

INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations

University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor Information:

Dr. Andrew Owsiak
Email: aowskiak@uga.edu
Office: 325 Candler Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11:00am (325 Candler) &
6:30-7:30pm (214 Candler, drop-in)
(or by appointment)

Course Meeting Information:

Spring 2015
Tues/Thurs, 8:00-9:15am
153 Miller Learning Center

Course Description:

The effects of globalization are pervasive. In today's world, events in one part of the globe can have profound effects on the lives of everyday citizens in other parts of the globe. These events can be natural (e.g., earthquakes or tsunamis) or man-made disasters (e.g., war or terrorist attacks), or they can be the result of normal transactions (e.g., oil price fluctuations). The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools for understanding these events and their effects. Towards that end, this course will introduce students to the central theoretical perspectives and themes within the field of international relations.

We will begin by identifying the various actors in the international arena. Countries (i.e., states) are not the only entities involved in international relations. Various institutions and groups also operate regularly at the international level. Once we know the actors, we will explore the various theoretical perspectives used to explain and predict international events. We will then examine some topics that occupy a fundamental place among policy-makers and international relations scholars. More specifically, we will study international conflict (i.e., war, terrorism, and nuclear weapons), international political economy (i.e., globalization, trade and finance), international organizations, international law, human rights, and environmental protection. Finally, the course will end with a series of simulations designed to give students first-hand experience with the dilemmas and pressures confronted by policy-makers across a number of issue areas.

This is not a course on "current events" or history, but we will use contemporary (and past) events to illustrate processes and patterns. Students are encouraged to follow international news and use this news to bring questions and examples to class discussions.

Course Objectives:

At this conclusion of this course, students will be (better) able to:

- Explain, defend, and critique the major theoretical perspectives in the field of international relations, along with their key characteristics;
- Use the theoretical perspectives covered to describe the benefits and challenges associated with various interstate interactions (e.g., conflict, economics, law, values);
- Define, explain, and apply key concepts used frequently in international relations courses, including (*inter alia*): anarchy, interdependence, alliances, democratic peace, terrorism, international law, and human rights;
- Express an informed opinion (in speech and writing) on a number of contemporary international relations debates (e.g., the value – or not – of free trade, whether human rights are universal, etc.), using both theoretical arguments and evidence in the process;
- Have a greater appreciation for the complexity of international events, as well as a better understanding of how scholars and practitioners see, interpret, and research these events.

Course Reading Material:

In order for the course to function smoothly, you should complete all assigned readings *before* the class meeting for which they are assigned. Completing these readings (and attending class consistently) will best help students be successful in the course. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, even if the material is not explicitly discussed in the classroom. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to replace part of the participation grade with unannounced quizzes if students are not completing the readings and contributing to class discussions.

The required textbooks for the course are:

- Mingst, Karen A., and Jack L. Snyder. (2014) *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 5th edn. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Nau, Henry R. (2015) *Perspectives on International Relations*, 4th edn. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Tessman, Brock F. (2006) *International Relations in Action*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Reinner.

Recommended (i.e., optional) text: Nye, Joseph S., and David A. Welch. (2013) *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, 9th edn. Boston: Longman.

All assigned readings (beyond the required textbooks) will be made available electronically from the instructor. They can be accessed through the course eLearning Commons website (log-in at: <https://uga.view.usg.edu> with UGA MyID). Students can also find supplementary textbook material, including study questions, online at: <http://college.cqpress.com/sites/nau/Home.aspx>.

Course Requirements:

The following are the requirements for this course:

