
PSCI 1102: Introduction to International Politics

Vanderbilt University

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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 PM

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Course Info:

Fall 2015

Days and Time: MWF 12:10–1:00 PM

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Course Description

What factors determine the interactions of states on the international stage? Why do wars occur? What underlies the decision to trade with or sanction another actor? Why do groups choose to use terrorism or insurgency, and how can they be stopped? This course will touch on these questions and others, providing a broad survey of some of the most important topics in world politics. During the course, students will learn what questions are relevant to contemporary international relations, what approaches scholars are using to analyze them, and how to think critically about these issues.

The course is divided into two parts, which will answer the two big questions of international relations, respectively: “Why war?” and “What about trade?” Toward the end of the class, we will also look at the role of norms and international regimes in guiding and enforcing cooperation across a range of issue areas. Students are expected to keep up with current events in the international arena, as we will frequently refer to these events to ground some of the more abstract theoretical concepts. Students are welcome to follow any news source they desire, so long as it provides sufficient coverage of international events.

Grading Policies

Evaluations of student performance will be based on three response papers, a midterm, and a non-cumulative final exam. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- *Three Response Papers (10% each)*: The response papers will be short essays (around 500–1000 words) that reply to a prompt. The prompt will generally be made available on a Friday, and students will be responsible for turning in their paper *before class* on the following

Monday. Late work will receive a 10% penalty per day, and will not be accepted after five days. In writing the papers, students will be expected to apply the knowledge that they've gained from the course, to think critically about the prompt, and, where relevant, to bring in their knowledge of current events. The papers will be graded on accuracy, depth of analytic thought, and clarity of writing.

- *Midterm Exam (35%)*: The midterm exam will be held in class on **Wednesday, October 14**, and will cover all material from the beginning of the course through Week 7. It will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. In addition to the topics covered in the course, it may also include material about current events.
- *Final Exam (35%)*: The final exam will be held during the university's designated final exam period. This exam is currently scheduled for **3:00 PM on Wednesday, December 16**. It will be non-cumulative and will cover the material from Week 9 through the end of the course. Like the midterm, it will be a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions, and may also include material about current events.

Readings

The required readings for each class are listed on the syllabus, below the topic to be covered. Students are expected to do the reading before coming to class. Reading assignments will come primarily from the course textbook:

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (Second Edition). New York: W. W. Norton.

Readings from the text will be designated **FLS** on the syllabus. Throughout the course, we will also read journal articles and selections from other books. These readings will be available through Blackboard.

Course Outline

Week 1. Course Introduction

- *Wednesday, Aug. 26* - Introduction and Syllabus
 - FLS, Introduction
- *Friday, Aug. 28* - Learning from the Past
 - FLS, Ch. 1

Week 2. International Relations and the “isms”

- *Monday, Aug. 31* - Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism
 - Drezner, Daniel. Aug. 18, 2009. “Theory of International Politics and Zombies.” *Foreign Policy*.
 - Snyder, Jack. Oct. 26, 2009. “One World, Rival Theories.” *Foreign Policy*.
- *Wednesday, Sept. 2* - Watch scenes from *Game of Thrones* and *Black Hawk Down*
 - Grieco, Joseph M. 1988. “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism.” *International Organization* 42(3): 485–507.
 - Wendt, Alexander. 1992. “Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization* 46(2): 391–425 (read 395–407; skim the rest).
- *Friday, Sept. 4* - No class, instructor out of town
 - No reading. Work on **Response Paper 1**.

Week 3. Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

- *Monday, Sept. 7* - An introduction to game theory
 - FLS, pp. 74–79
 - Morrow, James. D. 1994. *Game Theory for Political Scientists*, Ch. 1
 - **Response Paper 1 due before class**
- *Wednesday, Sept. 9* - Actors and interactions
 - FLS, pp. 38–61
- *Friday, Sept. 11* - The role of institutions
 - FLS, pp. 61–73

Week 4. War and Bargaining

- *Monday, Sept. 14* - War as an information problem
 - FLS, pp. 80–105
- *Wednesday, Sept. 16* - War as a commitment problem
 - FLS, pp. 105–122
- *Friday, Sept. 18* - The bargaining model of war and its alternatives

- Reiter, Dan. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-47.
- Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Ch. 3

Week 5. Domestic Actors

- *Monday, Sept. 21* - War and domestic interests
 - FLS, pp. 124-154
- *Wednesday, Sept. 23* - The democratic peace
 - FLS, pp. 154-167
 - Owen IV, John M. November/December 2005. "Iraq and the Democratic Peace." *Foreign Affairs*.
- *Friday, Sept. 25* - An alternative to the democratic peace
 - Gartzke, Erik. 2007. "The Capitalist Peace." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166-191.
 - Schneider, Gerald and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2010. "The Capitalist Peace: The Origins and Prospects of a Liberal Idea." *International Interactions* 36(2): 107-114.

Week 6. International Institutions

- *Monday, Sept. 28* - Alliances
 - FLS, pp. 168-188
- *Wednesday, Sept. 30* - Collective security
 - FLS, pp. 188-212
- *Friday, Oct. 2* - Do institutions matter?
 - Mearsheimer, John J. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19(3): 5-49.

