

PSCI 121: Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2019

Section A: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 08:00-08:55, Holland Hall 502

Section B: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 09:05-10.00, Holland Hall 502

Instructor: Menevis Cilizoglu

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Office Hours: Mondays 10.15-11.45 & Wednesdays 3-4.30 or by appointment

Office Location: Holland Hall 506

Course Description

This course is designed to achieve two objectives: (1) to introduce you to some of the most central issues and puzzles in the study of international relations, and (2) to provide you with some analytic concepts that can be used to study world politics. A significant portion of the course is designed to develop a theoretical model through which we understand international politics. We will also apply that framework, and various analytical concepts, to recent events and contemporary foreign policy debates. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course and keeping up with international news is another important element of this course. I recommend the Economist, BBC World News, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and journals such as Foreign Policy or Foreign Analysis.

Learning Environment

All classes will be based on discussion in various forms. To participate fully in these discussions, you must keep up with all the readings and attend class regularly. We all have a great deal to learn from the texts, but also from each other. I ask all of you to help the class be one in which others feel free to contribute their ideas. I understand that not everyone is willing or feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions with others in a classroom setting. However, I hope that in the first few weeks we can foster a community where everyone feels that their opinions are valid and valued. It is of utmost importance that every student feels comfortable speaking in class and that we are always respectful of one another. Students with concerns, challenges, or special circumstances of any sort are encouraged to let me know as soon as possible.

Expectations

Academic Honesty

I expect you to be diligent about avoiding plagiarism or cheating in any form. I am committed to treating Honor System violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/thebook/academic/integrity/>.

Communication

While I am always happy to communicate via e-mail for quick clarification questions, e-mails are not the best way to discuss substantive questions concerning course material. I encourage you to come to office hours or schedule meetings with me if you would like me to clarify concepts or discuss issues in depth.

Technology

The use of laptops/tablets/phones are not allowed during lectures. Besides being distracting, existing [research](#) proves that taking notes by hand improves learning outcomes. I will let you know when a specific group discussion/class activity requires you to use your laptops. If you want to have the articles, reading notes, or any other materials in front of you during class, please print them beforehand.

Disability and Access Accommodations

I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. Students seeking accommodations, please contact Disability and Access staff at 507-786-3288 or by visiting wp.stolaf.edu/asc/dac.

Preferred Gender Pronoun

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Course Requirements

Exams: (15% x 3 = 45%)

There will be three in-class exams (**March 4 + April 3 + April 29**). Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade. Exams will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, and essay questions based on the lectures, readings, and class discussions. The format and content of each exam will be discussed in more detail closer to the exam dates.

Final Exam Essay: (20%)

You will write an essay responding one of the three essay prompts I will circulate a month before the final exam. You will choose one of the three essay topics that will require you to synthesize a number of topics we'll cover throughout the semester. I will provide further instructions closer to the date. The essay is due **May 18, 11am for Section A** students and **May 20, 11 am for Section B** students.

International Simulation: (30%)

From May 1 to May 8, PSCI 121 will simulate an international summit designed to establish new rules and guidelines for multilateral humanitarian intervention and assistance.

The purpose of this simulation is to design a practical set of clear guidelines for humanitarian intervention as well as a coordination program for humanitarian assistance during times of conflict. The primary objectives of this simulation are to practice research skills and manipulate ideas and concepts raised in class. Your individual and team goal is to accurately reflect the behavior of your state/organization as you negotiate these issues. The activity will account for 30 percent of your final grade, divided between individual and group grades. I will post more detailed instructions on Moodle.

Library Resources for the Simulation

On April 1, we'll meet with Ann Schaezner, the Political Science Department's librarian. She will walk us through the course website/resources package we've created to help you with your research for the simulation. I also encourage you to be in contact with Ann Schaezner if you have any research related questions throughout the semester.

Participation: (5%)

Attendance will be taken regularly, as it is a prerequisite for participation. Students who miss class sessions, as well as those who attend regularly but do not participate actively, will have their grade lowered proportionally. Perfect attendance does not mean a perfect participation grade - you must be actively engaged in class to score well in this area. Participation points are assigned based upon the quantity and quality of a student's contributions to the class. Your attendance is important both to your ability to master course material and to the overall quality of class discussion. You are permitted two unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. I do not need to know the reason or see any documentation. However, you will be penalized for any unexcused absences beyond the two.

Policy on Make-ups: You are expected to be present on exam and simulation days. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency. If you have other unexpected emergency situations that force you to miss a scheduled exam, please contact me as soon as possible. If the absence is excused, for the exam, this will mean scheduling a prompt make-up time for your exam. For the simulation exercises, additional assignments will be given proportional to the time and work missed.

Evaluation Policies

Grading

I follow the College's official grading benchmark. You can access them in the Academic catalog section on "grades."

93 and above: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B
80-82: B-	77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	64-66: D	61-63: D-	60 and below: F

Late Assignment Policy

To insure the fairness of evaluation and grading, it is essential that you complete your written work on the assigned due dates. In case of a genuine emergency, contact me as soon as you are reasonably able to do so. I may request documentation in such cases. Turning in assignments late will lead to a letter grade reduction for every 24 hours.

Course Schedule and Readings

This course has no assigned textbooks. Some readings are shared via Moodle, and others are available below by clicking on the blue hyperlinks.

