

PolS 237: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Spring 2021 (HyFlex)

Instructor: Florian Justwan, Ph.D.
Class: Tuesday, Thursday; 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm (TLC 040)
Office Hours: Thursday; 03:00 pm - 05:00 pm; Administration 323 or via zoom (link see below)
Zoom Link: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/9457372902>
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the scientific study of the interactions between states. After a short introduction which lays the groundwork for the rest of the semester, the first part of the course is devoted to the “grand theories” of international relations. We will discuss the basic assumptions and historical roots of realism, liberalism and constructivism and apply these theories to historical and contemporary examples. In the third part of the class, we will take a closer look at issues related to international conflict and cooperation, and we will focus on questions surrounding the topics of human security and international development. At the end of the term, students should be familiar with the academic study of international politics and able to apply the theories and approaches to both historical cases and current events.

HyFLEX FORMAT

This course will be taught using the “HyFlex” Instruction Method. This method is designed to provide students the opportunity of an in-class experience while allowing for social distancing.

Here is what a typical week is going to look like:

- a. On any given class day, there will be a number of readings for you to complete. Each day with a reading on the syllabus will have an associated reading quiz (**to be completed on bblearn prior to the regular start time of our class**).
- b. There will be a lecture for every class day on the syllabus (Tuesday and Thursday). **It is your responsibility to attend both lectures during a given week.** Attendance is mandatory. Here is how this will work in practice:
 - i. To accommodate social distancing, only half of all enrolled course participants will come to class. There will be 2 student groups: Group Silver and Group Gold. Your group assignment is presented to you on bblearn. Both groups will have the option of coming to class on Tuesday **or** Thursday on an alternating schedule. Important: in-person attendance

is *not* mandatory. Instead, you can choose to attend our class meetings virtually (via zoom).

- ii. Every class meeting will be livestreamed via zoom (<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/9457372902>).
- iii. As noted, it is your responsibility to **attend both class meetings during a given week**. You can attend both meetings via zoom **OR** you can attend one meeting in-person and the other meeting via zoom.
- c. You are permitted THREE unexcused absences. Every other absence will lower your discussion grade by 5 percent unless you have a valid excuse (medical, academic, etc.) AND proper documentation. Please note: even if you use one of your “free” unexcused absences, you still have to take the reading quiz for that day.
- d. If you are encountering larger issues that are making it difficult for you to attend class or complete assignments, reach out to me as soon as these issues materialize. We can then find a solution together. I cannot make accommodations for problems that have occurred in the past. If you are encountering a problem, be proactive and reach out to me!

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need to buy the following materials for this class:

- Goldstein, Joshua S. and Jon C. Pevehouse. International Relations, 12th Edition. New York: Pearson.
 - This book is **only** available as an e-book.
 - Link: <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/international-relations/P100001194351>
 - Make sure you purchase the “eText” (\$39.99).
- Feldman, Noah. 2013. Cool War: The Future of Global Competition. New York: Random House.
- Movie: Zero Days (2016 Documentary Movie).

All other readings will be provided to you online. It is essential that you carefully read all of the required material prior to each class session. I expect that you take your responsibilities seriously. Failing to do so will both significantly impact your grade and the quality of our in-class conversation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

20%	Participation in Class Discussions
40%	Online Reading Quizzes
20%	Analytical Paper 1
20%	Analytical Paper 2

Discussion Contributions (20 percent)

Your participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your verbal contributions during each week’s class discussions (**via zoom or in-person**). As stated above, every student has to attend both lectures during a given week.

Online Reading Quizzes (40 percent)

Each day with a reading on the syllabus will have an associated reading quiz. This quiz needs to be completed on bblearn prior to the regular start time of our class (12:30pm). Your lowest 3 quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Analytical Papers (40 percent)

Every student is required to write two analytical papers. Each paper is worth 20 percent of your overall course grade. More details about both assignments will be provided in class.

