

**PSCI 2223**  
**Introduction to International Relations**  
**University of Colorado at Boulder**

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**Spring 2017 MW**  
**9:00-9:50**  
**MATH 100**

**Professor Aysegul Aydin**  
**Office: Ketchum 228**  
**Office Hours: W10:00-11:00pm**  
**or by appointment**  
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**Course Description:**

This course is designed introduce students to the fundamentals of international relations. The syllabus covers the key concepts and theories of international security and international political economy which are the two core areas of the field. Most of these concepts and theories are the cornerstone of more advanced classes that students will take in their college education. The major questions that this course addresses are also those that received the greatest attention in international relations research: Who are the major actors in world politics? What are the certain forms that their behavior can take? What are the causes of their behavior? Can we develop theoretical frameworks that can accurately capture the decision-making processes of these actors? We will answer these questions by drawing from the central debates in international relations and expanding them in ways that reflect traditional approaches as well as new trends in the field.

**Course Requirements:**

Grades for the course will consist of a quiz (15%), a midterm (20%), a final exam (20%), a research paper (20%), clicker attendance (8%), and class attendance and participation in your recitation section (17%). No extra credit options are available in the course. Final letter grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=100-94, A-=93-90, B+=89-86, B=85-82, B-=81-78, C+=77-74, C=73-70, C-=69-66, D+=65-62, D=61-58, D-=57-54, F=<54.

**(1) Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer and fill-in-the-blank type questions that draw on the readings, lectures and the discussion in class. Lecture notes and recitation notes will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L, <https://learn.colorado.edu>) after the lecture. All exams are designed to be cumulative. A study guide will be provided before each exam (will be posted on D2L) and discussed in the wrap-up lecture. All exams will be held in MATH100. Exam schedule is provided in the syllabus. Final exam will be held on the day announced by the University administration. Make-ups for the exams will be given only under extraordinary conditions which are health-related issues (should be documented by a physician to be considered by the instructor) and religious reasons (the instructor should be informed early in the semester to make appropriate accommodations, see pg. 4 of the syllabus).

**(2) Research Paper:** You will write a 9-10 page (app. between 2,000 and 2,250 words) paper that focuses on one of the inter-state (conflict between states) or intra-state (conflict within states) wars from the lists that I will provide. These lists come from the Correlates of War Project ([www.correlatesofwar.org](http://www.correlatesofwar.org)) which presents the most extensive collection of wars and will be posted on D2L early in the semester. You are expected to personally hand in a hard copy of your paper to your teaching assistant (TA). This can be done anytime between 8:00am and 5:00pm on May 3. You can hand in your paper to your TA during their office hours, before or after your recitation (if you have one that day), or in the morning lecture. TAs will also have a dropbox on their doors (labeled PSCI2223) where you can drop your paper. Please consult your recitation syllabus for important details. TAs will start sorting the papers at 5:00pm which is the cutoff time. A late paper will be penalized as 10% reduction in the paper grade for each day that it is late (includes weekends). You are also expected to submit an electronic version of your paper to turnitin.com through D2L. Same penalties apply to late electronic submissions.

Your paper will be based on tracing the events related to a war from newspapers and books and identify its several important aspects. The essay will include factual information on your case as well as its interpretation. I will provide a separate handout detailing the specifics of this exercise. Your analysis should be addressing the issues or questions that I will specify in this handout. It is important that you meet with your TA to discuss your paper outline. TAs will have extended office hours in the week before the paper is due. Please make sure that you make an appointment or come by their offices to talk about your project.

**(3) Participation and Attendance:** I expect the students to come to the lecture on a regular basis, read the course material and contribute to the discussion in a reasonable manner. Your participation and attendance is greatly desired in both the lecture and recitation. Attendance will be taken in the lecture through clicker questions. You are allowed up to four freebies during the semester due to clicker malfunction, and unexcused absences. As in the case of exams, absences are excused under extraordinary conditions which are health-related issues and religious reasons. In addition, 17% of your semester grade is based on your performance in the recitation taught by your TA. Absences are possible only under the circumstances specified in the recitation syllabus. The material in this syllabus is supposed to be read before you come to your recitation because they will constitute the core of the discussion. Active learning in the classroom requires active participation and participation requires that you read the material and get involved in the class discussion. It is also useful for you to know that simply attending the recitation will not earn you an A grade on participation unless you are committed and making attempts to participate in class discussions. As such, participation requires being actively involved in the discussion. Please review your recitation syllabus to learn more about how your performance will be evaluated in the recitation section.

### Reading Material

There is one textbook that I have assigned for this course. The book is available in the University Bookstore. The title is:

*World Politics: The Menu for Choice*; Bruce Russett, Harvey Starr, and David Kinsella (Boston: Wadsworth).