- February 8 (Friday): Course Introduction

- Read the Syllabus

I. Conceptualizing International Relations: Theories & Frameworks

- February 11 (Monday): What is International Relations?

- Watch video from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), [“International Relations: An Introduction”](#).
- Malley - [10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019](#).
- Lindsay - [10 Elections to Watch in 2019](#).

- February 13 (Wednesday): Sovereignty

- Read [“Sovereignty”](#) in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
- Naim - “Five Wars of Globalization”

- February 15 (Friday): Grand Theories of IR

- Mearsheimer - “Anarchy and Struggle for Power” pp.54-67.

- February 18 (Monday): Grand Theories of IR - continued

- Keohane. “After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy.”
- Onuf - “Constructivism: A User’s Manual.” In *International Relations in a Constructed World*”

- February 20 (Wednesday): International Order

- Mandelbaum - “David’s Friend Goliath”
- Mazarr - “The Once and Future Order: What Comes After Hegemony?”

- February 22 (Friday): Prisoner's Dilemma
 - Read [this page](#) and watch the video.
- February 25 (Monday): Prisoner's Dilemma - continued
 - Review your lecture notes and the reading assignment from February 22.
- February 27 (Wednesday): Overcoming Prisoner's Dilemma: International Institutions
 - Mitchell, "Cooperation in World Politics: The Constraining and Constitutive Effects of International Organizations" pp:1-20, *skim the rest.*
- March 1 (Friday): No Class: Prof. Menevis is giving a talk at the University of Iowa
- March 4 (Monday): Exam 1

II. Conflict in the International System

- March 6 (Wednesday): Interstate Wars
 - Fearon - "Rationalist Explanations of War" *This is not an easy article to read. Try to focus on the main points only.*
- March 8 (Friday): United Nations and Collective Security
 - Read the Preamble and Chapters I-VII of the [UN Charter](#)
 - Patrick - "What's Wrong With the United Nations?"
- March 11 (Monday): Alliances and NATO
 - Watch video from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, "[60 Years of NATO in Eight Minutes](#)"
 - Goldgeier - "The Future of NATO" pp.3-23
- March 13 (Wednesday): Democratic Peace Theory
 - Rand Corp. - "The Democratic Peace Idea"
- March 15 (Friday): Civil Wars
 - Walter - "Bargaining Failures and Civil Wars"
 - Collier - "The Market for Civil War"

- March 18 (Monday): Genocide
 - Read definitions of [genocide](#) and [ethnic cleansing](#)
 - Council on Foreign Relations - [The Rohingya Crisis](#)
- March 20 (Wednesday): Humanitarian Intervention
 - Read [Responsibility to Protect](#) - Synopsis
 - Power - “Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen.”
 - Listen to (or read) NPR’s Talk of the Nation [“The Responsibility to Protect in Syria and Beyond.”](#)
- March 22 (Friday): Library Day - Simulation Training
- March 25 (Monday): Spring Break
- March 27 (Wednesday): Spring Break
- March 29 (Friday): Spring Break
- April 1 (Monday): Human Rights
 - Read [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
 - Posner - “The Case Against Human Rights”
- April 3 (Wednesday): Exam 2

III. Challenges in the International System

- April 5 (Friday): Refugee Crisis
 - UNHCR - “Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017”
- April 8 (Monday): Terrorism
 - Read [Ward](#) - “How Do you Define Terrorism?”
 - Read [Mueller and Stewart](#) - “Why are Americans Still So Afraid of Islamic Terrorism?”
- April 10 (Wednesday): Nuclear Proliferation
 - Waltz - “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb?”
 - Kahl - “Iran and the Bomb”
 - Fuchs - “The North Korea Deal: Why Diplomacy is Still the Best Option”

– Sagan - “The Korean Missile Crisis: Why Deterrence is Still the Best Option”

- April 12 (Friday): US-Iran Nuclear Deal

– Readings TBD

- April 15 (Monday): Environment

– Explore <https://climate.nasa.gov/> & <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators>

– Cassidy - “A Skeptical Note on the Paris Climate Deal”

– Barrett - “Why Have Climate Negotiations Proved So Disappointing?”

III. Global Economic Order

- April 17 (Wednesday): Regionalism: the European Union

– Watch “[the History of the European Union](#)”

– Explore the “[about the EU page](#)”.

– The Economist - “Creaking at 60: the Future of the European Union”

- April 19 (Friday): Brexit

– Readings TBD

- April 22 (Monday): Bretton Woods

– Read “about”, “what we do”, “membership” and home pages for the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO.

– Stiglitz - “[Globalism’s Discontent](#)”

- April 24 (Wednesday): Foreign Aid and Development

– Watch [Alex Thier’s TED talk](#), “The End of Extreme Poverty”

– Miliband and Gurumurthy - “Improving Humanitarian Aid”

– Radelet - “Prosperity Rising: The Success of Global Development, and How to Keep it Going”

- April 26 (Friday): Topic: to be voted on

- April 29 (Monday): Exam 3

- May 1 (Wednesday): Simulation Practice

- May 3 (Friday): Simulation Day 1

- May 6 (Monday): **Simulation Day 2**
- May 8 (Wednesday): **Simulation Day 3**
- May 10 (Friday): **No Class**
- May 13 (Monday): **Simulation Debrief**
- May 15 (Wednesday): **Conclusion**