

# PSCI 2223 Introduction to International Relations / Fall 2021

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Meeting time: M W 9:10 - 10 am\*  
Lecture location: remote/Zoom  
Office hours: Wednesdays 2-3:30 pm\*

\*See Canvas for the Zoom links and other pertinent information:  
<https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/73738>

Note: In addition to the MW 9:10 am lectures, you will be attending weekly recitation sessions with your Teaching Assistant. See your TA's syllabus for their contact info, office hours, section-specific assignments and due dates, etc.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the fundamental concepts, theories, practices, and problems of international politics, such as anarchy, power, security, the nature of international economics, and origins and roles of international organization and law.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Reading Materials

1. Mingst, Karen A. Heather McKibben, and I.M. Arreguín-Toft. 2019. *Essentials of International Relations*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Norton.
2. Supplementary materials, available through Canvas

### Student Initiative

In addition to **reading assigned materials thoughtfully and thoroughly** and **participating in classes regularly**, students should be alerted to the obvious fact that it will not be easy to summarize the complexity of our topics in terms of a few concepts and theories. Students should acquire the habit of regularly reading world news stories to learn about and keep up with international developments.

### Examinations

There will be two exams based on lectures, recitation sections, assigned readings, and class discussions. A description of the exam format will be given prior to the exam dates.

### Research Reports

Guidelines, assignments, deadlines, and criteria of evaluation are outlined at the end of the syllabus.

### Participation

Participation in the recitation sessions is expected. The students are expected to offer their own insights based on class materials. To encourage participation, the instructor and TA may use random questioning or unannounced quizzes.

### Attendance

Regular attendance in both lectures and recitations is expected. Please note that excessive excused or unexcused absences will also hurt your participation grade, because one cannot participate in class discussions if one is not present in class.

## COURSE RULES

### Grading Policy

Midterm Exam	25%	Research Reports	25%
Final Exam	25%	Recitation	25%

### Class Policies

1. Students are expected to turn in the assignments at the beginning of class or stated deadlines and take the exams on the date and time specified. Failure to show up for the exam on time or meet an assignment deadline does not entitle the students to make up the work at a later time.
2. Exceptions to the class requirements and rules are granted at the instructor's discretion, only under circumstances of extreme personal emergency or serious illness. In all instances, appropriate evidentiary documentation will be requested.
3. All academic work must meet the University's standards for academic honesty. Each student is responsible to inform themselves of these standards before conducting any academic work. My academic dishonesty policy is very simple: you will receive a failing grade for the class if you are found cheating on examinations, plagiarizing the work of others, attempting to turn in assignments used in previous classes, or sign the attendance sheet for another student, along with all other possible infractions noted in the University's policy on academic dishonesty. Moreover, disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated. I **will not** tolerate academic dishonesty and you **will** face the harshest punishment possible if you attempt it.
4. Students may request their TA to re-read exam answers or papers that they feel have been unfairly evaluated. Requests for re-evaluation must be submitted within a week after it has been returned to the class or the final grade posted, whichever is earlier. The written re-evaluation request statement must explain specifically why the student thinks that the grade should be reconsidered and what grade the assignment deserves. Re-evaluation will be conducted *de novo.*, which may result in a lower, higher, or the same grade.
5. Accommodations based on disability and/or religious beliefs will be made whenever possible. But, it is the student's responsibility to let their TA know about **needing such accommodations within the first two weeks of class**. Accommodation requests after this time period may not be granted.
6. The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced.
7. All the lecture materials are considered to be the intellectual property of the instructor and are only to be used by the students enrolled in the class for their own education. Any distribution of the said materials and/or use for commercial purposes **is expressly prohibited**.
8. Additional short readings (e.g. articles, news stories) may be assigned as the semester progresses.
9. See the course Canvas page for additional university-mandated statements on topics such as discrimination, harassment, COVID, etc.
- 10. All students are expected to complete assigned readings before they are discussed in class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning.**

## COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS AND READINGS

### I. Introduction

- Mingst: Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5
- Canvas: Ra'anan "The Nation-State Fallacy"
- Canvas: Barber "Jihad vs. McWorld"

