

**PSCI 2223: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**MATH 100**  
**MW 9:00 - 9:50**  
**SPRING 2019**

Professor: Megan Shannon

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Office hours: Mondays, 10:00am - 12:00pm at my office in Ketchum 124 (no appointment necessary)

Coffee hour: Wednesdays, 10:00am - 11:00am at the Laughing Goat in Norlin (no appointment necessary)

### **What This Class Promises to You**

While George Washington and Thomas Jefferson warned Americans against entangling global relationships, their vision now seems impossible, since the world's most pressing problems require international cooperation. Not only does international politics affect our daily lives, it does so in puzzling ways. The goal of this class is to explore puzzles in international politics, including:

- If war is so costly, why do countries fight?
- If trade is economically efficient, why do countries sometimes restrict trade?
- If everyone values the earth's resources, why is global cooperation over the environment so hard to achieve?

We investigate these and other questions by identifying the interests, interactions, and institutions that lead to global outcomes. Actors have particular interests, but when they interact with others, they may end up with outcomes that do not reflect their interests. Global actors also work under institutions and rules that can constrain and change their behavior. By exploring the behavior that results from interests, interactions, and institutions, we explain today's events and make predictions about the future. By the semester's end, you will understand a variety of political problems facing the world today. You will also have a healthy appreciation for how much more there is to learn about international relations.

This is not a current events nor a history class. Even though we talk about historical events, and we think about the future, the theories we learn about apply to international politics across time. Moreover, this is not a class about any one particular country or region of the world. Even though we discuss particular countries as examples, the theories we uncover apply globally to a broad number of countries and regions.

### **What You Bring to the Class**

The University of Colorado is a learning community that seeks to understand the world around us. CU cannot achieve those goals without the engagement of its undergraduate students. That means your participation in this class is valuable. You have unique gifts, skills, and insights that advance our search for truth and knowledge. If you withhold participation, it stifles and hinders the ability of the community to learn.

By enrolling in this class, you have the opportunity to develop, enhance, and contribute knowledge in political science. As members of this class, we commit to:

- Being on time to lecture and recitation sections
- Doing the readings before coming to lecture and recitation
- Using technology responsibly, and in a way that allows other students to engage the course material
- Participating in active learning activities during lecture and recitation section

### Class Materials

- **Required:** Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 4th edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN 9780393644494. The ebook is available here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol4>.
- **Optional:** Clicker, which can be purchased from CU bookstore.

### Coming to my office hours

I will be in my office with the door open and available to talk on Mondays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. I will also be available at the Laughing Goat in Norlin library on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 11:00am. You do not need to make an appointment or let me know you are coming in advance - just drop by. I'm a fairly nice person and I hope you will not feel intimidated to stop by my office hours or coffee hour. You can come alone or with a friend. You can come to talk about the class, study skills, your career goals, etc.

Understandably, you may find it hard to discuss difficulties, dilemmas, and dissatisfaction with me or your TA. Please resist the temptation to remain anonymous and let problems fester. If you have concerns about your class performance, the way the class is being taught, the functionality of the class on Canvas, or anything else related to this course, email me or your teaching assistant. We will work together to find a solution.

### Grades and Policies

#### *In-Class Exams (top 3 grades), 75%*

There will be four in-class, closed book examinations given in this class. The top three exam grades will count toward your final grade, though you must take all four exams. Exam days are Monday February 4th, Wednesday February 27th, Monday April 8th, and Wednesday May 8th. Exams will not be given at any other time other than those specified in this syllabus. Exams are given during our normal class time and begin at 9:00am, with the exception of Exam 4, which begins at 1:30pm. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam or make it up at another time. **Examinations will not be given to anyone at a day and time other than that which is already specified on the syllabus unless you have discussed with me in advance special arrangements due to disability or final exam conflict.** Students requiring accommodation on the exams must show a letter from Disability Services and must contact me **five days prior to the exam** to make arrangements.

#### *Recitation Attendance and Participation, 15%*

Half of this portion of the grade is based on attendance, and half is based on participation. Your teaching assistant (TA) will keep track of attendance in recitation section. Students are allowed two free absences from recitation. After that, the attendance portion of their grade will be lowered by ten percentage points from 100 for each absence. **Students with eight or more recitation absences will automatically fail the class.**

Religious holidays, sickness, and other reasons **do count** as absences in your recitation attendance score. You are advised to use your free absences for these purposes. Please accept the

consequences of your absences and do not present excuses or doctors' notes to the professor or TA. Your TA will grade participation based on student engagement as well as other assignments given at the TA's discretion.

*Recitation Simulation 5%*

In section, you will simulate a bargaining situation in international politics. Each student will represent a different actor in the simulation. To prepare for the simulation, you will write a short position paper. The simulation will take place during recitation sections on February 18th and 19th.

*International Political Economy Paper 5%*

You will write a short (three to four page) paper on a facet of international political economy. It is due Wednesday, March 20 at 9am. You will turn in a hard copy to your TA at the beginning of lecture that day. You must also upload the paper to Canvas.

