

# PSCI 121A/B: Introduction to International Relations Fall 2022

**Instructor:** Menevis Cilizoglu

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## **Class Meetings - Section A**

When: M-W-F 11:50-12:40

Where: HH 502

## **Class Meetings - Section B**

When: M-W-F 12:55-1:50

Where: HH 502

## **Office Hours:**

When: Monday at 2:00-3:00 & Wednesday at 2:00-3:00 & Friday at 10:15-11:15

Where: HH 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](#).

**Communication:** Read this syllabus, all course materials, occasional email, and the expectations/assignment instructions I'll share along the way. You can ask me questions via email and during office hours.

**Disability and Access Accommodation:** I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. Students seeking accommodations, please contact [DAC](#) staff.

**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

### 1) Exams: 15% x 3 = 45%

There will be three in-class exams (**September 30 + October 31 + November 30**). Exams will be a combination of short-answer, multiple choice, and essay questions based on the lectures, readings, and class discussions.

### 2) Final Essay: 10%

You will write an essay responding to one of the three essay prompts I will circulate a month before the final exam. Your essays 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 on **December 16, 4 pm for Section A** students, and on **December 19, 4 pm for Section B** students.

### 3) International Simulation: (30%)

From December 5 to December 9, PSCI 121 will simulate an international summit designed to address an ongoing international crisis. The primary objectives of this simulation are to practice research skills and manipulate ideas and concepts raised in class. Your individual and team goal are 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.

#### **4) Participation: 5%**

Attendance will be taken regularly, as it is a prerequisite for participation. Your attendance is important both to your ability to master course material and to the overall quality of class discussion. But perfect attendance does not mean a perfect participation grade - you must be actively engaged in class to score well in this area. Being actively engaged can take many forms: asking and answering questions, sharing opinions, active listening, contributing to small group work, using Zoom's chat feature etc.. 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. To facilitate participation and an engaging class, I encourage you to keep your camera on. If there are any circumstances because of which you prefer to keep your camera off or you can't participate in class, let me know.

### **Evaluation Policies**

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

**Policy on Make-ups and Late Submissions:** You are expected to take exams and submit your work on time. 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 or submit your work late, 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 paper submissions, I will deduct 5 points for every late 24 hours.

### **Course Schedule and Readings**

This course has no textbooks. All readings/videos/external links are shared via Moodle.

- **September 9 (Friday): Course Introduction**
  - Read the syllabus.

- Fill out the course [survey](#).

## Unit 1: Conceptualizing International Relations: Theories & Frameworks

- **September 12 (Monday): What is International Relations?**
  - Watch [video](#) from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).
  - [10 Conflicts to watch in 2022](#).
  - Explore the [International Relations Concentration](#).
- **September 14 (Wednesday): Sovereignty**
  - Read [Sovereignty](#) in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
  - Read Naim - [Five Wars of Globalization](#)
- **September 16 (Friday): Grand Theories of IR**
  - Mearsheimer - [Anarchy and Struggle for Power](#) pp.54-67.
- **September 19 (Monday): Grand Theories of IR - con't**
  - Snyder - [One World, Rival Theories](#)
  - Watch [Theory in Action: Realism](#)
  - Watch [Theory in Action: Liberalism](#)
  - Watch [Theory in Action: Constructivism](#)
- **September 21 (Wednesday): International Order**
  - Ikenberry - [Varieties of Order: Balance of Power, Hegemonic, and Constitutional](#)
  - Mandelbaum - [David's Friend Goliath](#)
- **September 23 (Friday): Prisoner's Dilemma**
  - Read [this page](#) and watch the video.
- **September 26 (Monday): Prisoner's Dilemma - continued**
  - Review your lecture notes and the reading assignment from September 23.
- **September 28 (Wednesday): Overcoming Prisoner's Dilemma: International Institutions**
  - Mitchell - [Cooperation in World Politics: The Constraining and Constitutive Effects of International Organizations](#) (read pp:1-10 and skim the rest)
- **September 30 (Friday): Exam 1**

## Unit 2. Conflict in the International System

- **October 3 (Monday): Interstate Wars**
  - Frieden, Lake, and Schultz - "[Chapter 3: Interstate Wars](#)"
- **October 5 (Wednesday) : Interstate Wars - continued**
  - Frieden, Lake, and Schultz - "Chapter 3: Interstate Wars"
- **October 7 (Friday): War on Ukraine**
  - Readings TBD
- **October 10 (Monday): Economic Sanctions**
  - Masters - [What are Sanctions?](#)
  - More TBD
- **October 12 (Wednesday): United Nations and Collective Security**
  - Read the Preamble and Chapters I-VII and Chapter XIV of the [UN Charter](#)
  - Patrick - [What's Wrong With the United Nations?](#)
- **October 14 (Friday): Alliances and NATO**
  - Watch [60 Years of NATO in Eight Minutes](#)
  - NATO & Russia reading - TBD
- **October 17 (Monday): Fall Break**
- **October 19 (Wednesday): Democratic Peace Theory**
  - Rand Corp. - [The Democratic Peace Idea](#)
- **October 21 (Friday): Democratic Peace Theory & Simulation Group Meetings**
  - Rand Corp. - [The Democratic Peace Idea](#)
- **October 24 (Monday): Civil War**
  - Walter - [Bargaining Failures and Civil Wars](#)
- **October 26 (Wednesday): Genocide & Humanitarian Intervention**
  - Read [Responsibility to Protect](#)
  - Read the definitions of [genocide](#) and [ethnic cleansing](#)

- Power - "[Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen?](#)"
- **October 28 (Friday): Documentary - TBD**
- **October 31 (Monday): Exam 2**
- **November 2 (Wednesday): Simulation: Library Training & Group Meetings**

### Unit 3. Challenges in the International System

- **November 4 (Friday): Refugee Crisis**
  - UNHCR - [Global Trends](#)
  - Ukraine Refugees - TBD
- **November 7 (Monday): Territorial Aggression**
  - Taiwan readings - tbd
- **November 9 (Wednesday): Nuclear Proliferation**
  - Read [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#)
  - Waltz - [Why Iran Should Get the Bomb?](#)
  - Kahl - [Iran and the Bomb](#)
- **November 11 (Friday): 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?](#)

### Unit 4: Global Economic Order

- **November 14 (Monday): Bretton Woods Institutions**
  - Read "home", "about", "what we do", and "membership" pages of the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO.
- **November 16 (Wednesday): Class visit by Elizabeth Shackelford**
  - Read [Shackelford's Bio and some of her commentary/analysis](#) you find interesting.
- **November 18 (Friday): Trade Institutions**

- CFR - "[How are Trade Disputes Resolved?](#)"
- NYT - "[Global Trade after the Failure of the Doha Round](#)"

- **November 21 (Monday): Financial Institutions: World Bank and the IMF**
- Zoellick - [Why We Still Need the World Bank](#)

- **November 23 (Wednesday) & November 25 (Friday): Happy Thanksgiving!**

- **November 28 (Monday): Simulation Group Meetings**
- **November 30 (Wednesday): Exam 3**
- **December 2 (Friday): Simulation Practice**
- **December 5 (Monday): Simulation Day 1**
- **December 7 (Wednesday): Simulation Day 2**
- **December 9 (Friday): Simulation Day 3**
- **December 12 (Monday): Simulation Debrief & Conclusion**

- **December 16 (Friday), 4:00: Final Paper Submission (Section A)**
- **December 19 (Monday), 4:00: Final Paper Submission (Section B)**