
PSCI 2223 – INTRO TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Summer 2020

<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>
<i>Sarah Hunter</i> (Ph.D.)	Sarah.hunter@colorado.edu Office: 233 Ketchum	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sign-up Sheet available on Canvas

Course Overview:

The main goal of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools for understanding events and their effects on the international system. Towards that end, this course will introduce students to the important actors in international politics, their interests, the institutions they work through, the patterns of their behavior, and the way these components interact to produce the political outcomes we observe. We will begin with an analysis of the major systemic theories of international relations, then place these into context within domestic politics. Next, we will examine the various prevalent issue areas that dominate the international system, including conflict and international political economy. We will end with an examination of the emerging issue areas, such as self-determination and climate change.

Course Goals:

1. Define, explain, and use, the major theories and concepts in international relations.
2. Explain the historical origins and critically evaluate contemporary debates in international politics, including globalization, war, terrorism, and the use of force, development, and international trade.
3. Use major theoretical approaches to international relations to explain and analyze the contemporary debates and issues in the above objective.
4. Synthesize vast amounts of information for the purpose of providing a critical analysis or cogent argument.

Required Reading:

- Required Text: Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2015. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*. Fourth Edition. W.W. Norton & Company Inc. (ISBN-978-0-393-93809-8). It is available at the CU Bookstore and at various online dealers, including an Ebook version. (Find at: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol3>). You do NOT need any registration or access code for any digital products, just the book in whatever format you prefer.
- The Fourth Edition is highly preferred. The Third Edition is available used. If you chose to use the Third Edition, you are responsible for keeping track of the page differences and the material added in the Fourth Edition that is not available in the Third.
- Canvas will be used for announcements, required reading materials, the course calendar, as well as to submit assignments and take assessments. It is essential that students monitor its content regularly.

Assessment Overview:

Reading Quizzes	(20%)
Discussion Essays	(30%)
Midterm Exam	(25%)
Final Exam	(25%)

Grade Scale			
A	95 –100	C	74-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-73
B	88-89	D+	67-69
B	84-87	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	<59

Reading Quiz: 20%

Students will take a quiz on Canvas that covers the required readings every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There are no makeup quizzes. I do not reopen quizzes after their due date. The quizzes are open at the start of the semester, and close at the start of class on the day they are due. I will be dropping your two lowest Reading Quiz grades at the end of the term.

Discussion Essays: 30%

For each week, there is a prompt posted on Canvas for both Tuesday and Thursday. Students should synthesize the pertinent information from the week's required material, lectures, and discussions in a persuasive 4-5 paragraph essay. This essay will be posted on a discussion board on Canvas. All students will also be required to reply to **two** other posts. Replies are expected to be respectful and considerate. Please reply to ideas, not people. Each discussion post and replies are due by midnight on the day it is due. Any late work will be graded at half credit. I will also be dropping your lowest Discussion Essay grade.

Exams: 25% each

Midterm: Midterm exam material will be drawn from the following: assigned readings, discussion posts, any movies shown in class, and any other supplementary materials. The midterm will include multiple choice questions, and essay questions. The multiple choice will evaluate mainly definitional knowledge. The essays will evaluate argumentation, broader theoretical understanding, and the ability to formulate and express an informed opinion.

Final: The final will be a cumulative evaluation following the pattern of the midterm discussed above. If you complete the assignments, participate in discussions, and reflect on class material and the previous assignments, you should be prepared for this cumulative final with relative ease.

Contact:

My office hours are on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. over Zoom. These are hours I set aside every week specifically for you. I will be posting a Google Doc sign-up sheet for 15-minute appointments. I will also be available via email to answer any questions. If you can't meet with me during my office hours, feel free to e-mail me to set up an appointment at a different time.

Course Schedule: (tentative)

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Introduction to International Relations			
Day		Subject Assignment Due	Reading Assignment
Monday	6/1	Introduction Syllabus Quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The syllabus
Part 1: Foundations			
Tuesday	6/2	History Day Discussion 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction ▪ Chapter 1: 2-40
Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions			
Wednesday	6/3	Interests, Interactions & Institutions Reading Quiz 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 2: 42-82
Part 2: War & Peace			
Why Are There Wars?			
Thursday	6/4	Bargaining and Decreasing War Discussion 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 3: 88-134
Domestic Politics and War			
Friday	6/5	Leaders and Institutions Reading Quiz 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 4: 136-82
International Institutions and War			
Monday	6/8	Alliances Reading Quiz 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 5: 184-203
Tuesday	6/9	Collective Security Discussion 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 5: 203-232
Violence by Nonstate Actors			
Wednesday	6/10	Civil War Reading Quiz 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 6: 234-263
Thursday	6/11	Terrorism Discussion 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 6: 263-288
Friday	6/12	Midterm	
Part 3: International Political Economy			
International Trade			
Monday	6/15	Domestic Political Economy Reading Quiz 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 7: 290-313
Tuesday	6/16	International Political Economy Discussion 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 7: 313-334
International Financial Relations			

Wednesday	6/17	Investing Reading Quiz 7	▪ Chapter 8: 340-355
Thursday	6/18	Cross-Cutting Issues Discussion 6	▪ Chapter 8: 355-378
International Monetary Relations			
Friday	6/19	Monetary Orders & Crises Reading Quiz 8	▪ Chapter 9: 380-418
Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations			
Monday	6/22	Development is Hard Reading Quiz 9	▪ Chapter 10: 420-441
Tuesday	6/23	Policies & Politics Discussion 8	▪ Chapter 10: 441-454
Part 4: Transnational Politics			
International Law and Norms			
Wednesday	6/24	Laws & Norms Reading Quiz 10	▪ Chapter 11: 456-488
Human Rights			
Thursday	6/25	Human Rights Discussion 9	▪ Chapter 12: 490-504
The Global Environment			
Friday	6/26	Environmental Conflict and Cooperation Reading Quiz 11	▪ Chapter 13: 532-568
The Future of International Politics			
Monday	6/29	Conflict Reading Quiz 12	▪ Chapter 14: 576-590
Tuesday	6/30	Cooperation Discussion 10	▪ Chapter 14: 590-626
Final Exam Review			
Wednesday	7/1	Exam Review	
FINAL EXAM			
Thursday	7/2	Final Exam	

University of Colorado Policies:

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member 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](#). 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.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility 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 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy 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 the [Honor Code Office 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 intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or 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. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

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.

Religious Holidays

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. In this class, please inform me via email with at least one week's notice. We can then find the best accommodation.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.