Overview

This course offers an introduction to fundamental concepts, enduring questions, and emerging issues in international relations (IR). The purpose of this course is, first and foremost, to teach students how to think critically about IR. Students will be provided with a rigorous foundation on the language and approaches used to understand IR. Students will then be familiarized with enduring issues and real-world examples in the international system but their knowledge will be challenged on a daily basis with emerging problems in the modern international system. Ultimately, students will be tested in their ability to perform the following throughout the term:

- Distinguish among general theoretical perspectives
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different arguments
- Identify the theoretical arguments behind real-world policy prescriptions
- Apply evidence to adjudicate the validity of various hypotheses about international politics.

This syllabus and other course materials are available on the course e-learning website: https://elearning2.courses.ufl.edu/

Classroom Meetings

Class will begin promptly at 8:00 am. Become a morning person now. Arrive a couple minutes early. Enjoy enduring success later in life.

Every student is accountable during classroom meetings to exercise their understanding and build a stronger foundation of their knowledge. Meetings will be comprised of part lecture and part discussion, challenging students to demonstrate familiarity with the readings rather than merely summarizing the material from the readings.

Office hours

Office hours are an opportunity for students to get further explanation on the course material and discuss any issues students might be facing. The instructor will be available during all regularly scheduled office hours (unless prior notice is given) and by individual appointment, to be scheduled ahead of time via email, to accommodate for students who cannot make the regularly scheduled office hours.
Readings

Students must do the assigned readings before the daily classroom meeting time. There is not much reading for the course, but it is important that it be done thoughtfully and ahead of time. This book will serve as the main textbook and all students are required to have a copy (third edition) of it the first day of class:


Supplemental readings/materials will be excerpts from journal articles, the Internet, or videos and other materials that provide historical background, explore contemporary issues, or highlight additional discussion of key topics. These will be provided by the instructor ahead of time via elearning email or direct links on the course schedule continued in this syllabus. You are responsible for checking elearning email daily.

Students are also required to read international news coverage in The New York Times, Washington Post, or overseas newspaper outlets of similar caliber each day during the semester. Most major newspaper outlets are available online, though only a limited amount of content might be available free. Students are responsible for knowing the major players and geopolitics of ongoing international events. For a good resource, please see: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/

Attendance and Participation

Daily attendance is required. This is not only your opportunity to ask questions and get further explanation of the material, but to test the limits of your understanding of the material and build your own knowledge base about real-world international politics. Your grade is based on the quality of your participation, not merely your attendance.

Quality participation is defined as any form of classroom contribution, be it in the form of a statement, rebuttal, or question that either produces a resolution to the substantive topic of discussion at hand or opens up the space for the incorporation of another related and significant topic. If you have problems speaking in public, please come see me during my office hours the first week of class and we will figure out ways to get you to contribute to the classroom discussion while you break out of your shell. Public speaking is a skill to be developed over time and I am happy to help.

No attendance credit will be given for undocumented emergencies or illness. Notes from family members are not acceptable forms of documentation. Inflexible travel plans made in advance must be documented with a date of purchase before the date of enrolment in the class. Assignment of credit for missed class periods because of inflexible travel plans relies solely on the instructor’s discretion and will be handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the amount of days missed.

Quizzes

Six quizzes will be assigned in class at the instructor’s discretion. These will be comprised of either multiple-choice question or short-answer analysis of a contemporary topic/event in international politics. Quizzes will test students’ understanding of the material at hand and
include contemporary cases from international news coverage from that same day. It is imperative to understand what is going on in the world daily and how that relates to the material covered in class that day or week. Excused absences during a quiz day will cause the quiz grade to be removed from the calculation of the final grade.

Examinations

There will be three exams during the term:

- July 11 (Part I and Part II of Course Schedule)
- July 25 (Part III and Part IV of Course Schedule)
- August 8 (Part V and Part VI of Course Schedule)

Exams will contain multiple-choice and short-answer questions. These questions will ask students about key IR topics and expect them use what they have learned up to that point in the course to succinctly analyze a contemporary argument in international politics in writing. Anything covered in the readings, supplemental readings, or classroom discussions is fair game. Exam study guides will not be made available.

