

Political Science 150
Introduction to International Relations
XXX

Course Information

Instructor

Bailee Donahue
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Meeting Times

Lecture: TR 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM, PH 367
Office Hours: W 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to achieve two objectives: first, to provide you with the analytical tools to understand some of the most important topics and puzzles in international relations; and, second, to offer an understanding of key historical and contemporary issues in world politics, including international security and interstate conflict, global trade and finance, and international institutions. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course, so if you do not already have your favorite source of news or history, now is a good time to find one. I recommend the New York Times, Economist, BBC World News, and Foreign Policy (all available online or through UNC Libraries), but any favorite new source (or two!) will do.

Course Requirements

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two midterm exam and one final exam, two writing assignments requiring at least five pages of writing each, and participation in lecture. The first midterm exam is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade. Each writing assignment is worth 10% of your course grade. Your participation grade, including regular in-class participation and a current event presentation will count for the remaining 30% of the final grade.

Exams

The midterm was in-class, closed book & notes. Due to the global pandemic, currently I am anticipating that the final exam will be taken online. I will take a survey regarding the format of the final exam in the coming weeks.

Papers

Because this course fulfills a perspectives requirement, you are required by the University to write ten pages of non-exam material during the semester, which will be divided into two papers. I will provide the specific writing assignments in a separate document. These assignments are due in class as a hard copy and submitted via dropbox on sakai **March 5th** and **April 16th**.

Writing policy: This class should be an opportunity to build your writing skills. To this end, I am happy to talk about good practices in office hours. While I cannot read drafts prior to submission, I will gladly talk through outlines. I also strongly encourage you to take advantage of UNC's Writing Center.

Late work: Papers should be handed in on time regardless of class attendance. Late work will be accepted but will accrue a **10 point penalty** for every day it is late past the due date.

Participation Online

I have set up a forum on the Sakai site that will allow for alternative forms of participation. You will be expected to make two contributions each week for class.

Contribution 1: should address one of the questions posed at the end of each section of lesson notes. The response you post should include a critical analysis of the evidence presented in the readings and lesson notes. Your response should be posted by 10 pm on the corresponding Thursday of that week's lesson they. The title of this contribution should be "Contribution 1: Question X" where X is the number of the question that you are addressing.

Contribution 2: should be a critical response to your fellow students' first postings (those labeled "Contribution 1"). Your posting should consider the merits and problems of the student's posting. Simply saying that "I agree with Joe because his argument makes a lot of sense to me" is not sufficient. The deadline for these posts is 10 pm on the corresponding Sunday of that week. This contribution should be posted as a follow-up under the message to which you are responding. Please change the subject line of your response so that it indicates this is: "Contribution 2."

Grading Forum Posts: You will receive a discussion forum grade on a ten-point scale for each week. To receive a grade of seven points, you must post all contributions on time, and they must meet the minimum content requirements described above. To get a grade above a seven, your posts must go beyond simply answering the question and provide critical analysis that offers evidence and support from the course materials or even material found outside the course?the news, government and organization websites, Wikipedia, and so on. When using material to support your argument, please tell us where that material is coming from so that we can check it out if we want to. (This is especially important if you are using material from sources outside the course.)

Updated Absence Policy: During this period of online learning, the previous absence policy will be suspended. I expect work to be accomplished during the week it is due but I also recognize that some of you will be presented with the potential burden of additional family care responsibilities, individual difficulties, and illness during this time.

Research Requirement

Students enrolled in POLI 100, POLI 130, or POLI 150 are required to take part in the Department of Political Science research activities as part of their course requirement. The research requirement can be fulfilled either by participating in research studies offered by the Political Science Subject Pool (PSSP) (Option 1) or by writing a 5-page research paper (Option 2). The total time commitment should not exceed 3 hours. This requirement does not substitute for other course requirements, nor does it generate extra credit.

OPTION 1: Students who choose to participate in the Political Science Subject Pool will be required to accumulate **ten credits** towards their research requirement. Typically, each study completed will satisfy one credit towards the requirement; occasionally, a study will count for more than one credit. Active studies for you to participate in will be listed on the Subject Pool?s website.

OPTION 2: Students who choose not to participate in the Political Science Subject Pool?or you fail to reach your 10 credit minimum?must satisfy the requirement by completing an alternative assignment, which consists of writing a five-page, double-spaced, research-oriented paper. Although it is not exactly the same as participating in an actual research study, this assignment has been designed to expand your understanding of the realm of political science research. At the end

of the semester, you will be given a list of articles from The Monkey Cage? a blog intended to make political science research more accessible? where you will be required to react to the article you select. Articles from The Monkey Cage may present findings from a recently published academic article, introduce readers to a new topic, or present contemporary political events through the lens of political science research. It will be your responsibility, in your paper, to discuss how the article was conducted, what conclusion(s) the author of the article draws from their methodological approach, and detail how convincing you find their conclusions. This paper will be graded pass/fail by the Subject Pool Director, Professor Anna Bassi.

Failure to satisfy the research requirement will result in an incomplete that will be removed only upon satisfaction of the requirement. Credit will be administered by the PSSP Director.

Course Materials

The following required book is available in the UNC Bookstore. All other readings are available electronically via the [UNC library e-journals and e-resources databases](#) or on the course Sakai site. Readings on the Sakai site will be denoted by [S]. These readings are meant to provide a sampling of topics in International Relations. If there are additional topics you wish to learn more about, please let me know and I will direct you to additional resources or courses at UNC.

