

University of Georgia
INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2014, MWF 1:25-2:15 P.M.
Caldwell Hall 304

Instructor: Steven Walter
Email: swalter7@uga.edu
Office: Candler Hall B02
Phone: 706-542-6705 (main office)
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment
CRN: 93292

Course Description and Objectives

This course will look at the world as an interplay of three broad categories: interests, interactions, and institutions. We can examine almost every action on the world stage by asking ourselves a few questions: who are the actors involved and what do they want (Interests)? How do actors take these interests into account when they are dealing with other actors both domestically and internationally (Interactions)? And finally, what means do actors have to achieve their goals (Institutions)? International issues such as war, peace, trade, cooperation, terrorism, human rights, and the environment can all be looked at with this lens. Such complex issues defy easy explanations, of course, but learning how to look at the world in new ways is one of the most important first steps of studying international relations (IR).

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ⌚ Critically examine world events and be able to discuss them without resorting to broad generalizations or faulty logic
- ⌚ Explain and critique the major theories of international relations and apply them to real world events.
- ⌚ Understand and correctly use basic IR terminology
- ⌚ Gain an understanding and appreciation for the complexities of international politics and the actors who engage in it.

Required Books

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2013. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 2nd ed. New York: Norton.

Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder. 2014. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. 5th ed. New York: Norton

Course Expectations

Attendance and Participation (25% of your grade):

In order to get the most out of this class, you must attend regularly and participate often. To earn full credit, a student must be prepared to meaningfully engage in discussion, respond to questions, ask questions of his/her own, and challenge the material (and the instructor). Speaking in front of the class or disagreeing with a textbook may be new to a lot of people, but it is absolutely essential for a lively class and a fulfilling college experience in general. Completing the assigned readings and attending every day will make this level of participation considerably easier.

In addition, students will be required to give at least one presentation on current international events during the semester. An ideal presentation will cover two or three major events in the international realm (meaning: involving a country other than the United States OR involving the United States' interaction with another country or countries), provide links to at least one respected news source on each subject, and interpret the significance of the event for the world as a whole. Presentations can be done by one to three students at a time, and will take place every Friday throughout the year. The instructor will give the first Friday presentation as an example to follow, and sign-ups for the rest of the year will be passed around at that time. Please note, you are allowed to sign up for more than one presentation in the semester if you wish to supplement shortfalls in your participation grade, but this is *not* extra credit. You cannot exceed 25% for this portion of your grade.

Attendance will count for 10% of your final grade. Participation will count for another 10%, and the current events presentation will make up the remaining 5%. There will be a strong correlation between attendance and participation: in other words, you cannot get credit for participating if you are not present. See the attendance policy below for more details.

Quizzes (30% of your grade):

There are three types of quizzes in this course. The first is a geography quiz designed to give students an idea of the world around them. (The importance of geography to IR is best illustrated in [this recent post](#) regarding the Ukraine crisis) The quiz will count for 5% of your final grade, and will consist of several multiple choice questions. It is scheduled for Friday, September 12th. More details will be provided in the days to come.

The second type of quiz will cover the current events presentations mentioned in the previous section. All questions will be drawn directly from your material, and will be presented in a multiple choice or matching format. There are two current events quizzes scheduled for Monday, September 22nd and Monday, October 27th. Each quiz will count for 5% of your final grade, for a total of 10%.

The final type of quiz covers the required readings for a given day and will be administered *without notice* throughout the semester. The current plan is to administer three to five quizzes, but this number may increase if it appears a large portion of students are failing to do the assigned reading. Questions will be short answer, multiple choice, or matching. The total value of all reading quizzes will be 15% of your final grade.

Midterm Exam (15% of your grade):

The midterm exam will consist of 30 multiple choice questions drawn from the first half of the semester. The exam is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 10th.

Final Exam (30% of your grade):

The final exam will consist of 60 multiple choice questions drawn from the entire semester: 20 questions will come from midterm material, while the remaining 40 will be from subjects covered in the second half of class. The exam date is currently scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th from 12:00-3:00 P.M. in Caldwell Hall 304. Please note this is a different time from our regular meetings, but the same classroom.

