

Introduction to International Relations: INTL 3200

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11a–11:50a MWF
212 Baldwin Hall Office Hours: W 2p-4p

Course Description: Why do countries go to war, and when are they likely to do so? Why do countries experience civil wars and insurgencies? How does international trade affect how countries, groups, and organizations interact with each other? International relations scholars try to answer questions like these to help us understand why we observe certain events in the international arena. This class is an introduction to the scientific study of international politics, and no prior knowledge of international relations theory is assumed. After this class, you will know who the important international actors are, their preferences, and how they interact with each other and institutions. Further, you will be familiar with current international relations scholarship on a range of issues, including international and civil war, terrorism, international trade, human rights, and global environmental concerns. Most importantly, you will understand how political scientists use the scientific method to build knowledge about important international phenomena—how we know what we know.

In this course, we will use contemporary and past evidence to illustrate political phenomena. Our focus will be to explain, analyze, and predict using both *theory* and *evidence*. When we confront a political event, we want to know *why* it happened and *what* it means. This is the material of informed policy. At the end of this course, students will:

- Know how social scientists make observations, form research questions, and test their arguments.
- Be able to think logically through theories (arguments) to derive hypotheses.
- Use a theoretical framework to explain various interstate interactions (e.g., conflict, cooperation, trade, international law, and human rights practices).
- Express an informed opinion (in speech and writing) on contemporary international relations debates using both theoretical arguments and empirical evidence.

Required Texts:

1. Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions, 3rd edition*. W.W. Norton & Company.
2. Students must purchase a subscription to [Statecraft](#) to play the course simulation.

Course Policies:

- **Reading**

- You are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings. My lectures will assume you did so.
- For effective participation, students should keep up with international current events. *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *BBC*, *Foreign Affairs*, or a weekly periodical such as *The Economist* are a few good choices.

- **Exams**

- Exams will be closed book, closed notes, in our regular classroom.

- **Simulation**

- You will be part of a statecraft simulation that will take most of the semester to complete. We will reserve some weekly class time to play our simulation, but you must also keep up with the simulation outside of class to be successful. More details about the simulation will be given in lecture and in materials posted to the online learning system.
- As part of the simulation, students will be required to complete a foreign policy assessment survey, a Statecraft manual quiz, and weekly memos to be turned in online. All of these are part of your simulation grade.
- Statecraft provides cooperative, competitive, and other goals that countries must work to achieve. Each country also has a Quality of Life indicator, and your country's QoL score at the end of the simulation accounts for 5% of your final course grade.

- **Statecraft Reflection Essay**

- Students will turn in a 5-7 page paper reflecting on their country's performance during Statecraft. The paper should demonstrate knowledge of IR theory and empirical evidence, and should not merely be a report on what happened during the simulation. Students often write papers in undergraduate courses in which they are expected to display the knowledge they've accumulated by simply explaining concepts in essay form. Students should think of this paper as an opportunity to display their knowledge by highlighting examples of IR concepts in their simulated world.

- **Map Quiz**

- If you're going to argue for policies that affect certain countries, you should pay them the compliment of knowing where they are. Students will be given a blank world map and must identify the location of 25 countries of my choosing. I will provide a list of the countries on the online learning system well in advance.

- **Participation**

- Participation is calculated from active simulation participation, attendance, and lecture participation. There is no extra credit to offset a low participation score.

Grade Distribution:

Simulation–Participation	15%
Simulation–Performance	5%
Simulation–Final Essay	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	20%
Map Quiz	10%
Participation	10%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

In addition to skills and knowledge, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

Week	Content
Week 1	<p>Wednesday: Course Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Online registration for course notifications and Statecraft <p>Friday: What is IR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS pages xx-xxxiii – “Palestinians seen Gaining Momentum in Quest for Statehood.” <i>New York Times</i> 1/5/2015. – “ISIS Transforming into Functioning State that uses Terror as Tool.” <i>New York Times</i> 7/21/2015.
Week 2	<p>Monday: Historical Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Liberal World: The Resilient Order.” Deudney and Ikenberry. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2018. – Klotz, Audie. 1995. “Norms Reconstituting Interests: Global Racial Equality and U.S. Sanctions against South Africa.” <i>International Organization</i> 49(3): 451-478. <p>Wednesday: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS pp. 42-81 <p>Friday: Comparing Theories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Can China Rise Peacefully?” Mearsheimer, John. <i>National Interest</i> 10/25/2014. – “The Rise of China and the Future of the West.” Ikenberry, G. John. <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2008.
Week 3	<p>Monday: Rise of Non-State Actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Margaret E. Keck & Kathryn Sikkink. 2004. “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics” and “Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America.” In Mingst & Snyder, <i>Essential Readings in World Politics</i>. – “A Bloodless War: An Analysis of the Weapons used by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.” Nourafchan, Nicolo. 5/22/2008. <p>Wednesday: Gender in IR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Goldstein, Joshua S., and Jon C. Pevehouse. <i>International Relations, Brief 7th edition</i>. pp. 102-111. Available on online learning system. – “What Sex means for World Peace.” Hudson, Valerie. <i>Foreign Policy</i> 2012. <p>Friday: Gender in Combat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ortobals, Candice, and Lori Poloni-Staudinger. 2018. “How Gender Intersects with Political Violence and Terrorism.” <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics</i>.

