

Syllabus: Introduction to International Relations

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Semester: TBD

Note: For this course, I assume an introductory-level lecture course of about 40-100 undergraduates. I assume that the class is structured with two weekly lectures meetings (75 minutes each) and one weekly discussion section (50 minutes each). This syllabus assumes 28 class meetings, meeting twice per week for 14 weeks. The dates are referred to by week number (out of fourteen) and class number (out of 2); for instance, the second class meeting in the seventh week of the course would be W7C2.

Course Overview

What are the causes of war and the conditions for peace and cooperation? The aim of this course is to teach students the core concepts of international relations, with an emphasis in the issues of international security and conflict. The course introduces the background and conceptual tools necessary to understand historical and contemporary international affairs and prepares students to take higher-level courses in international relations and comparative politics. The core concepts of the course focus on politics at the interstate level, international security issues, as well as issues at the sub-state level (such as civil war and terrorism).

The course meets twice weekly for lectures, which will make use of lectures as well as discussions and discussion-based activities. The aim of the lectures is to help the students understand the core concepts and theories of the course. There is also a weekly discussion section led by the Teaching Assistants. The aim of the discussion section is to help the students understand and master the course readings. Attendance at all class meetings is required (barring university-excused absences) and factored into the class participation grade.

The course will begin with a survey of the basic analytical tools used in the study of international relations, including the levels of analysis and the main paradigms. After the theoretical foundations, we will go through a historical overview of international politics, moving from the beginnings of the modern state system through the post-Cold War. We will look at some of the most important topics nested within international relations, including international political economy, regime theory (including international law and institutions), and conflict processes. We will finish the course with an evaluation of foreign policy and a sampling of the contemporary and future issues in international security and conflict.

The learning objectives and outcomes for the course are:

- *Identify* the major schools of thought and the diverse subfields within the field of international relations
- *Define* how the development of international relations is rooted in historical trends (and vice versa)
- *Apply* the concepts of the study of international relations to current and historical international affairs
- *Engage* with the contemporary debates and questions in order to derive policy-relevant implications
- *Analyze* the observable implications of international relations, leading to an understanding of (and recommendations for) foreign and defense policy

Course Requirements

In accordance with the objectives outlined above, the course requirements are set up to provide conceptual and theoretical background on the topics that we will cover, and provide resources for additional study.

Materials

There are two books required for the course, and all other readings will be posted on Sakai (or can be accessed through the university's library online).

Required books:

1. Joseph S. Nye, Jr. and David Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, 10th edition. I recommend renting or buying through Amazon, which is substantially cheaper than the hardcopy version.
2. Robert Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 11th edition.

The Nye and Welch book is useful for providing background, particularly in the early parts of the course focusing on theory and concepts. The Art and Jervis book is a compilation of writings on the topics that we will cover, and as such is a critical tool to understanding international relations scholarship, but can at times be more difficult to digest than traditional textbooks. Students should make every effort to master the readings, including reading them before the assigned class date, attending discussion sections, and using the TA and Professor's office hours to ask questions.

In addition, I expect students to be up-to-date on current international affairs. Students should read a major international newspaper every day (such as the *New York Times*, *The Economist*, or the *Washington Post*) and focus on the following sections: Front Page, International Politics, and any foreign policy-related pieces in National and Op-Ed.

Assignments and Grading

The grading breakdown for the course is as follows:

- *Participation* [15%]: A preceptor grade based on your attendance, preparedness, involvement, and behavior during discussion activities and other course work. Part of this grade will be composed of occasional in-class quizzes on the concepts we have been covering as well as current events.
- *Map Quiz* [5%]: A critical part of understanding international relations is knowing the relevant political geography. There will be a map quiz in discussion section in the fifth week - you will be asked to identify several countries, cities, and geographic features on a world map. You will be given a full list of the countries, cities, and features you should know in discussion section the first week of class, in addition to a labeled map to study from.
- *Policy Memos* [30%, 10% each]: You will write three one-page (single-spaced) policy memos addressing a current question of foreign or defense policy. The memo should be from the perspective of a specific country (be explicit about which country's perspective you are taking) and must incorporate the theories and concepts covered in the course. You should explain the question or issue, apply the relevant theory or concepts, and make specific policy suggestions that result from your analysis. One of the policy memos may be substituted for an **op-ed** - you should write an op-ed responding to a current event in international relations, including an analysis and references to the relevant international relations theory. *To get credit for the op-ed, you must submit it to a newspaper or magazine.* It does not need to be accepted for publication to qualify for credit. The three due dates for the policy memos (or op-ed) are: **W6C1, W9C1, and W12C1**. A grading rubric will be provided.