No make-up exams will be given for undocumented emergencies, illness, or family obligations. Notes from family members are not acceptable forms of documentation. Inflexible travel plans made in advance must be documented with a date of purchase before the date of enrolment in the class.

Course Grade Weights

Participation 25% (daily attendance and participation)
Quizzes 30% (6 quizzes at 5% each)
Exams 45% (3 exams at 15% each)

Grading Scale

A = 93.0+
A- = 90.00-92.99
B+ = 87.00-89.99
B = 83.00-86.99
B- = 80.00-82.99
C+ = 77.00-79.99
C = 73.00-76.99
C- = 70.00-72.99
D+ = 67.00-69.99
D = 63.00-66.99
D- = 60.00-62.99
E = 59.99 and below
I*/I = Incomplete
W = Withdrawal
WF = Withdrew failing

For information on UF’s grade policy, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades
## Course Schedule

### Part I: Conceptual Overview and History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Course introduction and overview</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td><strong>Theory, Evidence and Practice</strong></td>
<td>“The War of the World,” Part 1, <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5AbQF1jj_A&amp;feature=list_other&amp;playnext=1&amp;list=SP6EA1BA1FBCABF250">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5AbQF1jj_A&amp;feature=list_other&amp;playnext=1&amp;list=SP6EA1BA1FBCABF250</a></td>
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<td>July 2</td>
<td><strong>History to 1914</strong></td>
<td>The War of the World, Part 2, at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmtH3FzJWIE&amp;feature=relmfu">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmtH3FzJWIE&amp;feature=relmfu</a></td>
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<td>July 3</td>
<td><strong>History since 1914</strong></td>
<td>“The War of the World,” Part 3, at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGGzPR9L-0g&amp;feature=relmfu">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGGzPR9L-0g&amp;feature=relmfu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>NO CLASS <strong>INDEPENDENCE DAY</strong></td>
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### Part II. Theories of International Relations

What are the different ways one can approach international relations? To what extent does the approach one begins with determine the answers one gets?

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<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>Dependency</strong></td>
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### Part III: Actors and Processes in Foreign Policy

At this point we change perspectives, looking from the bottom up into the development of foreign policies within states. There are three primary questions: Who makes foreign policy? How do they do it? What relevance do these answers have for the broader paradigms discussed previously?

| July 14 | Interest Groups and Public Opinion | International Politics, pp. 140-157  
Societal influences on foreign policy  
Interview with Thomas Keaney, at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtsOrs0mpWQ&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtsOrs0mpWQ&feature=relmfu) |
| July 15 | Decision Making | International Politics, Chap. 6  
How does the policy process affect the choices states make?  
| July 16 | International Organizations and Transnational Actors | International Politics, Chap. 7  
Why do states form international organizations? What role do NGOs and global corporations have in international politics? Is the state being eclipsed  
| July 17 | Putting it all together | Supplemental readings TBD  
Contemporary cases of actors blurring the lines in foreign policy |

### Part IV: International Conflict and Security

How do states fulfill their primary goal--assuring their survival? What options are available and when will some work better than others? Is war a useful foreign policy tool in the contemporary era? What are the sources of terrorism, and how can it be countered?