Course Policies

Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential to succeeding in this course. That being said, some absences cannot be avoided. I follow the university's guidelines for excused absences: any class period missed due to a University-sanctioned event (conference/sport/trip), a documented medical reason (e.g. doctor's note), or death or serious injury to a direct relative (mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent) will be counted as excused. These absences will not count against your grade, and you will be allowed to make up any quiz, presentation, or exam that happened to fall on the excused date.

All other absences will count as unexcused: illnesses without a doctor's note provided within a week of the absence, sleeping through class, forgetting class, or missing for any other reason will count against your final grade. In addition, you will *not* be allowed to make up any quiz, presentation, or exam that falls on the date of an unexcused absence. No exceptions. The missed assignment grade will count as a zero. However, I understand some days you simply feel too lousy to go to class, but not lousy enough to go the doctor, so every student will get two freebie unexcused absences which will not count against the attendance/participation grade. To repeat, though, any assignments missed due to an unexcused absence (even a "freebie" absence) will be counted as a zero. Use the freebies wisely.

Any unexcused absence after the second freebie will deduct a half point from your total grade, up to ten percentage points. As noted earlier, lack of attendance will also impact the participation grade.

Grades:

This class will use the standard plus/minus grading system. Grades will be rounded to the nearest point.

A= 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D= 60-69	F= Below 60
A- = 90-92	B= 83-86	C= 73-76		
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Cell Phones:

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other noise-making devices (does anyone use a beeper or pager anymore?) must be silenced during class. Also, there is no reason to have head phones on during class time. Frequent disruptions may result in a reduction in the participation grade.

Laptops and Tablets:

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for note-taking and research purposes *only*. If you choose to use a laptop during class, please be courteous to your instructor and your colleagues: turn off the sound and avoid the temptation to tweet, facebook, or whatever else the kids these days are doing online. If these items become a distraction, I reserve the right to discontinue their use.

Academic Honesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism could be grounds for removal from the course with a grade of WF.

Class Discussion and Debate:

At times during the class, we will be discussing controversial and/or sensitive subjects. It is of the utmost importance that all students conduct themselves in professional, respectful manner. Personal attacks, hateful speech, or general disrespect to the instructor or your colleagues will not be tolerated. This does not mean you have to agree with everything being said: far from it! If you disagree with anything and can back it up, feel free to challenge your classmates, the textbook, or the instructor. Lively, informed, and passionate debate is at the heart of politics.

Communicating with the Instructor:

The best way to get in contact with the instructor is through e-mail at swalter7@uga.edu. All students will be expected to check their own UGA e-mail addresses for important updates about the course, assignments, etc. ELCnew will be used to a limited extent, but e-mail will be the most common means of communication.

If you have any questions you cannot or do not want to address over e-mail, please feel free to visit my office hours. They are scheduled for Wednesdays at 2:30 until 4:30 P.M. in Candler Hall B02. I am also available by appointment, or immediately before and after class.

Staying Informed:

Even if you are not scheduled to do a current events presentation, it is important to keep up with major events around the world. This course should make you into a better-informed citizen, but a lot of that work falls on you the student. Where you get your news is entirely up to you, but be sure to cite your sources if you try to bring it up as a point in class discussion. Some suggested sites include: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [CNN](#), [NPR](#), or political blogs such as [The Monkey Cage](#), [The Quantitative Peace](#), or [The Duck of Minerva](#).

Changes to the Syllabus:

This syllabus should be considered a general plan and not a hard and fast guide. All efforts will be made to keep test dates the same as listed, and any changes will be announced well in advance. This notice applies to policies as well as assignments. With that in mind, be sure to come to class and check your e-mail regularly so that you do not miss out on any new information.

Course Schedule

FLS= Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*

READER= Mingst and Synder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

ELC= Available on ELC or by e-mail

Week 1: Introduction

August 18 (M): Course Introduction

Assignment: Course Syllabus

August 20 (W): Course Introduction (continued)

Assignment: FLS Introduction

August 22 (F): Historical Background

Assignment: FLS Chapter 1

Week 2: Theory

August 25 (M): Theory

Assignments: READER: Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," Pgs. 2-10

READER: Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory..." Pgs. 32-36

August 27 (W): Theory (continued)

Assignments: READER: Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," Pgs. 37-56

READER: Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," Pgs. 57-72

August 29 (F): Theory (continued)

Assignment: READER: Wendt, "The Social Construction of Power Politics," Pgs. 73-97

Week 3: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

September 1 (M): NO CLASS, UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

September 3 (W): Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

Assignment: FLS Chapter 2

September 5 (F): Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 2

ELC: Bueno de Mesquita, "The Strategic Perspective"

Week 4: War and Peace

September 8 (M): Why War?