### II. Key Theories of IR

#### A. (Neo)Realism

- Mingst: pp. 67-80, 110-114
- Canvas: Hobbes "The State of Nature ..."
- Canvas: Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue"
- Canvas: Waltz "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory"

#### B. (Neo)Liberalism

- Mingst: pp. 81-86, 116-118
- Canvas: Pease "Philosophical Roots of Liberalism"
- Canvas: Moravcsik "Taking Preferences Seriously"

#### C. Marxism

- Mingst: pp. 92-96
- Canvas: Pease "Marxism"

### III. Key Topics in the Study of International Politics

#### A. Security

- Mingst: Chapter 6
- Canvas: Morgan "Deterrence: A Conceptual Analysis"
- Canvas: Ziegler "Disarmament"
- Canvas: Ziegler "Collective Security"
- Canvas: Russett "The Fact of the Democratic Peace"

#### B. International Economic Relations

- Mingst: Chapter 8
- Canvas: Frieden and Lake "International Political Economy"
- Canvas: Coughlin et al. "Protectionist Trade Policies ..."
- Canvas: Lenin "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism"
- Canvas: Cohn "Dependency Theory"
- Canvas: Russett & Oneal "Triangulating Peace" esp. pp. 127-133, 154-155

#### C. International Institutions and Law

- Mingst: Chapters 9 and 7
- Canvas: Pease "Liberalism and the Nature of International Organizations"
- Canvas: Akenhurst "Is International Law Really Law?"
- Canvas: Russett, Oneal & Davis "The Third Leg of the Kantian Tripod" esp. pp. 441-449, 462

Midterm Exam: Monday, October 18, 9:10 am

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 15, 7:30 pm

## RESEARCH REPORTS

This assignment asks you to report on a scholarly journal article on the topic of *international* relations.

**Requirements that MUST be met** (i.e. not meeting any one of these will result in a grade of **zero** on the assignment). You are strongly encouraged to check whether a particular article you have found qualifies by contacting your TA at least 10 days before the due date.

1. The article must be from one of these top peer-reviewed political science journals: *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Review of International Organizations*, or *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. Journals such as the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, and *American Political Science Review* also qualify, though these journals tend to have fewer international relations articles. To access the journal articles via the CU library (<https://www.colorado.edu/libraries>), you will need to be either on campus or use the VPN connection: <https://oit.colorado.edu/services/network-internet-services/vpn>
2. The article's topic must be *international* relations (i.e. politics between or among countries and NOT domestic politics that simply takes place in one or more foreign countries). Examples of topics include international (not civil) war, economic sanctions, international organizations, international trade, alliances, international environmental cooperation or conflict, etc.
3. Only actual articles will count; research notes, data features, book reviews, etc. or articles focusing on non-international relations topics or that are from non-approved journals do not count.

**Assignment format and content:** the report is to be 2 single-spaced pages in length, with 11 pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins, and be broken down into the below-identified sections.

1. Citation: provide the full citation for the article in MLA format.
2. Research question: in your own words, explain what the author is investigating (e.g. why do some countries join alliances while others do not). 1 paragraph
3. Theory: in your own words, explain what the author's argument is (e.g. democracies are more likely to join alliances than autocracies). 2 paragraphs
4. Evidence: in your own words, explain what kind of evidence the author uses to evaluate/support their argument (e.g. statistical analysis of all the world's countries, 1816-2020). 2 paragraphs
5. Evaluation: in your own words, explain whether there some parts of the argument that are not supported by the evidence? What are some of the other strengths and weaknesses? What do the authors do well? What can be improved? What other critiques can you offer? 2-3 paragraphs

You are asked to do **three** of these **reports** over the course of the semester, though the lowest of the three scores will be dropped when calculating the course grade. The reports are due via **Canvas** by **5 pm** on **September 24, October 22, and November 19**. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in a **10% a day penalty**. Please note that the due dates are known well in advance, so you need to plan accordingly.

Grading criteria for the assignments:

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. objectivity         | 4. organization           |
| 2. quality of research | 5. writing style, clarity |
| 3. quality of analysis | 6. mechanics and grammar  |

Students who have difficulty with rhetoric are encouraged to use the University's resources to help them write better and purchase a writer's manual such as Strunk and White's *Elements of Style*.