| July 18 | The Causes of War | International Politics, pp. 227-249  
What are the sources of international conflict?  
“How Fog of War,” at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76wv2ybJelQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76wv2ybJelQ) |
| July 21 | Mitigating the Security Dilemma | International Politics, pp. 249-259  
How do states seek to limit the effects of the security dilemma?  
In-class exercise |
| July 22 | The Use of Force | International Politics, pp. 261-272  
How can force be used to achieve state goals?  
“What Vietnam War,” at [https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/history/eurohist/cold-war/v/vietnam-war](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/history/eurohist/cold-war/v/vietnam-war) |
| July 23 | WMD; Terrorism and Insurgency | International Politics, pp. 272-294  
“A Conversation on Counterinsurgency,” |
<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>Review of foreign policy, international conflict and security</td>
<td>In class only</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>EXAM II (IN CLASS)</td>
<td>Part III and Part IV of Course Schedule</td>
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<td><strong>Part V: International Political Economy</strong></td>
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<td>How does the international economy function? What are the causes and effects of globalization? How can global crises be averted? Is free trade the solution for global poverty, or part of the problem?</td>
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<td>July 29</td>
<td>Globalization of Trade and Finance</td>
<td>Khan Academy, “Using Reserves to Stabilize Currency,”</td>
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<td>What are the forces driving globalization?</td>
<td><a href="http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/using-">http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/using-</a></td>
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<td>What problems arise from it?</td>
<td>reserves-to-stabilize-currency/Speculative Attack and Using Reserves”</td>
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<td>Economic Crises and the Future of the World Economy</td>
<td>International Politics, pp. 327-350</td>
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<td>How do international economic crises spread?</td>
<td>Khan Academy, “Greek Debt Crisis and Austerity”</td>
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<td>How can states collaborate to deal with them?</td>
<td><a href="http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/greek-">http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/greek-</a></td>
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<td>debt-recession-and-austerity-part-1; “Greek Financial Crisis,”</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/greek-">http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/greek-</a></td>
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<td>financial-crisis-part-2; and “How and Why Greece Would Leave the Euro,”</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/how-and-">http://www.khanacademy.org/finance-economics/macroeconomics/v/how-and-</a></td>
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<td>why-greece-would-leave-the-euro-part-3</td>
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<td><strong>Part VI: The Evolving International System</strong></td>
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<td>How is the system changing? Will the patterns and rules that have characterized the past continue to hold in the future? What are the key dimensions of change in international affairs?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>How is globalization affecting power and problems in contemporary international politics?</td>
<td>“Emerging Grounds for Global Governance,” in the “Resources” section of e-learning page</td>
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<td>Is international</td>
<td><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRGuuc4FnA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRGuuc4FnA</a> “Regional Droughts and</td>
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Student Conduct and Honor Code

Students must not behave in any way that will interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program. The use of electronic devices, except computers used for note-taking purposes, is not allowed during the classes. Unauthorized use of social media sites (e.g. Facebook, twitter) will result in the use of pen and paper to take notes for the remainder of the summer term. Please turn off or silence (not vibrate) all electronic devices prior to entering the classroom.

The academic community of students and faculty at the University of Florida strives to develop, sustain and protect an environment of honesty, trust and respect. Students within the system receive the benefits of the academic pursuit of knowledge, free from the obstacles of lying, cheating, and stealing. In return, the Academic Honesty Guidelines demand that students act with integrity in all of their endeavors. Exhibiting honesty in academic pursuits and reporting violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will encourage others to also act with integrity. Every student who approaches their studies with honesty and forthrightness suffers when another student attains an unfair advantage by cheating. The instructor will do everything within his powers to uphold the Academic Honesty Guidelines. For more information on both the Student Conduct Code and Student Honor Code, students should visit: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. These students are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC), at Reid Hall. Please be sure to complete registration and provide the documentation to the instructor no later than the end of the first week of class to ensure appropriate accommodation. The instructor will do everything within his powers to ensure all students have the best classroom environment possible. For more information, students should visit: http://www.ufl.edu/disability/ and https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking career and academic goals, which might interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

- University Counseling Centre, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Centre, 392-1171
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Centre, 392-1161

For more information, students should visit: [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)

Makeup Quizzes and Exams

No makeup quizzes will be allowed. If you missed class and it was not an excused absence, you will miss out on the quiz points as well.

Makeup exams will only be scheduled under the following conditions:

1. There is a good and documented reason, in the judgment of the instructor, for missing the regularly assigned exam.
2. In cases where an absence is foreseeable, request to take a makeup must be received in writing (including email) in sufficient time PRIOR TO THE EXAM DATE to make alternative arrangements to take the exam BEFORE the regularly scheduled exam date.
3. In cases where an absence is not foreseeable but documented, request to take a makeup must be received in writing (including email) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Please note that taking the final exam after the exam date might result in having to receive an incomplete “I*/I” grade for the course until the grades can be changed.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be available for this course under any circumstances.