Assignment: FLS Chapter 3

September 10 (W): Why War? (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 3

READER: Clausewitz, "War as an Instrument of Policy," Pgs. 396-400

READER: Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence," Pgs. 401-409

September 12 (F): Why War? (continued)

Assignments: **Geography Quiz**

READER: Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," Pgs. 425-450

Week 5: War and Peace (continued)

September 15 (M): Domestic Politics and War

Assignment: FLS Chapter 4

September 17 (W): Domestic Politics and War (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 4

ELC: Bueno de Mesquita et al, "Novel Implications from the Selectorate Theory of War"

September 19 (F): Domestic Politics and War (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 4

ELC: Weeks, "Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict"

Week 6: War and Peace (continued)

September 22 (M): International Institutions and War

Assignments: **Current Events Quiz 1**

FLS Chapter 5

September 24 (W): International Institutions and War (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 5

September 26 (F): International Institutions and War (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 5

Week 7: War and Peace (continued)

September 29 (M): Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

Assignment: FLS Chapter 6

October 1 (W): Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 6

October 3 (F): Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 6

ELC: Kydd & Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism"

Week 8: War and Peace (continued) and Midterm

October 6 (M): Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism (continued)

Assignments: ELC: Piazza & Walsh, "Physical Integrity Rights and Terrorism"

ELC: Piazza, "Poverty, Minority Economic Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism"

October 8 (W): Review for the Midterm

Assignment: Come with questions

October 10 (F): Midterm

Assignment: **Midterm Exam**

Week 9: International Political Economy (IPE)

October 13 (M): International Trade

Assignment: FLS Chapter 7

October 15 (W): International Trade (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 7

READER: Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," Pgs. 523-531

October 17 (F): International Financial Relations

Assignment: FLS Chapter 8

Week 10: IPE (continued)

October 20 (M): International Financial Relations (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 8

October 22 (W): International Monetary Relations

Assignment: FLS Chapter 9

Thursday, October 23: WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE

October 24 (F): International Monetary Relations (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 9

Week 11: IPE (continued)

October 27 (M): Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations

Assignments: **Current Events Quiz 2**
FLS Chapter 10

October 29 (W): Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 10
READER: Milner, "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions," Pgs. 537-560

October 31 (F): NO CLASS, FALL BREAK

Week 12: Transnational Politics

November 3 (M): International Law and Norms

Assignment: FLS Chapter 11

November 5 (W): International Law and Norms (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 11

November 7 (F): Human Rights

Assignment: FLS Chapter 12

Week 13: Transnational Politics (continued)

November 10 (M): Human Rights (continued)

Assignment: FLS Chapter 12

November 12 (W): Human Rights (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 12
READER: Donnelly, "Human Rights and Cultural Relativism," Pgs. 672-685

November 14 (F): Human Rights (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 12
READER: Keck & Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks," Pgs. 382-393

Week 14: Transnational Politics (continued)

November 17 (M): The Global Environment

Assignment: FLS Chapter 13

November 19 (W): The Global Environment (continued)

Assignments: FLS Chapter 13
READER: Hardin, "Tragedy of the Commons," Pgs. 707-717

November 21 (F): The Global Environment (continued)

Assignment: READER: Ostrom, "Institutions and the Environment," Pgs. 718-730

Week 15: Thanksgiving Break

November 24-28 (M-F): NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 16: World Politics Simulation

December 1 (M): IR Crisis Simulation Prep

Assignment: TBA

December 3 (W): IR Crisis Simulation

Assignment: TBA

December 5 (F): IR Crisis Simulation Recap

Assignment: TBA

Week 17: Class Recap and Final Exam Prep

December 8 (M): Class Recap and Discussion

Assignment: Come with questions

December 9 (T)*: Review for Final

Assignment: Come with questions

Week 18: Final Exam

December 17 (W): Finals

Assignment: **FINAL EXAM 12:00-3:00pm****

*University operates on a Friday schedule for Tuesday, December 9th.

** PLEASE NOTE: the time of the exam is different, but the location is the same.