class discussion.
- **Participation (5%):** Attendance is not required, but students will get extra credit for actively participate in class by asking questions or participating in discussion.

## ***Course Materials***

### Required Textbook:

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2015. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Third Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. (hereafter: FLS)

### Optional:

Robert Art and Robert Jervis. 2014. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* (12<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston: Pearson.

## ***Course Outline***

### 1. Week 0: Course Introduction

- Administrative notice
- Historical background on the Westphalian system
- State system and sovereignty
- Anarchy
- Level of analysis

### 2. Week 1 (Day 1): Theories of International Relations I: Realism

- Classical realism/Neo-realism
- Actors of international politics

➤ Readings:

- FLS Introduction pp. 27-32 and chapter 2
- Stephen Walt. 1998. International Relations: One World, Many Theories. *Foreign Policy* (110): 29-32.

### 3. Week 1 (Day 2): Theories of International Relations I: Liberalism

- Liberalism/Neo-liberalism
- Neo-neo Debate
- Readings:
  - FLS Introduction pp. 27-32.
  - Joseph Nye. 2010. The Future of American Power: Dominance and Decline in Perspective. *Foreign Affairs* (89).

### 4. Week 2 (Day 3): Theories of International Relations II: Critical Approaches

- Constructivism
- Marxist approach
- Feminism
- Readings:
  - Alexander Wendt. 1992. Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization* 46(2): 391-425.
  - Helen Milner. 1991. The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique. *Review of International Studies* 17(1): 67-85.

### 5. Week 2 (Day 4): War and Peace

- Causes and purposes of war
- Incomplete information
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 3
  - James Fearon. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.

✓ **1<sup>st</sup> newspaper article summary due at midnight (11:59PM)**

### 6. Week 3 (Day 5): War and Bargaining

- Bargaining model of war
- Domestic politics and war
- Readings:
  - Dan Reiter. 2003. Exploring the Bargaining Model of War. *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-47.
  - Enterline, A. J. and Michael Greig, J. 2008. The History of Imposed Democracy and the Future of Iraq and Afghanistan. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 4: 321-347.

### 7. Week 3 (Day 6): Domestic Politics and War

- Democracies and war
- Nuclear weapons and institutions
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 4

### 8. Week 4 (Day 7): Nuclear Weapons

- Weapons of mass destruction
- Nuclear weapons and institutions
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 5
  - Michael Glennon. 2003. Why the Security Council Failed. *Foreign Affairs* 82(3): 16-35.
  - Fuhrmann, Matthew. Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements. *International Security* 34.1: 7-41.

### 9. Week 4 (Day 8): Terrorism

- History and terrorist organizations
- Causes and effects of Terrorist attacks
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 6

- Collard-Wexler, Simon, Pischedda, Constantino, and Michael G. Smith. 2013. Do Foreign Occupation Cause Suicide Attacks? *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(4)
- Kydd, Andrew H. and Barbara F. Walter. The Strategies of Terrorism. 2006. *International Security* 31(1): 49-80.

✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> newspaper article summary due at midnight (11:59PM)**

10. Week 5 (Day 9): Civil War

- Causes of civil war
- Readings:
  - Michael Ross. 2004. What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil War? *Journal of Peace Research* 41(3): 337-356.

11. Week 5 (Day 10): Game-theoretic Models 1

- Prisoners' Dilemma
- (Infinitely) Repeated games and the possibility of cooperation

12. Week 6 (Day 11): Game-theoretic Models 2

- Domestic politics of war
- Bargaining models

13. Week 6 (Day 12): Mid-term Exam

14. Week 7 (Day 13): International Trade

- International trade and globalization
- Trade and domestic politics
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 7
  - Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade. *American Political Science Review* 81(4): 1121-1137.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> newspaper article summary due at midnight (11:59PM)**

15. Week 7 (Day 14): Regional Trade Agreements

- WTO and regionalism
- A network of Preferential Trade Agreement
- Readings:
  - Caroline Freund and Emanuel Ornelas. 2010. Regional Trade Agreements. *Annual Review of Economics* 2: 139-166.

16. Week 8 (Day 15): World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Principles of the WTO: MFN, NT
- Developments of multilateral trade negotiations
- Readings:
  - Hankla, C. R. and Kuthy, D. 2012. Economic Liberalism in Illiberal Regimes: Authoritarian Variation and the Political Economy of Trade. *International Studies Quarterly* 57(3): 492-504.

17. Week 8 (Day 16): International Investment

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 8

18. Week 9 (Day 17): International Monetary Relations

- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Financial Crisis
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 9

- ✓ **4<sup>th</sup> newspaper article summary due at midnight (11:59PM)**

### 19. Week 9 (Day 18): United Nations

- General Assembly
- Security Council
  
- Readings:
  - Ilyana Kuziemko and Eric Werker. 2006. How Much Is a Seat on the Security Council Worth? Foreign Aid and Bribery at the United Nations. *Journal of Political Economy* 114(5): 905-930.

### 20. Week 10 (Day 19): Economic Sanctions

- Effects of economic sanctions
- Economic sanctions and the UN
  
- Readings:
  - Lektzian, David and Glen Biglaiser. 2013. Investment, Opportunity, and Risk: Do U.S. Sanctions Deter or Encourage Global Investment? *International Studies Quarterly* 57(1): 65-78.

### 21. Week 10 (Day 20): Global Environment

- Tragedy of commons
- Kyoto protocol
- Collective action problem
  
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 13
  - Busby, Joshua W. Who Cares about the Weather?: Climate Change and U.S. National Security. *Security Studies* 17(3): 468-504.

### 22. Week 11 (Day 21): International Law and Human Rights

- What is international law?
- Sovereignty and human rights
  
- Readings:

- FLS chapter 11, 12
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. 2007. Justice Lost! The Failure of International Human Rights Law to Matter Where Needed Most. *Journal of Peace Research* 44(4) 407-425.

✓ **5<sup>th</sup> newspaper article summary due at midnight (11:59PM)**

### 23. Week 11 (Day 22): Development

- Developmental differences
- Development policies
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 10

### 24. Week 12 (Day 23): The Rise of China

- Unilateralism vs. multilateralism
- Military alliances
- Readings:
  - FLS chapter 14
  - Richard Bernstein and Ross Munro. 1997. China I: The Coming Conflict with America. *Foreign Affairs* 76(2): 18-32

### 25. Week 12 (Day 24): Final Exam