*Extra Credit: Clickers in lecture, up to three extra points added to final grade*

Clickers will be used in lecture to earn up to three extra points added to your overall final grade. In other words, your final grade can move from an 80 (B-) to an 83 (B) if you earn all extra clicker points. There will be 6 class days throughout the semester when we use clickers to check your understanding of the material and to help you engage. These days will occur at random and are not announced in advance. To maximize your opportunities to earn extra credit, make sure to always have your clicker with you when you come to class. On clicker days, you will be asked up to five questions throughout the lecture. To earn the half extra credit point for the day's participation, you need to answer all questions asked with the clicker. A half point is the most that can be earned on each clicker day. Please make sure you have your clicker and that it has batteries and is in working order before every class. Due to the size of the class, I cannot field technological problems with clickers, nor can I make alternative arrangements if you forget your clicker.

*Written Work Policy*

Written work must be uploaded to Canvas as well as turned in as a hard copy. Work turned in late will be docked one letter grade for each day late, beginning at the end of class on the day the written work is due.

*Electronic Device Policy*

Electronic devices, including computers, tablets, and mobile phones, are not allowed in lecture. This policy is aimed at providing the best learning environment for all students. Computers, phones, and other devices must be put in airplane mode or turned off and put away during lecture. If you need to make a call, send a text, or use an electronic device during class, leave the lecture hall and return when you are finished. Students will receive a warning when violating this policy. Students who repeatedly violate this policy will be asked to leave lecture. Exceptions to this policy are at the instructor's discretion.

*Grading Scale*

	B+ 89 - 87	C+ 79 - 77	D+ 69 - 67	
A 93 - 100	B 86 - 83	C 76 - 73	D 66 - 63	F 59 - 0
A- 92 - 90	B- 82 - 80	C- 72 - 70	D- 62 - 60	

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Due Date and Time</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Exam One	February 4 at 9am in Math 100	Top Three Exams 75%
Simulation Paper	February 18 or 20 (in section)	5%
Exam Two	February 27 at 9am in Math 100	Top Three Exams 75%
IPE Paper	March 20 at 9am in Math 100	5%
Exam Three	April 8 at 9am in Math 100	Top Three Exams 75%
Exam Four	May 8 at 1:30pm in Math 100	Top Three Exams 75%
Section Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	15%
Clickers	Ongoing	Up to Three Extra Points

### **Honor Code**

By my writing this syllabus, and by your enrolling in this course, we agree to uphold the CU Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at <https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/honor-code>.

### **Attendance and Religious Observances**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students should use their free absences from recitation section to accommodate religious holidays. If you have any religious conflicts with scheduled exams in this class, please see me immediately. <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams1>.

### **Classroom Behavior**

You and I are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters have been provided to me with each 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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior at <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior>.

### **Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website <https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students>. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students

tab on the Disability Services website.

### **Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website <https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/>. Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

### **Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings**

This schedule is subject to change with advance notice.

#### **Foundations and History of International Politics**

*Why should we care about international politics? What makes international politics different from domestic politics? What historical events contributed to the current world order?*

Jan 14: Chapter 1

#### **Interests, Interactions, and Institutions**

*What do actors want from politics? Why can't actors always get what they want? Do rules matter in world politics?*

Jan 16 and Jan 23: Chapter 2

#### **International Conflict**

*If war is so costly, why do countries fight?*

Jan 28 and Jan 30: Chapter 3

#### **Exam 1: Monday, February 4th at 9:00am in Math 100**

#### **Domestic Politics and War**

*What domestic interests affect matters of war and peace?*

Feb 6 and Feb 11: Chapter 4

#### **International Institutions and War**

*Can international law and institutions prevent war?*

Feb 13 and Feb 18: Chapter 5

#### **Civil War and Terrorism**

*Why does war happen within countries? Why do terrorists kill?*

Feb 20 and Feb 25: Chapter 6

#### **Exam 2: Wednesday, February 27th at 9:00am in Math 100**

#### **International Trade**

*What's so good about trade? Why do countries sometimes restrict trade?*

Mar 4 and Mar 6: Chapter 7

### **International Finance**

*How and why do people invest overseas?*

Mar 11 and Mar 13: Chapter 8

### **International Monetary Policy**

*Without world government, how do countries supply money and regulate currency?*

Mar 18 and Mar 20: Chapter 9

\*International political economy paper due at the beginning of lecture on March 20

### **International Development**

*Why are some countries rich and others poor?*

Apr 1 and Apr 3: Chapter 10

**Exam 3: Monday, Apr 8 at 9:00am in Math 100**

### **International Law and Norms**

*Without global police to enforce it, can international law change how countries behave?*

Apr 10 and Apr 15: Chapter 11

### **Human Rights**

*If everyone values human rights, why hasn't the human rights movement been more successful?*

Apr 17 and Apr 22: Chapter 12

### **The Global Environment**

*If everyone values the earth's resources, why is global cooperation over the environment so hard to achieve?*

Apr 24 and Apr 29: Chapter 13

### **The Future of International Politics**

*What are the major challenges facing the world in the future?*

May 1: Chapter 14

**Exam 4: Wednesday, May 8 at 1:30pm in Math 100**