Please note that this syllabus is designed to be compatible with both the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> editions of the Russett et al. book (page numbers are specified for both editions). You are free to choose which edition you will purchase. Throughout the semester, I will be posting newspaper articles and other relevant material on D2L to start a discussion. While these are not academic work, they stipulate ideas and opinions that are closely related to the subject matter of this class.

The textbook and other assignments will provide an important background to our discussion this semester. Lectures and recitations will include additional material that will expand the discussion in new and innovative ways. While my lectures cannot cover every detail in the textbook, they present basic aspects of the topic which provide an essential template for more advanced international relations courses. Recitations, on the other hand, reinforce the material and include important details of the topic. It is therefore important that you attend both the lectures and recitations and take good notes.

### **Grade Appeals**

All grade appeals should be made in writing. If you believe that a grade you were assigned does not reflect your performance, you can dispute it. Your TA will ask you to write a brief memo explaining why you should have received a higher grade on that assignment. This should be done within a week after the grade is announced. You can hand the memo and the related assignment to your TA during his/her office hours or after lecture/recitation. S/he will respond to you in writing and address each of your concerns in detail.

### **Students with Disabilities**

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities should ask for “reasonable and timely” accommodations. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me or your TA a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu).

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with me or your TA.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in

violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

### **Religious Observances**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students in this situation can ask for “reasonable and timely” accommodations. Please review the syllabus closely and try to find out whether you have time conflicts with any of the assignments. I encourage you to do so in the first two weeks of the semester and inform me or your TA about your concerns either during my office hours or after recitation/lecture. Full details can be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

**Class Schedule:**

***Week I. Introduction***

**Jan.18:** Organizational Meeting.

***Week II. Looking for the Causes of State Behavior***

**Jan.23:** Scientific Study of International Relations

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 2, pg. 34-43. 10<sup>th</sup>

Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 2, pg. 28-35.

**Jan.25:** Levels of Analysis

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 1, pg. 13-21 and Chapter 7, pg. 180-189.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 1, pg. 10-17 and Chapter 6, pg. 146-155.

***Week III. Preliminaries of International Relations***

**Jan.30:** Actors

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 3.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 3.

**Feb.1:** Power

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 5, pg. 105-123.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 4, pg. 70-79.

***Week IV: International Relations Theory: External Pressures***

**Feb.6:** Competing Perspectives

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 2, pg. 27-34.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 2, pg. 21-28.

**Feb.8:** Realism

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 4, pg. 78-103.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 4, pg. 67-70, 79-88.

***Week V. Quiz***

**Feb.13:** Class Wrap-Up

**Feb.15:** Quiz

***Week VI. International Relations Theory: Domestic Pressures***

**Feb.20:** Liberalism

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 6.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 5, pg. 99-123.

**Feb.22:** Domestic Actors

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 7, pg. 163-180.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 6, pg.129-146

***Week VII. Military Conflicts***

**Feb.27:** Typology of Conflicts

Please explore the Correlates of War Project website ([www.correlatesofwar.org](http://www.correlatesofwar.org)) for an overview of conflict typology and an extensive collection of war cases.

**March 1:** Conflict Between States

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 8, pg. 198-208 and Chapter 9.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 7, pg. 164-175 and Chapter8.

***Week VIII. Violent Nonstate Actors***

**March 6:** Conflict Within States

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 8, pg. 208-218.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 7, pg. 175-183

**March 8:** Unconventional Warfare

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 8, pg. 218-225.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 7, pg. 183-190

***Week IX. International Law***

**March 13:** Universal Jurisdiction

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 10, pg. 261-279

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 9, pg.227-245

**March 15:** Conflict Management and the UN

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 10, pg. 279-298.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 9, pg. 245-256; Chapter 10, 270-286.

***Week X. Nonviolent Transformation***

**March 20:** Democratic Peace (Is there also an economic peace?)

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 11, pg. 302-306, 325-328

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 5, pg. 123-127.

**March 22:** A Feminist IR?

Tickner, *Gender in International Relations*, Chapter 1.

***Week XI: Spring Break (March 27-31)***

***Week XII. International Economic Order***

**April 3:** Interdependence and Its Implications

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 13, pg. 363-377.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 10, pg. 263-270; Chapter 11, pg. 292-302.

**April 5:** Economic Regimes

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 13, pg. 378-395.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 11, pg. 302-320.

***Week XIII. Midterm***

**April 10:** Class Wrap-Up

**April 12:** Midterm

***Week XIV. Institutions and Systemic Forces beyond Power***

**April 17:** Regional Economic Blocs

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 14.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 12.

**April 19:** The Development Gap

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 15.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 13.

***Week XV. A New World and Its Troubles***

**April 24:** Chaos in the Post-Cold War World?

9<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 17.

10<sup>th</sup> Edition: Russett et al.; Chapter 15.

**April 26:** A Grand Strategy for the US?

***Week XVI. Final Week (RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE)***

**May 1-3:** Class Wrap-Up