1. Participation (10%): Students will be evaluated on a) attendance, b) contributions to class discussions (quality and quantity), and c) participation during in-class exercises. Each of these is *required*. Please note that: a) attending class but not joining into our discussions and activities may still adversely affect your participation grade, and b) any reading quizzes (see above) would also be included under this component.
2. Geography Quiz (10%): This short, multiple-choice quiz will be administered on January 15 at the beginning of class.
3. Mid-term Exam (25%): This will consist of multiple-choice, identification, and/or short essay questions. The mid-term will be given in class on February 17.
4. Simulation (15%): We will hold simulation exercises at the end of the course. Students will be expected to: a) prepare for their role, and b) contribute actively to the (team) exercise. Evaluations will be based on instructor observation, supplemented by solicited feedback from simulation teammates (to address contributions outside the classroom).
5. Simulation Reflections (10%): After each simulation day, students will reflect upon their experience based upon questions distributed by the instructor. On one occasion, students will submit a 2 page paper (typed, hard-copy, double-spaced with 12" inch font and 1" margins), that a) answers the reflection question, and b) integrates their experience with the course readings. The instructor will distribute these assignments and announce the due date at the appropriate time. Papers will be due at the *beginning* of class on the due date given.
6. Final Exam (cumulative, 30%): This exam will include multiple choice, identification, and/or short essays. The exam will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 8:00-11:00am, in accordance with the University's final exam schedule. Make-ups will only be scheduled in accordance with the University's policy or extreme (documented) emergency. I encourage you to not leave town for the semester before taking this exam.

Course Guidelines:

The following guidelines govern the requirements for this course:

1. Students are expected to attend *all* class meetings (*on time*) and participate actively within in-class activities and discussions. Much of the in-class discussion will supplement course readings, rather than simply repeat it. Whether or not you attend, you are still responsible for the material covered in class.
2. Papers are due on the dates given at the *beginning* of the regular class period. Late papers will be docked one full letter grade (10 percentage points) for the first day it is late, as well as an additional half-letter grade (5 percentage points) for each additional day it is late. After 10 days, assignments can be turned in for half-credit until the final day of class (April 28, 2015). Note that I will not accept excuses (for example, broken printers) to justify missing the deadlines. It is also not appropriate to come to class significantly late on the dates on which papers are due; papers turned in after the beginning of class may not earn full credit.
3. Students who are unable to attend a class meeting are responsible for obtaining the notes for that meeting from another student. The instructor will not provide lecture slides or notes for class meetings.
4. Failure to take an exam will result in a failing grade for the exam. Make-up exams *may* be offered, but *only* with the prior approval of the instructor (generally for documented, emergency situations). Students are therefore advised to attend all exams. All make-up exams (if granted) will be administered on Tuesday, April 29 from 8-9:15am (normal class time).
5. Students are advised to keep class notes, graded papers, and copies of submitted work until final grades are distributed. Every effort will be made to ensure that assignments and exams are graded fairly and objectively. During the course of the semester, please contact the instructor if you have questions regarding a grade that you received. Students with such questions should contact the instructor no sooner than 48 hours – but no later than two weeks – after receiving the grade in question. The former permits you time to think about any comments you received and formulate the justification for your inquiry. The latter ensures that we address concerns together in an expeditious manner.
6. In order to foster a respectful learning environment, students are expected
 - a. to use language that does not insult others or their point of view;
 - b. to keep cell phones silenced/turned off *and* put away during class; and
 - c. not to use laptops during the class, unless the instructor informs you that they are needed for a classroom exercise. (If, however, you require special accommodations, please provide documentation from the Disability Resource Center.)Any student that does not follow these parameters may be asked to leave the class meeting so as not to affect other students' learning. Those that violate the provision more than once may be administratively dropped from the course. (Note that the instructor may also request that laptops be closed during certain (portions of) class meetings.)
7. It is the policy and practice of the University of Georgia to create an inclusive learning environment. Students requiring accommodations (concerning the course meetings, material, exams, or assignments) should discuss such matters with the instructor at the outset of the course. Students are also encouraged to register with the Disability Resource Center (706-542-8719, <http://www.drc.uga.edu>).

8. Any exceptions or modifications to the above rules (or syllabus) are given at the instructor's discretion, only with prior approval and only under instances of extreme emergency or serious illness. Appropriate documentation must be supplied by the student in any event of exception. (NOTE: In the case of serious illness, "appropriate documentation" means a doctor's note indicating an illness, not just a medical visit verification form.)

Grade Distribution

A	93.00-100.00	C	73.00-76.99
A-	90.00-92.99	C-	70.00-72.99
B+	87.00-89.99	D+	67.00-69.99
B	83.00-86.99	D	63.00-66.99
B-	80.00-82.99	D-	60.00-62.99
C+	77.00-79.99	F	Below 60.00

NOTE: Any student that withdraws from the course and is failing the course at the time of withdrawal will be assigned a withdrawal-failing (WF) grade.