- Frieden, Jeffrey, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions - Fourth Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York, London.¹

Important Dates

- Midterm Exam 1: February 20
- First Paper: March 5
- Second Paper: April 16
- Final Exam: April 28, 4:00 PM

Expectations

Technology in Class: Please turn your mobile phones off or to silent mode before class. No calls, no Snapchat, no text messaging during class. On exam days your phones must be turned off and put away. Laptops are permitted **for class purposes only!** Readings must be downloaded (and read) prior to class. Please do not use your laptops for email, Facebook, Twitter, games, web surfing, or any activity that is unrelated to the course. This sounds impossible, but I promise you can do it. Learning by lecture is hard enough, and you distract yourself and your neighbors when you use phones & laptops for anything non-course related.

Instructor Communication: I may not be able to answer all email immediately, but will do my best to do so promptly. If you need to notify me of something important (e.g., absence from an exam), come to my office hours before the exam. If you have an emergency and can't inform me in person, you may do so by email, but you will need to follow up with an office visit when you are able. If you have course related questions that require a detailed response from me (e.g., review questions the night before a test), email is not likely to work. Come see me during office hours. If these office hours do not fit with your course schedule, I am happy to schedule another time to meet.

¹Henceforth 'FLS'

Honor Code: “The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Code’s application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.”²

Title IX: Acts of discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, stalking, and related retaliation are prohibited at UNC-Chapel Hill. If you have experienced these types of conduct, you are encouraged to report the incident and seek resources on campus or in the community. Please contact the Director of Title IX Compliance / Title IX Coordinator (Adrienne Allison, adrienne.allison@unc.edu), Report and Response Coordinators (Ew Quimbaya-Winship, eqw@unc.edu; Rebecca Gibson, rmgibson@unc.edu; Kathryn Winn kmwinn@unc.edu), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPs) (confidential) in Campus Health Services at (919) 966-3658, or the Gender Violence Services Coordinators (confidential) (Cassidy Johnson, cassidyjohnson@unc.edu; Holly Lovern, holly.lovern@unc.edu) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at safe.unc.edu.

Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
The following schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced well in advance.		
January 9	Greetings and Logistics	Course Syllabus & Assignment Handouts
January 14	Introduction and Grand Theories of IR	FLS Introduction [S]Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories” (2004)
January 16	The Grand Theories of IR II and Historical Foundations	FLS Chapter 1 [S] Zvogbo & Loken, “Why Race Matters in International Relations” (2020)
January 21	Historical Foundations II	[S] MacMillan, “Warnings from Versailles”
January 23	Game Theory	FLS Chapter 2 FLS “Primer on Game Theory”, pp. 82-87
January 28	Prisoner’s Dilemma and Institutions	[S] Keohane, “From <i>After Hegemony</i> ”
January 30	Why do states go to war?	FLS Chapter 3

²From an August 21, 2003 Memo from Robert Shelton, Provost and Judith Wegner, Chair of the Faculty

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February 4	Rationalist Explanation for War	[S] Lake, D., 2011. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War?" <i>International Security</i> 35(3): 7-52. (skim technical parts)
February 6	Domestic Politics Simulation	FLS Chapter 4 pp.138 - 155, 166 -186.
February 11	Domestic Politics and War	[S] Weeks, "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve" 2008
February 13	Collective Security	FLS, Chapter 5: pp. 185-210 [S] Goldgeier, "The Future of NATO." 2010. pp. 3-23
February 18	Nuclear Proliferation and WMD	FLS, Chapter 14: pp. 584-606, [S] Joffe, J. "Less Than Zero" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol. 90:1 Jan/Feb 2011 [S]"Getting Tough on North Korea" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol. 96:3 May/June 2017
February 27	Intrastate Conflict	FLS, Chapter 6: pp. 236-268, [S] Walter, B. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> Vol. 12, 2009.
March 3	Case Study - Democratic Republic of the Congo	[S] Reid "Congo's Slide into Chaos: How a State Fails," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , January/February 2018
March 5	Terrorism	First Papers Due FLS, Chapter 6: 268-291, [S] Fortna, V.P., "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes." <i>International Organization</i> Vol. 69, 2015
March 10	Spring Break	No Class
March 12	Spring Break	No Class

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Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
March 24	Intrastate Conflict Resolution	[S] Beardsley, K. "Agreement without Peace? International Mediation and Time Inconsistency Problems?", <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , Vol 52(4), 2008. ONLY READ pp. 723- 729, 737-738
March 26	Intervention and Global Collective Action	FLS, Chapter 11 [S] Bellamy, A. "The Responsibility to Protect and the Problem of Military Intervention." <i>International Affairs</i> Vol 84(4), 2008.
March 31	Human Rights	FLS, Chapter 12
April 2	Globalization & Challenges to Globalization	[S] Henry Farrell & Abraham Newman, "Will the Coronavirus End Globalization as We Know It?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> [S] Catherine Machalaba & William Karesh, "Fight Pandemics like Wildfires", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>
April 7	Overview of International Political Economy	FLS, Chapter 7: pp. 294-318 FLS, Chapter 8: pp. 346-363 FLS, Chapter 9: pp. 386-402
April 9	Trade and Comparative Advantage	FLS, Chapter 7: pp. 340-345 [S] Council on Foreign Relations, "The Future of U.S. Trade Policy." <i>CFR Backgrounders</i> . 2015.
April 14	International Economic Institutions	FLS, Chapter 7: pp. 218-339 FLS, Chapter 8 363 - 371

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Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
April 16	Monetary Policy and the EU	<p>Second Paper Due</p> <p>FLS, Chapter 9 pp. 402 - 421</p> <p>[S] McNamara, K. "A Less Perfect Union? Europe after the Crisis.?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2015.</p>
April 21	Climate Change, Food Insecurity, and Poverty	<p>FLS, Chapter 13</p> <p>[S] Hardin, G. "The Tragedy of the Commons." <i>Science</i>. Vol 162. 1968.</p>
April 23	Last Class: What did we learn?	No Readings
April 28	FINAL EXAM	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM