

**PSCI 2223: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**MATH 100**  
**MW 9:00 - 9:50**  
**SPRING 2018**

Professor: Megan Shannon  
Office: Ketchum 124  
Email: Megan.L.Shannon@colorado.edu  
Office hours: Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00pm

### **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. 2012. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 3rd edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN 978-0-393-93809-8. The ebook is available here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol3>.
- **Optional:** Clicker, which can be purchased from CU bookstore.

### 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. Exam days are Monday February 5th, Wednesday February 28th, Monday April 9th, and Saturday May 5th. Exams will not be given at any other time other than those specified in this syllabus.

#### *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.

#### *International Political Economy Paper 5%*

You will write a short (three to four page) paper on a facet of international political economy.

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

Clickers will be used in lecture to earn up to five extra points added to your overall final grade. In other words, your final grade can move from an 80 (B-) to an 85 (B) if you earn all extra clicker points. There will be 10 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.

#### *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.

#### *When Problems Arise*

Students may find it hard to discuss difficulties, dilemmas, and dissatisfaction with the professor or 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, please email the professor or teaching assistant. We will work together to find a solution.

#### *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	

#### **Academic Integrity**

Both you and I are responsible for upholding academic integrity. By my writing this syllabus, and by your enrolling in this course, we agree to uphold the CU Academic Honor Pledge, which says:

*As citizens of an academic community of trust, CU-Boulder faculty and students do not lie or cheat whether they are on campus or acting as representatives of the university in surrounding communities. Neither should they suffer by the dishonest acts of others. Honor is about academic integrity, moral and ethical conduct, and pride of membership in a community that values academic achievement and individual responsibility. Cultivating honor lays in the foundation for lifelong integrity, developing in each of us the courage and insight to make difficult choices and accept responsibility for actions and their consequences, even at personal cost.*

All incidents of academic misconduct should be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu) and 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://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

#### **Attendance and Religious Observances**

Campus policy requires that faculty deal reasonably with students who, because of religious obligations, will miss 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. [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility to respect and maintain an environment conducive to learning. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards will be asked to leave the class. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veterans 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 Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website.

### **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 17: 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 22 and Jan 24: Chapter 2

#### **International Conflict**

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

Jan 29 and Jan 31: Chapter 3

#### **Exam 1: Monday, February 5th**

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

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

Feb 7 and Feb 12: Chapter 4

### **International Institutions and War**

*Can international law and institutions prevent war?*

Feb 14 and Feb 19: Chapter 5

### **Civil War and Terrorism**

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

Feb 21 and Feb 26: Chapter 6

## **Exam 2: Wednesday, February 28th**

### **International Trade**

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

Mar 5 and Mar 7: Chapter 7

### **International Finance**

*How and why do people invest overseas?*

Mar 12 and Mar 14: Chapter 8

### **International Monetary Policy**

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

Mar 19 and Mar 21: Chapter 9

### **International Development**

*Why are some countries rich and others poor?*

Apr 2 and Apr 4: Chapter 10

## **Exam 3: Monday, Apr 9**

### **International Law and Norms**

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

Apr 11 and Apr 16: Chapter 11

### **Human Rights**

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

Apr 18 and Apr 23: Chapter 12

### **The Global Environment**

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

Apr 25 and Apr 30: Chapter 13

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

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

May 2: Chapter 14

## **Exam 4: Saturday, May 5, 4:30pm**