Academic Dishonesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to follow the University's academic honesty policy ("A Culture of Honesty") and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty" (including policies that cover plagiarism; for more information, see <http://www.uga.edu/honesty>). Students are responsible for informing themselves about these standards before performing any academic work and may direct specific questions they have regarding the policy (or its application to course assignments) to the instructor.

Schedule/Topics:

The following pages contain a *general* plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary (in order to best meet the needs of the students and course). Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*). Students should read/know this material by the dates given.

- I. Introduction (January 6)
 - a. Concepts and Theoretical Thinking: Why We Disagree
 - i. Nau, Introduction*
 - ii. Rosenau, Thinking Theory Thoroughly*
 - iii. Nye and Welch, Chapter 1 & pp. 52-61

- II. Actors in International Relations (January 8)
 - a. States
 - i. Nau, Chapter 1*
 - ii. Review: <http://www.principality-hutt-river.org/gov/>. Is Hutt River a state?*
 - iii. Nye and Welch, pp. 33-46

 - b. Institutions (UN, EU, NATO, AU) (January 13)
 - i. Nau, p. 250-265* & p. 276-287*
 - ii. Mearsheimer, False Promise of International Institutions* (M&S, p. 355)
 - iii. Hurd, Myths of Membership
 - iv. Economist, Secretarial Work

- c. Non-State Actors (NGOs, MNCs, Public Opinion; January 15)
 - i. Haas et al., Do NGOs Wield Too Much Power?*
 - ii. Keck and Sikkink, Transnational Advocacy Networks* (M&S p. 182)
 - iii. Nye and Welch, Chapter 8

- III. Theoretical Perspectives
 - a. Realism (January 20)
 - i. Morgenthau, A Realist Theory of International Politics* (M&S, p. 32)
 - ii. Mearsheimer, Anarchy and the Struggle for Power* (M&S, p. 37)
 - iii. Morgenthau, The Balance of Power* (M&S, p. 99)
 - iv. Nye and Welch, pp. 62-64 & 81-90

 - b. Liberalism (January 22)
 - i. Russett and Oneal, Vicious Circles and Virtuous Circles*
 - ii. Keohane, After Hegemony* (M&S, p. 338)
 - iii. Doyle, Liberalism and World Politics (M&S, p. 57)
 - iv. Wilson's Fourteen Points (M&S, p. 14)
 - v. Nye and Welch, pp. 64-69

 - c. Identity (Constructivism; January 27)
 - i. Wendt, Anarchy Is What States Make of It* (M&S, p. 73)
 - ii. Finnemore, Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention* (M&S, p. 496)
 - iii. Nye and Welch, pp. 69-71

 - d. Other Perspectives (Strategic, Critical; January 29)
 - i. Bueno de Mesquita, The Strategic Perspective*
 - ii. Tickner, Why Women Can't Rule the World (according to Fukuyama)*
 - iii. Fukuyama, Future of History* (M&S, p. 23)
 - iv. Putnam, Two-Level Games (M&S, p. 174)

- IV. Perspectives in Action (February 3)
 - a. Prisoner's Dilemma
 - i. Axelrod, Trench Warfare*
 - ii. Thucydides, Melian Dialogue* (M&S, p. 11)
 - iii. Kennan, Sources of Soviet Conduct* (M&S, p. 17)

 - b. Comparing Perspectives I (More Recent History) (February 5)
 - i. Nau, Chapter 5*
 - ii. Snyder, Rival Theories* (M&S, p. 2)
 - iii. Nye and Welch, Chapters 4 & 5

- V. International Conflict
 - a. Explanations for War (February 10)
 - i. Fearon, Rationalist Explanations for War* (M&S p. 425)
 - ii. Huntington, Clash of Civilizations* (M&S, p. 256)
 - iii. Nye and Welch, pp. 206-251

 - b. Terrorism (February 12)
 - i. Kydd & Walter, Strategies of Terrorism* (M&S p. 471)
 - ii. Nau, Chapter 7* (start)
 - iii. NY Times Magazine, The Desert War