Week	Content
Week 4	<p>Monday: War and Rationality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS pp. 88-135 <p>Wednesday: War and Rationality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Map Quiz – No new reading <p>Friday: Introduction to Statecraft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Read Statecraft manual before class – Statecraft manual quiz and Statecraft Foreign Policy Attitudes Survey must be completed by 11pm on Saturday.
Week 5	<p>Monday: Models of Foreign Policy Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Goldstein & Pevehouse pp. 77-92. Available on online learning system. <p>Wednesday: Leaders and Advisors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Mitch McConnell thinks you don’t need Experience to be President. Here’s why he’s wrong.” Saunders, Elizabeth N. <i>Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog</i> 7/27/2016. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 0</p>
Week 6	<p>Monday: Civil Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS pp. 234-264 <p>Wednesday: Ending Civil Wars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Walter, Barbara F. 1997. “The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement.” <i>International Organization</i> 51(3): 335-364. – “The Prospect of Peace in Colombia.” <i>New York Times</i> 9/25/2015. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 1</p>
Week 7	<p>Monday: Human Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Axworthy, Lloyd. “Human Security and Global Governance: Putting People First.” <i>Global Governance</i> 7: 19. <p>Wednesday: Refugees and International Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shacknove, Andrew E. 1985. “Who is a Refugee?” <i>Ethics</i> 95(2): 274-284. – Cohen, Roberta, and Megan Bradley. 2010. “Disasters and Displacement: Gaps in Protection.” <i>International Humanitarian Legal Studies</i> pp. 95-142. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 2</p>

Week	Content
Week 8	<p>Monday: Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS 184-233 <p>Wednesday: Cooperation among Non-State Actors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Christia, Fotini. 2012. <i>Alliance Formation in Civil Wars</i>. Introduction. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 3</p>
Week 9	<p>Monday: Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS 264-289 <p>Wednesday: Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pape, Robert. 2003. “Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97(3): 343-361. – O’Rourke, Lindsey. 2009. “What’s Special about Female Suicide Terrorism?” <i>Security Studies</i> 681-700. <p>Friday: Midterm Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Statecraft turns 4 (this week) and 5 (spring break) will still occur, so you will need to work with your groups outside of class.
Week 10	<p>Monday: International Political Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “WTO says Canada, Mexico can slap \$1 Billion in Tariffs over US Meat Labels.” <i>Wall Street Journal</i> 12/7/2015. – “How Trump’s Trade Policy could Complicate your Ice Cream Sundae.” <i>Washington Post</i> 7/18/2017. – “Will Trump Kill the Bourbon Boom?” <i>New York Times</i> 7/11/2017. <p>Wednesday: Globalization and Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “The Truth about Trade: What Critics get wrong about the Global Economy.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2016. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 6</p>
Week 11	<p>Monday: International Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS pp. 340-349 & 365-379 <p>Wednesday: Development & Foreign Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Watch in class: “What Happens when an NGO Admits Failure.” <i>TED Talk</i> by David Damberger. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 7?</p>

Week	Content
Week 12	<p>Monday: International Organizations: United Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tharoor, Shashi. 2011. “Security Council Reform: Past, Present, and Future.” <i>Ethics & International Affairs</i> 25(4): 397-406. – “Think Again: the U.N. Security Council.” Bosco, David. <i>Foreign Policy</i> 9/23/2009. <p>Wednesday: The United Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Video TBA (UNSC) <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 8?</p>
Week 13	<p>Monday: Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FLS pp. 490-531 <p>Wednesday: Human Rights Treaties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to prepare to discuss what types of rights are and are not listed. – NYT Debate: Have Human Rights Treaties Failed? Kenneth Roth and Eric Posner. <p>Friday: Statecraft simulation turn 9?</p>
Week 14	<p>Monday: Climate Change and the North/South Divide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Climate Change is our most Critical National Security Challenge.” McKibben, Bill. <i>The Nation</i> 2018. – “Yeah, the Weather has been Weird.” Hayhoe, Katherine. <i>Foreign Policy</i> 2018. <p>Wednesday: Security Implications of Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Podesta, John, and Peter Ogden. 2008. “The Security Implications of Climate Change.” <i>The Washington Quarterly</i> 31(1): 115-138. – “The Ominous Story of Syria’s Climate Refugees.” <i>Scientific American</i> 12/17/2015. <p>Friday: Connecting all the Dots: The Syrian Civil War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Readings/Video TBA