Week 7. Terrorism and Nontraditional Warfare

- *Monday, Oct. 5* - Civil War
 - FLS, pp. 214-242
- *Wednesday, Oct. 7* - Terrorism
 - FLS, pp. 242-256

- Lake, David A. 2002. "Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty-first Century." *Dialogue-IO* 1(1): 15-29.
- *Friday, Oct. 9* - Countering terrorism
 - FLS, pp. 256-262
 - Abrahms, Max. 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy." *International Security* 32(4): 78-105.

Week 8. Midterm Exam

- *Monday, Oct. 12* - Midterm Review
 - **Response Paper 2 due before class**
- *Wednesday, Oct. 14* - Midterm Exam
- *Friday, Oct. 16* - **No class, Fall Break**

Week 9. International Trade

- *Monday, Oct. 19* - Benefits from trade
 - FLS, pp. 264-275; 306-311
- *Wednesday, Oct. 21* - Protectionism
 - FLS, pp. 276-287
 - Irwin, Douglas A. and Randall S. Kroszener. 1996. "Log-rolling and economic interests in the passage of the Smoot-Hawley tariff." *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series on Public Policy* 45: 173-200.
- *Friday, Oct. 23* - Politics and institutions
 - FLS, pp. 287-304
 - Milner, Helen V. 1999. "The Political Economy of International Trade." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 91-114.

Week 10. Economic Tools of Diplomacy

- *Monday, Oct. 26* - Sanctions and foreign aid
 - Baldwin, David Allen. 1985. *Economic Statecraft*, Ch. 3
- *Wednesday, Oct. 28* - When do sanctions work?
 - Pape, Robert A. 1997. "Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work." *International Security* 22(2): 90-136.

- Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby, and Detlef F. Sprinz. 2005. "When Do (Imposed) Economic Sanctions Work?" *World Politics* 57(4): 479-499.
- *Friday, Oct. 30* - The humanitarian aspect
 - Weiss, Thomas G. 1999. "Sanctions as a Foreign Policy Tool: Weighing Humanitarian Impulses." *Journal of Peace Research* 36(5): 499-509.
 - Drury, A. Cooper, Richard Stuart Olson, and Douglas A. Van Belle. 2005. "The Politics of Humanitarian Aid: U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, 1964-1995." *Journal of Politics* 67(2): 454-473.

Week 11. International Financial Relations

- *Monday, Nov. 2* - International borrowing and lending
 - FLS, pp. 312-327
 - Eichengreen, Barry. 1991. "Historical Research on International Lending and Debt." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 5(2): 149-169.
- *Wednesday, Nov. 4* - Immigration and FDI
 - FLS, pp. 337-347
 - Masters, Jonathan. "Foreign Investment and U.S. National Security." *Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounders Report*.
- *Friday, Nov. 6* - Financial institutions
 - FLS, pp. 327-337
 - Stone, Randall W. 2004. "The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 577-591.

Week 12. International Monetary Relations

- *Monday, Nov. 9* - Currencies and exchange rates
 - FLS, pp. 350-363
 - Cohen, Benjamin J. 1998. *The Geography of Money*, Introduction
- *Wednesday, Nov. 11* - Strategic interaction and monetary hegemony
 - FLS, pp. 363-367; 375-384
 - Lake, David A. "Leadership, Hegemony, and the International Economy: Naked Emperor or Tattered Monarch with Potential?" *International Studies Quarterly* 37(4): 459-489
- *Friday, Nov. 13* - The evolution of the international monetary system

- FLS, pp. 367–375
- Eichengreen, Barry and Nathan Sussman. 2000. “The International Monetary System in the (Very) Long Run.” *World Economic Outlook*. Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund.
- “Do Cryptocurrencies Such as Bitcoin Have a Future?” March 1, 2005. *The Wall Street Journal*.

Week 13. Economic Development

- *Monday, Nov. 16* - Poverty and its causes
 - FLS, pp. 386–406
- *Wednesday, Nov. 18* - Poverty and its consequences
 - Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John D. Stephens. 1993. “The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy.” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7(3): 71–86.
 - Holtermann, Helge. 2012. “Explaining the Development-Civil War Relationship.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 29(1): 56–78.
- *Friday, Nov. 20* - Strategies for development
 - FLS, 406–418
 - Birdsall, Nancy, Dani Rodrik, and Arvind Subramanian. July/August 2005. “How to Help Poor Countries.” *Foreign Affairs*.

Nov. 21–29: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14. International Law

- *Monday, Nov. 30* - International norms
 - FLS, pp. 434–450
- *Wednesday, Dec. 2* - International law
 - FLS, pp. 420–434
- *Friday, Dec. 4* - Enforcing international law under anarchy
 - Slaughter, Anne-Marie. 1995. “International Law in a World of Liberal States.” *European Journal of International Law* 6: 503–538.
 - Posner, Eric. September 17, 2009. “Think Again: International Law.” *Foreign Policy*.

Week 15. The Future of International Relations

- *Monday, Dec. 7* - What's next?
 - FLS, Ch. 14
 - **Response Paper 3 due before class**
- *Wednesday, Dec. 9* - Course wrap-up and review

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 3:00 PM