***** MIDTERM EXAM: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 (8:00-9:15am) *****

- c. Ethnic Conflict (February 19)
 - i. Nau, Chapter 7* (finish)
 - ii. Power, Bystanders to Genocide* (M&S, p. 317)
 - iii. Nye and Welch, pp. 205-235

- d. Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction (February 24)
 - i. Nye and Welch, pp. 172-184*
 - ii. Posen, A Nuclear-Armed Iran* (M&S, p. 451)
 - iii. Waltz, Why Iran Should Get the Bomb* (M&S, p. 467)
 - iv. Economist, Power of Nightmares*
 - v. UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
 - vi. Allison, Nuclear Disorder

- e. International Peace (February 26)
 - i. Nau, pp. 234-250*
 - ii. Russett, Why Democratic Peace*
 - iii. Gartzke, Capitalist or Democratic Peace?* (M&S, p. 532)

- f. Managing Conflicts (March 3)
 - i. Fortna, Does Peacekeeping Work (M&S p. 308)*
 - ii. Nye and Welch, pp. 200-206, 208-218*
 - iii. Jervis, Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma* (M&S, p.410)

- VI. International Political Economy
 - a. Trade and Trade Organizations (the WTO, NAFTA) (March 5)
 - i. Nau, pp. 329-358* & p. 269-276*
 - ii. Milner, Globalization, Dev., and International Institutions* (M&S, p. 537)
 - iii. Gilpin, The Nature of Political Economy (M&S, p. 523)
 - iv. Nye and Welch, pp. 269-275

 - b. Globalization and Trade: Good or Bad? (March 17)
 - i. *Either* Economist, Free Trade on Trial *or* Man Who Took My Job*
 - ii. *Either* Gruber, Globalization with Growth and Equality * (M&S, p. 581) *or* Margalit, Lost in Globalization* (M&S, p. 603)
 - iii. Nye and Welch, (Oil) pp. 275-282

 - c. Investment and Finance (March 19)
 - i. Nau, pp. 358-383*
 - ii. Drezner, The Irony of Global Governance* (M&S, p. 560)
 - iii. Dombrowski, ABCs
 - iv. Economist, Learning to Crawl

 - d. Development (March 24)
 - i. Nau, pp. 385-390*
 - ii. Nau, *either* 390-402 *or* 402-413*
 - iii. Ross, from *The Oil Curse** (M&S, p. 631)
 - iv. Wallerstein, The Modern World System as a Capitalist World Economy

- e. Foreign Aid (March 26)
 - i. Nau, *either* 413-426 *or* 426-432*
 - ii. Krasner, Sharing Sovereignty* (M&S, p. 224)
 - iii. Woods, Foreign Aid

- VII. International Issues (March 31)
 - a. International Law
 - i. Goldstein and Pevehouse, International Law (pp. 254-274)*
 - ii. Hurd, Is Humanitarian Intervention Legal* (M&S, p. 367)
 - iii. Hafner-Burton and Tsutsui, Justice Lost! (M&S, p. 686)
 - iv. Straus, Darfur and Genocide

 - b. Human Rights (April 2)
 - i. Donnelly, Human Rights and Cultural Relativism* (M&S, p. 672)
 - ii. Sen, Human Rights and Capabilities* (M&S, p. 660)
 - iii. UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights (skim)

 - c. Environmental and Health Concerns (April 7)
 - i. Nau, 432-448*
 - ii. Hardin, Tragedy of the Commons* (M&S, p. 707)
 - iii. Bollyky, Developing Symptoms* (M&S, p. 754)
 - iv. Pirages & DeGeest, An Assault on the Global Commons
 - v. Keohane & Victor, Regime Complex for Climate Change (M&S, p. 731)

- VIII. International Relations in Action
 - a. Simulation Set-Up (April 9)
 - i. Tessman, pp. 1-35*

 - b. Simulation Days: November April 14, 16, & 21
 - i. Required reading of simulation scenarios as assigned*

- IX. Conclusion/Review/Exam Preparations (April 23)
 - a. Finnemore, Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity* (M&S, p. 153)

*****(CUMULATIVE) FINAL EXAM: Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 8:00-11:00am *****