- *Midterm exam* [20%]: A take-home midterm exam will be distributed the 9th week of the course (W9C2). You will have one week to complete the exam, and it must be handed in (hard copy) on **W10C2**. The exam will consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions on the theories and concepts studied in the course, as well as short answer questions that apply these concepts to cases and current events. **The midterm exam is open book and open notes, but you are not permitted to use the internet.**
- *Final Project* [30%]: The final project for the course is due on the last day of class (**W14C2**). You have two options, described below. You will submit choice of final project and the topic(s) you will cover by the end of the sixth week of the class (W6C2).
 1. *Research Paper*: Write a 4-6 page research paper examining a theory or concept we covered in the course. The research paper should include a critique of one of the readings that covers the topic, a comparison of the concept to other similar concepts, and an application of the concept to a modern or historical case.
 2. *Policy Memos*: Write three more one-page policy memos on issues of foreign and defense policy. These memos can be from the perspective of a specific country *or* an international institution. The topics covered in these policy memos must be different than those covered by your first three memos.

Note on Academic Integrity and Class Behavior

Students in the course are expected to comply with the university standards. Furthermore, students are expected to understand what does and does not count as plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic infraction and would result in a failing grade for the course and possible additional disciplinary action. Students are expected to be honest and forthcoming in their academic pursuits; if you are unsure what “best practices” may be, see the university guidelines or talk to the course instructor about expectations.

The class sessions for the course will make use of lectures in addition to discussions and discussion-based activities. This will likely involve debates around concepts and policies that are rife with contemporary debate and may incite strong feelings in some course participants. Your behavior during these activities is part of both your participation grade and a reflection of your academic integrity. There are several important rules that I expect all course members to follow:

1. No interruptions. When another student, a TA, or the professor is speaking you may not interrupt.
2. Feelings on a subject are not authoritative. You must have a reference to cite in backing up your claims and ideas.
3. No rude, demeaning, or otherwise hurtful language will be permitted. I reserve the right to dismiss course participants who engage in such behavior and to follow up with additional disciplinary action if necessary.

One of the key learning objectives of the course is meaningful engagement with policy debates, and **a good policy debate requires understanding the best that the counter-argument has to offer**. As such, you can expect to be challenged on your positions and the premises of your arguments. Many of the questions we are dealing with are not settled, and critical thinking is an important end in and of itself. I expect all course participants to ask themselves, whenever they hear a statement they agree with, **“What is the best counter-argument to this position?”**. Remember: **If you cannot provide valid points for the other side of the argument, you do not understand the other side of the argument.**

Course Outline

- I. International Relations Theory and Concepts
 1. Introduction to International Relations
 2. Actors and Anarchy
 3. Three Images: Levels of Analysis in IR
 4. Paradigms of International Relations Theory
 - i. Realism and Neo-realism
 - ii. Liberalism and Neo-liberalism
 - iii. Constructivism and Critical Theory
 5. Alliances and Power Management
 6. Uses of Force
- II. History of International Politics
 1. Westphalia to WWI
 2. WWII and the Cold War
- III. International Political Economy
 1. Globalization and Trade
 2. Sanctions and Inducements
 3. Currency Politics and Foreign Aid
- IV. Regime Theory and Cooperation
 1. Cooperation in International Politics
 2. Ethics, Norms, and Just War Theory
 3. International Law
 4. International Institutions
- V. Conflict Processes
 1. The Bargaining Model of War
 2. Substate Violence
 3. Terrorism
 4. Conflict Resolution
- VI. Foreign and Defense Policy
 1. Domestic Politics and Grand Strategy
- VII. Contemporary Issues
 1. The Rise of China and the Post-Cold War Liberal Order
 2. Weapons of Mass Destruction
 3. The GWOT, AfPak and Iraq
 4. Nationalism
 5. Climate Change and the Environment
 6. Cyber, Space, Fake News, and Gray-Zone Conflict

Course Schedule and Readings

Introduction to International Relations

[W1C1]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 1, pp. 2-24

Actors and Anarchy

[W1C2]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 2, pp. 38-52, 62-71
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," pp. 35-55
- John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapter 2, pp. 29-54

Three Images: Levels of Analysis in IR

[W2C1]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 2, pp. 52-61
- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 3, pp. 94-107
- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 4, pp. 111-138
- Valerie M. Hudson, "The Individual Decisionmaker: The Political Psychology of World Leaders," *Foreign Policy Analysis: Classic and Contemporary Theory*, Chapter 2, pp. 39-72

Paradigms of IR: Realism and Neo-realism

[W2C2]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Hans J. Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism," pp. 14-21
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," pp. 35-56 (re-read)

Paradigms of IR: Liberalism and Neo-liberalism

[W3C1]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Michael W. Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs," pp. 111-124
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Kenneth A. Oye, "The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics," pp. 79-93
- Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points" (1918)

Paradigms of IR: Constructivism and Critical Theory

[W3C2]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," pp. 70-79
- Martha Finnemore and Kathrine Sikkink, "Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science* 4 (2001), pp. 391-396
- Richard Devetak, "Critical Theory," *Theories of International Relations* 3 (2005), pp. 137-160

Alliances and Power Management

[W4C1]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 3, pp. 77-93
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma," pp. 93-114

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Stephen M. Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning,” pp. 127-135

Uses of Force [W4C2]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert J. Art, “The Four Functions of Force,” pp. 164-171
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert J. Art, “The Fungibility of Force,” pp. 197-213
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Thomas C. Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence,” pp. 172-185

History of International Politics: Westphalia to WWI [W5C1]

- Nye and Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 3, pp. 81-115
- Norman Davies, “The Thirty Years’ War,” *Europe, A History*, pp. 563-569 (read up until the next subsection: “Rome, 19 February 1667”)
- David Stevenson, “The Destruction of Peace,” *Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy*, Chapter 1, pp. 3-35 (skim, focus particularly on the first four pages and the last three pages)

History of International Politics: WWII and the Cold War Map Quiz [W5C2]

- Nye and Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 4, pp. 116-145
- Nye and Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 5, pp. 146-199
- Jeffrey Hughes, “The Origins of World War II in Europe: British Deterrence Failure and German Expansionism,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 18, no. 4 (Spring 1988)

International Political Economy: Globalization and Trade Memo 1 Due [W6C1]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 7, pp. 254-261
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy,” pp. 265-282
- Joseph M. Grieco and G. John Ikenberry, “Economic Globalization and its Discontents,” *State Power and World Markets*, Chapter 6
- Fred Hu and Michael Spence, “Why Globalization Stalled: And How to Restart it,” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2017)

International Political Economy: Sanctions and Inducements [W6C2]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 7, pp. 261-269
- Richard Haass and Meghan O’Sullivan, *Honey and Vinegar: Incentives, Sanctions, and Foreign Policy*, pp. 159-197 (Brookings Press 2000)
- Daniel W. Drezner, “The Hidden Hand of Economic Coercion,” *International Organization* 57, no. 3 (Summer 2003), pp. 643-659
- Peter Feaver and Eric Lorber, “Coercive Diplomacy and the New Financial Levers,” Legatum Institute Occasional Paper (November 2010), pp. 6-24

International Political Economy: Currency Politics and Foreign Aid [W7C1]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert Wade, “Financial Regime Change?” pp. 352-362

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, “Exchange Rate Politics: Contemporary Lessons from American History,” *Review of International Political Economy* 1, no. 1 (Spring 1994), pp. 81-103
- Peter Boone, “Politics and the Effectiveness of Foreign Aid,” *National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper* No. W5308 (1995)

Regime Theory: Cooperation in International Politics [W7C2]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 7, pp. 269-275
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Kenneth A. Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics,” pp. 79-93 (re-read)
- Robert Axelrod, “The Problem of Cooperation,” *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Chapter 1, pp. 3-26

Regime Theory: Ethics, Norms, and Just War Theory [W8C1]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 1, pp. 25-36
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue,” pp. 9-16
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Rhoda E. Howard and Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights in World Politics,” pp. 450-463

Regime Theory: International Law [W8C2]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 6, pp.193-206
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Stanley Hoffman, “The Uses and Limits of International Law,” pp. 145-150
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Steven R. Ratner, “International Law: The Trials of Global Norms” pp. 469-475

Regime Theory: International Institutions *Memo 2 Due* [W9C1]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert O. Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” pp. 150-159
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Adam Roberts, “The United Nations and International Security,” pp. 524-533
- Courtney B. Smith, “The United Nations and State Compliance,” *Politics and Process at the United Nations*, Chapter 10, pp. 277-294

Conflict Processes: The Bargaining Model of War *Midterm Distributed* [W9C2]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - James D. Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” pp. 57-64
- Robert Powell, “Bargaining Theory and International Conflict,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 5, no. 1 (2002), pp. 1-30
- Thomas C. Schelling, “Bargaining, Communication, and Limited War,” *The Strategy of Conflict*, Chapter 3, pp. 53-80

Conflict Processes: Substate Violence [W10C1]

- Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, “Civil War,” *Journal of Economic Literature* 48, no. 1 (2010), pp. 3-57

- Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, “Greed and Grievance in Civil War,” *Oxford Economic Papers* 56, no. 4 (2004): 563-595
- Christian Davenport, “State Repression and Political Order,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 10 (2007), pp. 1-23

Conflict Processes: Terrorism *Midterm Exam Due* [W10C2]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 9, pp. 327-330
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” pp. 213-231
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Bruce Hoffman, “What Is Terrorism,” pp. 185-196
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Audrey Cronin, “Ending Terrorism,” pp. 398-412
- Martha Crenshaw, “Terrorism Research: The Record,” *International Interactions* 40, no. 4 (2014), pp. 556-567

Conflict Processes: Conflict Resolution [W11C1]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Kofi Annan, “Reflections on Intervention,” pp. 416-421
- Daniel Druckman, “Determinants of Compromising Behavior in Negotiation: A Meta-Analysis,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 38, no. 3 (1994), pp. 507-556
- Fortna, Virginia Page, “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil War,” *International Studies Quarterly* 48, no. 2 (2004), pp. 269-292
- Patrick M. Regan and Aysegul Aydin, “Diplomacy and Other Forms of Intervention in Civil Wars,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50, no. 5 (2006), pp. 736-756

Making Foreign Policy: Domestic Politics and Grand Strategy [W11C2]

- Hal Brands and Peter Feaver; John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “Should America Retrench? The Battle Over Offshore Balancing,” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2016)
- Julian E. Zelizer, “Four Questions,” *Arsenal of Democracy: The Politics of National Security - From World War II to the War on Terrorism*, pp. 1-8

Contemporary Issues: The Rise of China, Post-Cold War Liberal Order *Memo 3 Due* [W12C1]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - G. John Ikenberry, “The Future of the Liberal World Order,” pp. 535-543
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Arvind Subramanian, “The Inevitable Superpower: Why China’s Dominance Is a Sure Thing,” pp. 578-585
- Jessica Chen Weiss, “A World Safe for Autocracy? China’s Rise and the Future of Global Politics,” *Foreign Affairs* 98, no. 4 (July/August 2019), pp. 92-102

Contemporary Issues: Weapons of Mass Destruction [W12C2]

- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Barry R. Posen, “A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult But Not Impossible Policy Problem,” pp. 242-258
- Scott Sagan, “The Causes of Nuclear Weapons Proliferation,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 14 (2011), pp. 225-244

- Kenneth Waltz, “The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better,” from *Adelphi Papers*, Volume 17, Oxford University Press (1981)
- Matthew Kroenig, “The History of Proliferation Optimism: Does It Have a Future?” *Journal of Strategic Studies* 38, no. 1-2 (2015), pp. 98-125

Contemporary Issues: the GWOT, AfPak and Iraq [W13C1]

- Osama bin Laden, “Text of Fatwah Urging Jihad Against Americans” February 23, 1998
- Kevin Woods, James Lacey, and Murray Williamson, “Saddam’s Delusions: The View From the Inside,” *Foreign Affairs* 85, no. 3 (May/June 2006), pp. 2-26
- Robert Jervis, “Reports, Politics, and Intelligence Failures: The Case of Iraq,” *Journal of Strategic Studies* 29, no. 1 (2006), pp. 3-52
- Emma Sky, “Mission Still Not Accomplished in Iraq,” *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2017), pp. 9-15
- Jonathan Schroden, “Weighing the Costs of War and Peace in Afghanistan,” *War on the Rocks*, March 21, 2019

Contemporary Issues: Nationalism [W13C2]

- Amitai Etzioni, “The Evils of Self-Determination,” *Foreign Policy* 89 (Winter 1992), pp. 21-35
- Michael Lind, “In Defense of Liberal Nationalism,” *Foreign Affairs* 73, no. 3 (May/June 1994), pp. 87-100
- Anatol Lieven, “The New Nationalism,” *The National Interest* (July/August 2017), pp. 21-29
- Scott M. Thomas, “A Globalized God: Religion’s Growing Influence in International Politics,” *Foreign Affairs* 89, no. 6 (November/December 2010), pp. 93-101

Looking Forward: Climate Change and the Environment [W14C1]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 9, pp. 331-336
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - David G. Victor, “International Cooperation on Climate Change: Numbers, Interests and Institutions,” pp. 507-514
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Alan Dupont, “The Strategic Implications of Climate Change,” pp. 560-569
- Caitlin Werrell, Francesco Femia, and John Conger, “A ‘Responsibility to Prepare’: A Strategy for Presidential Leadership on the Security Risks of Climate Change,” *War on the Rocks*, June 14, 2019

Looking Forward: Cyber, Space, Fake News, and Gray-Zone Conflict *Final Project* [W14C2]

- Nye & Welch, *UGCC*, Chapter 9, pp. 337-347
- Art & Jervis, *IPECCI* - Herbert Lin, “Cyber Conflict and National Security,” pp. 476-488
- Hal Brands, “Paradoxes of the Gray Zone,” Foreign Policy Research Institute E-Note, February 5, 2016
- Robert Chesney and Danielle Citron, “Deepfakes and the New Disinformation War: The Coming Age of Post-Truth Geopolitics,” *Foreign Affairs* 98, no. 1 (January/February 2019)