

INR 2001
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Monday - Wednesday - Friday 5th Period
Spring 2025

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Teaching Assistants:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Nothing remains outside the analytical domain of the study of international relations. Depending on the context, world politics encompasses all behavior between people. In the age of technological, economic, and ecological change, understanding the political relevance of human actions is necessary as people try to solve problems that increasingly become international. This course is designed to assist students in their understanding of global politics by providing them with a general framework for putting in perspective current developments related to international politics. Students will develop a familiarity with the basic concepts of international relations. There are two specific goals facing the students: 1) developing an appreciation for the elements of both change and continuity in the global system and 2) developing skills necessary to apply theoretical and conceptual understanding in analyzing current international events. The broad intellectual objective is to assist students in developing an appreciation for the complexity of international issues, including the inter-relationship of domestic and international events.

This course fulfills the Gen Ed categories for International (N) and Social and Behavioral Science (S) requirements. International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world. Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Charles W. Kegley, Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton, World Politics: Trend and Transformation, 2016-2017 Edition, Boston: Cengage.
[https:// www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/](https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/) (website for assignments and quizzes)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is both a lecture and a discussion course. Students are expected to attend lectures and to raise relevant questions in class. The course is organized around daily lectures that will both complement and clarify assigned readings. Much of the lecture material, and thus exam questions, transcends the information covered in the texts. It is strongly recommended that students stay ahead in the daily reading assignments. To engage the class in active participation, each student must complete several short take home assignments specified in the syllabus. Timely discussions are expected on the topics. Beyond the normal course readings, students are encouraged to access prominent periodicals on a daily basis. *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist* are examples of such reading material.

EXAMS AND EVALUATION

There will be four exams, each accounting for 20% of the final grade. They are non-cumulative multiple choice tests. There are no makeup exams.

Evaluation:

Class Assignments	10%
Attendance	5%
Quizzes	5%
4 Exams	80%

RELEVANT DATES

(subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

EXAM 1 February 7
EXAM 2 February 28
EXAM 3 March 28
EXAM 4 April 23

Map Quiz #1 – February 10
Map Quiz #2 - February 17
Map Quiz #3 - February 24
Map Quiz #4 - March 10
Map Quiz #5 – March 31

Grading Scale

A	90-100	C	70-76.9
B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
B	80-86.9	D	60-66.9
C+	77-79.9	E	less than 60

COURSE OUTLINE

I. The System and The Players

- Introduction: Why Are We Here? (Do We Have to Be?)

- Analyzing World Politics: Realism, Idealism and Other Pretenders

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapters 1 & 2

- Sizing Up the Actors - The United States Approach to World Politics

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapters 3 & 4

- Majors and Minors: Russia, China, and the Third World States

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 5

- The Rising Influence of Nonstate Actors

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 6

*******EXAM #1 Friday February 7*******

II. The Stakes (Part I): High Politics

- The State and Security

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 8

**** Map QUIZ #1 and Assignment MONDAY – FEBRUARY 10 ****

- Power Variables and Power Relations

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 8

- Theories of War and Civil War

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 7

**** Map QUIZ #2 and Assignment MONDAY - FEBRUARY 17 ****

- Nuclear Weapons, Deterrence, and Crisis Management and Arms Control

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapters 9 (pp. 277 - 289)

**** Map QUIZ #3 and Assignment MONDAY - FEBRUARY 24****

*******EXAM #2 Friday February 28*******

III. The Stakes (PartII): Low Politics

- Political Economy: Changing Nations' Priorities

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 10

- The International Monetary System and Trade Politics

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 11

- Eastern Europe/China: Problems of Moving to Market Economies

**** Map QUIZ #4 and Assignment MONDAY - MARCH 10 ***

- Low Politics from a Third World Perspective

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - REVIEW Chapter 5

- Oil and Energy Politics: Choices of States and Consumers

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 14 (pp. 473 - 475, 481 - 485)

**** Atlas QUIZ #5 and Assignment MONDAY - March 31 ****

*******EXAM #3 Friday March 28*******

IV. Global Community and Global Commons: Pressures, Power, Order and the Future of World Politics

- Population Pressures on a Finite Planet

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 12

- Food Politics

- Problems of the Global Commons

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 14 (pp. 455 - 472, 475 - 481)

- International Law: Forces for Peace or Prerogatives of the Powerful?

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 9 (pp. 298 - 313)

- International Organization: Limits of the Institutional Management of Anarchy

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 9 (pp. 289 - 297)

- International Integration: Building Communities or the Evolution of the State?

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 6 (pp. 162 - 168)

- Interdependence and Power Politics: Reflections on the Tensions between Self-Interest and Collective Interests

- Continuity and Discontinuity in World Politics

Reading Assignment:

Blanton and Kegley - Chapter 15

*****EXAM #4 Wednesday April 23 *****