

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fundamentals of International Relations

POLS 228 (Online)

Section 001/#45580

Spring 2019

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Office Hours: T/TH 9:30-11:00 a.m.,
W 1:00-2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Course Description and Objectives

This 3-credit online course provides an introduction to the political science subfield of international relations. It seeks to provide students with a conceptual background needed to understand contemporary international relations and introduce them to a range of issues in international politics, including the origins and nature of the modern state system, the sources of international conflict and terrorism, the structure of international economic relations, and the role of international institutions and non-governmental organizations.

By the time students have completed the course, they should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the use of prominent international relations (IR) theories to analyze interactions among states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs).
2. Analyze the role of economics, religion, culture, and history in international relations.
3. Analyze differences in states' behavior in the international arena.
4. Analyze the role of non-state actors, including IGOs and NGOs in international relations.
5. Consider political, cultural, or socioeconomic interactions among people or organizations of the world (Area B Learning Outcome for the UNG)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Structure

This is an entirely online course. Students should also expect to receive frequent emails from the professor containing information relevant to the material in the lectures and readings such as news articles on current political events. .

Required Text (available at WIU Bookstore)

Shirayev, Eric B. and Vladislav M. Zubok. (2015). *International Relations*, Oxford University Press: New York. ISBN: 9780190454357

Online textbook supplemental resources:

<http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190454357/> (No login code is needed).

Supplemental readings will be posted on Westernonline. You will need a valid ECOM user name and password to access the supplemental readings on westernonline.wiu.edu. If you have any problems in accessing Westernonline, please contact University Technology Support Center at 298-2704.

Students should also make a habit of keeping up with current domestic and international political developments by reading daily or weekly news sources such as *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Economist*.

The instructor reserves the right to alter and/or add readings wherever appropriate, and to modify course requirements.

Assessment

Unit Assignments and Quizzes

This course is composed of six units which, depending on the unit, are two or three weeks in length. For each unit, students will have a written assignment and a quiz, both due by the Saturday at the end of the final week of the unit. These written assignments will account for 42 percent of the total grade (7 points each). Details regarding each assignment will be made available on westernonline.

There will also be six unit quizzes (5 points each), accounting for 30 percent of the total grade. These quizzes will be composed of multiple choice questions and are designed to test your knowledge of core concepts and information covered in the assigned readings.

Research Report and Proposal

Students will also write a research report, 8-10 pages in length, on a major issue in international politics. The report will account for 25 percent of the total grade. As part of this assignment, students will be required to submit a proposal consisting of an overview of their proposed report topic, an explanation of why the issue was chosen, and a list of four sources with a short summary of each source. The proposal will account for 3 percent of the total grade and must be turned in before students may submit their research report. Students will receive written feedback on their proposals from the instructor. Further details concerning the report and proposal will be made available at a later point in the semester.

Grading Scale

A 93 – 100

A- 90 – 92

B+ 87 – 89

B 83 – 86

B- 80 – 82

C+ 77 – 79
C 73 – 76
C– 70 – 72
D+ 67 – 69
D 63 – 66
D– 60 – 62
F Below 60

Academic Honesty and Student Rights

Academic honesty is expected of all WIU students; cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please take time to review the University’s academic integrity policy, which is outlined at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>. A more complete catalog of student rights and responsibilities can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>.

Students who violate the academic integrity policy will fail the assignment in question with no opportunity for make-ups and will be reported to the Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards.

Campus Resources for Student Support

Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at (309) 298-1977 or anonymously at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

The University Writing Center is available to assist students with general and specific questions on writing assigned in any discipline and at any academic level. The one – on – one assistance available at the Writing Center is valuable for generating ideas, talking about global – level issues such as organization, and even working through grammatical problems. The University Writing Center is located in Simpkins Hall 341. Call for an appointment (309-298–2815) and be sure to take a copy of an assignment.

Course Schedule

Unit 1 (1/14-2/2): Studying International Relations and the Realist Paradigm

Readings:

1. S&Z, Chapter 1, *Introducing International Relations*
2. S&Z, Chapter 2, *The Realist Perspective*
3. Walt, Stephen, (2018) "Has Donald Trump Become a Realist?" *Foreign Affairs*,

Quiz and assignment due by Saturday, February 2.

Unit 2 (2/4-2/23): Liberalism, Constructivism, and Conflict Theories

Readings:

1. S&Z, Chapter 3, *The Liberal Perspective*
2. S&Z, Chapter 4, *Alternative Views*
3. Nye, Jr., Joseph S., (2017) "Will the Liberal Order Survive: The History of an Idea," *Foreign Affairs*, 96:1.

Quiz and assignment due by Saturday, February 23.

Unit 3 (2/25-3/9): Security and Terrorism

Readings:

1. S&Z, Chapter 5: *International Security*
2. S&Z, Chapter 8: *International Terrorism*

Film:

1. *The Secret History of ISIS*, PBS Frontline documentary

Quiz and assignment due by Saturday, March 9

Spring Break: March 11-15

Unit 4 (3/18-3/30): International Law

Readings:

1. S&Z, Chapter 6: International Law
2. Rapp-Hooper, M. (2016). Parting the South China Sea: How to Uphold the Rule of Law. *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2016.

Film: *The International Criminal Court*

Quiz and assignment due by Saturday, March 30

Unit 5 (4/1-4/13): International Politics and Economics

Readings:

1. S&Z, Chapter 7: International Political Economy
2. Reading on Brexit TBA

Quiz and assignment due by Saturday, April 13.

Unit 6 (4/15-5/4): Contemporary Challenges

Readings:

1. S&Z, Chapter 9: Environmental Problems and International Politics
2. S&Z, Chapter 10: Humanitarian Challenges
3. Prendergast, J., & Brooks-Rubin, B. (2016). A New Tool to Fight Genocide. *Foreign Affairs*.

Film:

1. *Exodus – The Journey Continues*, PBS Frontline Documentary

Research paper proposals due by Saturday, April 20

Quiz and assignment due by Saturday, May 4

Final Research Papers Due on Wednesday, May 8 by 11:59 p.m.