GRADE SCALE

Note: final grades will NOT be rounded

- A = 90.00-100.00
- B = 80.00-89.99
- C = 70.00-79.99
- D = 60.00-69.99
- F = 00.00-59.99

COURSE POLICIES

Deadlines

The assignments in this class are all designed to help you familiarize yourself with the field of International Relations. In general, late work will not be accepted. However, I do recognize that we all live in unusual times. If there is a documented emergency that prevents you from completing one of the class assignments at the scheduled date, I would be happy to work with you. However, you have to reach out to me **prior to the due date for a given assignment.**

Academic Honesty

It is the policy of our department to refer instances of suspected academic dishonesty to the Student Judicial Council. For the Dean of Students' Academic Integrity site which includes UI Policies and Student Academic Dishonesty Resources, see <https://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/student-conduct/academic-integrity>

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through the Center for Disability Access and Resources located in the Bruce M. Pitman Center, Suite 127 in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course.

- Phone: 208-885-6307
- Email: cdar@uidaho.edu
- Website: www.uidaho.edu/current-students/cdar

Tutoring and College Success (TCS)

TCS offers three distinct services dedicated to student success: tutoring, SI-PASS, and Academic Coaching. Vandal Tutoring provides drop-in style tutoring in person at the Library or online through uidaho.edu/tutoringonline at no cost to undergraduates. SI-PASS provides peer

assisted study sessions for difficult courses. You can find the schedule of currently supported courses at uidaho.edu/si. Academic Coaching offers students an opportunity to work with a coach, one on one, to improve their academic skills such as: effective studying, test taking, time management, and note taking. Visit uidaho.edu/academic-coaching to schedule an appointment.

Electronic Device Policy

The use of cell phones, iPods, iPads, or any other electronic device will not be permitted during class meetings. I will permit you a laptop ONLY to take notes and review online readings. Please note that I reserve the right to reverse this policy at any time.

Assignment and Grade Record-Keeping

Students are responsible for saving all graded work until final grades are recorded with the registrar and checked by the student.

Classroom Learning Civility

In any environment in which people gather to learn, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. To this end, it is expected that everyone in this course will be treated with mutual respect and civility, with an understanding that all of us (students, instructors, guests, and teaching assistants) will be respectful and civil to one another in discussion, in action, in teaching, and in learning. Should you feel our classroom interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with your instructor during office hours to discuss your concern. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the Dean of Students office and staff (5-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center's confidential services (5-6716), or the UI Office of Human Rights, Access, & Inclusion (5-4285).

Grade Appeals

If you believe your exams or assignments have been graded unfairly, you can appeal your grade in written form. You have to hand in your appeal on the day after the assignment or exam was returned. Comparisons to other students' graded assignments will not be accepted for a complaint. Hand in the original copy of the graded assignment/exam together with the written appeal. I will reevaluate your grade in light of the argument that you made. However, the new grade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade and it will be final.

Healthy Vandals Policies

It is a longstanding tradition that Vandals take care of Vandals, and we all do our best to look out for the Vandal Family. The simple precautions listed below go a long way in reducing the impact of coronavirus on our campuses and in our communities. With everyone engaging in these small actions, we can continue to participate in our vibrant campus culture where we are able to learn, live, and grow. Visit [U of I's COVID-19 page](#) often for updated information. Questions related to the University of Idaho's coronavirus response can be sent to covid19questions@uidaho.edu.

Refrain from attending class in-person if you are ill, if you are experiencing any of the [known symptoms of coronavirus](#), or if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19.

- If you display symptoms and/or test positive, you should quarantine following the [CDC's recommendations](#). Do not return to class until you meet the [CDC's requirements](#).
- If you have been exposed but are asymptomatic, you should stay home for 14 days from the last exposure if you remain asymptomatic, adhering to the [CDC's requirements](#).

Documentation (a doctor's note) for medical excuses is not required; instead, email me to make arrangements to submit any missed work and make plans to use Zoom and/or online course materials to stay current with the course schedule.

All faculty, staff, students and visitors across all U of I locations must use face coverings over the nose and mouth whenever in any U of I buildings. Thus, you are required to wear a face covering in the classroom at all times.

- If you have a medical condition that affects your ability to comply with the face covering policy, please contact the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR) to request a reasonable accommodation.
- If you have other reasons you believe make you exempt from wearing face coverings, please contact the COVID-19 Coordinator.
- Failure to wear a face covering over your nose and mouth will require you to leave the classroom immediately. If a disruption to the learning experience occurs due to repeated offence and/or egregious behavior, you will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for a potential code violation.

COURSE SCHEDULE (This is only a tentative schedule for this course. Content may change)

PART I: Course Introduction and Key Terms		
Week 1		Introduction I: Course Introduction
	Jan. 12 (T)	Winter Break. No class.
Zoom only!	Jan. 14 (R)	This syllabus.
Week 2		Introduction II: The Building Blocks of International Relations
Group Silver	Jan. 19 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This syllabus (seriously, please re-read it). • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 1 (pages 1–22).
Group Gold	Jan. 21 (R)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 1 (pages 22–39).
PART II: Theories of International Relations		
Week 3		Grand Theories of International Relations (Realism)
Group Gold	Jan. 26 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (pages 40–57).
Group Silver	Jan. 28 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (pages 57–75). • Feldman. “Introduction.” xi-xiv. • Feldman. “Chapter Two: Doomed to Conflict.” 16-34.
Week 4		Grand Theories of International Relations (Liberalism)
Group Silver	Feb 2 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 3 (pages 76–87).
Group Gold	Feb. 4 (R)	Feldman. “Chapter One: Bound Together.” 3-15.
Week 5		Grand Theories of International Relations (Constructivism)
Zoom only!	Feb. 9 (T)	Guest Speaker: Ambassador Robert Jackson.
Group Gold	Feb. 11 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 3 (pages 87–111). • Feldman. “Chapter Three: A One-Sided War of Ideas.” 35-47. • Feldman. “Conclusion to Part One: The Contradiction of Cool War.” 48-51.

Week 6		Grand Theories of International Relations (Wrap Up)
Group Silver	Feb 16 (T)	Watch the Documentary “Bitter Rivals: Part One <u>and</u> Part Two” (PBS Production publicly available): https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/bitter-rivals-iran-and-saudi-arabia/
Zoom only!	Feb. 18 (R)	Guest Speaker: Jylisa Doney (UI Library).
Week 7		Foreign Policy
Group Gold	Feb. 23 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 4 (pages 112–135).
Group Silver	Feb. 25 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feldman. “Chapter Four: A Glimpse into the New China.” 55 - 70. • Feldman. “Chapter Five: China’s Permeable Elite.” 71 - 85. • Feldman. “Chapter Six: Legitimacy Without Democracy.” 86 - 96. • Feldman. “Conclusion to Part II: Governance and Conflict.” 97 - 98.
		PART III: Issues in International Relations
Week 8		International Conflict I
Group Silver	March 2 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 5 (pages 136–160). • Reader on International Conflict (on bblearn).
Group Gold	March 4 (R)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 5 (pages 160–171).
Week 9		International Conflict II
Group Gold	March 9 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 6 (pages 172–207). • Feldman. “Chapter Seven: The Race for Allies.” 101 - 116.
Group Silver	March 11 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader on Nuclear Weapons • Due Date for Paper I.
Week 10		Spring Break!
	March 16 (T)	No class.
	March 18 (R)	No class.
Week 11		Cyber-Issues
Group Silver	March 23 (T)	No Readings.

Group Gold	March 25 (R)	Reader on Cyber-Issues (on bblearn).
Week 12		International Organizations and International Law
Group Gold	March 30 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (pages 208–228).
Group Silver	April 1 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (pages 228–238). • Reader on International Law (on bblearn).
Week 13		Human Rights
Group Silver	April 6 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (pages 238–253). • Feldman. “Chapter Ten: The Future of Human Rights.” 147-161.
Group Gold	April 8 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reader on Human Rights (on bblearn). • Watch the Documentary “China Undercover” (PBS Production publicly available): https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/china-undercover/
Week 14		International Trade
Group Gold	April 13 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 8 (pages 254–286).
Group Silver	April 15 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feldman. “Chapter Eight: Managing War, Building Peace.” 117-130. • Feldman. “Chapter Nine: Corporate Cool War.” 131-146.
Week 15		International Integration & Environment and Population
Group Silver	April 20 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 10 (pages 318–348).
Group Gold	April 22 (R)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 11 (pages 349–381).
Week 16		Development & Global Public Health
Group Gold	April 27 (T)	Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 13 (pages 416–451).

Group Silver	April 29 (R)	Reader on COVID-19 (on bblearn).
Week 17		Course Conclusion
Group Silver	May 4 (T)	Feldman. "Conclusion: How Will It End?" 162-166
Group Gold	May 6 (R)	Catch-up day.
Week 18		Finals Week
	May 10 (M)	Paper II Due at 11:59pm on bblearn.