

PSCI 2223 Introduction to International Relations / Summer 2017 – A Term

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Location: GUGG 3
Meeting time: M-F 9:15 – 10:50am
Office hours: Thursday 11am – 1pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the fundamental concepts, theories, practices, and problems of international politics. After a short primer on studying political science and the nature of the international system, we will focus in turn on each of the primary subfields of international relations: security, international organizations and law, and political economy. The summer session will conclude with one-day mini-units on relevant topics that do not fit neatly into these categories but are emerging areas in international political scholarship nonetheless. Classes will be structured to incorporate both lecture and discussion. Through regular participation in class, two exams, and short written assignments, students will gain familiarity with the major issue areas and schools of thought associated with studying international relations.

READING MATERIALS

1. Mingst, Karen A. and I.M. Arreguín-Toft. 2014. *Essentials of International Relations*. 6th ed*. Norton.
2. Supplementary materials, available through D2L: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

*Other editions are acceptable, but pages will not correspond to syllabus.

GRADING POLICY

Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%
Reaction papers: 3 @ 10% each
Exams: 2 @ 25% each

PAPER ASSIGNMENTS

You will turn in three short written assignments over the course of the next few weeks. These will always be due at the beginning of the first class of the week: Tuesday, 6.20, Monday, 6.26, and Monday, 7.03. These papers will be a short reflection on the previous week's topic, discussing a current event in international politics through the lens of some of the theories you have learned. The papers should be one page of single-spaced Times New Roman (or comparable) 12pt. font.

The assignment should include the following:

- Your name
- The date and/or number of the response paper
- A few sentences of context on the event you have chosen
- A paragraph or two of analysis of this event, using proper terminology and theories from the previous week of class
- At least one source (e.g. newspaper article from major newspaper), properly cited

For example, on Monday, 6.19 your paper will reflect on the previous week's discussion of security politics. You may choose a current event like the escalating militarization of North Korea. Your paper could provide a short background on the issue, and then analyze the government's activity using assumptions, principles, and theories from realist, liberal, constructivist, or Marxist scholarship.

SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Monday	6.05	Introduction; history; nations and states	
Tuesday	6.06	Grand theories: Realism	Mingst & Arreguin-Toft 79-86
Wednesday	6.07	Grand theories: Liberalism	M & A-T 86-92
Thursday	6.08	Grand theories: Constructivism	M & A-T 95-100
Friday	6.09	Grand theories: Marxism	Pease I; M & A-T 92-95
Monday	6.12	Security: introduction	M & A-T: Ch. 8
Tuesday	6.13	Security: Realist approaches	Thucydides
Wednesday	6.14	Security: Liberal approaches	Ziegler
Thursday	6.15	Security: Constructivist approaches	
Friday	6.16	Security: Marxist approaches	
Monday	6.19	no class	
Tuesday	6.20	IOs: Realist approaches	M & A-T: Ch. 7
Wednesday	6.21	IOs: Liberal approaches	Pease II
Thursday	6.22	IOs: Constructivist & Marxist approaches	Klein
Friday	6.23		MIDTERM EXAM
Monday	6.26	IPE: introduction	M & A-T: Ch. 9
Tuesday	6.27	IPE: Realist approaches	Coughlin
Wednesday	6.28	IPE: Liberal approaches	
Thursday	6.29	IPE: Constructivist approaches	
Friday	6.30	IPE: Marxist approaches	Cohn
Monday	7.03	Migration	<i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Smith
Tuesday	7.04	Environmental politics	<i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Deese
Wednesday	7.05	TBD	
Thursday	7.06	Review session	
Friday	7.07		FINAL EXAM

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Students may miss three classes for any reason with no penalty. You do not need to inform me in advance or provide an excuse afterwards, but use these “free” absences wisely. For each subsequent absence, I will deduct 25% of your attendance grade; this means that at seven absences total—nearly one-third of the class—you will receive a zero for attendance.

Disability Statement: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (within 2 weeks) 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. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, and Illnesses guidelines under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Observance: 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. If you have a potential class conflict because of religious observance, you must inform me of that conflict within two weeks. See full details at 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 members 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, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, 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: www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code .

In this class, appropriate classroom behavior includes arriving on time and remaining for the entire class. Do not sleep, read the newspaper, send email or text messages, play games, have private conversations, etc. during lectures or recitations.

Sexual Harassment: The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against 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>.

Honor Code: 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 and those students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member involved and non-academic sanctions given by the Honor Code Council (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 <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

In this class, your sanction for the first violation of the honor code will be a 0 grade on the exam or written assignment for which the honor code violation occurred. For a second violation of the honor code, you will fail the class.