

Political Science 103: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2022

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Meeting Time: MWF: 9:00-9:50 am
Class Location: Bishop Room 112
Student Support Hours: M & W, 3:00-4:00pm, or by appointment

Overview

Why do countries go to war with each other? Why do civil wars break out? How do countries decide how much to trade with each other? What are trade wars and why do they happen? Why are some countries poorer than others? Why does the world struggle to address climate change? These are some of the questions we will explore in this course.

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations and a gateway to more advanced international relations courses. The course will familiarize students with the major tools and theories that are useful in understanding contemporary debates and challenges in global politics. The course then uses these insights to shed light on current events and special topics in international relations, from international wars, civil wars, and terrorism to international trade relations, international lending and investment, the global environment, development, and human rights.

The purpose of this course is to provide an analytical basis for understanding international politics. It is a social science course, not a course on current events or history – even though we will frequently be discussing current and historical events and examples. The emphasis is on rigorous and critical thinking about politics and policy choices. My goal for you is not memorization, but rather for you to take the concepts and theories we discuss in class and apply and evaluate their usefulness in explaining how international actors interact. By the end of the course, students should have the intellectual tools necessary to critique common academic and policy arguments about global affairs and offer creative solutions.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the major theories and analytical perspectives that political scientists and policymakers use to interpret international relations
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of theories of international relations and apply them to contemporary events
- Strengthen critical thinking skills that allow the synthesis, critique, application, and extension of topics discussed in class

Expectations

In this course, I hope you are inspired by your own curiosity, interests, and stake in political outcomes that affect your life today and in the future. I aim to provide a supportive, relevant, and exciting introduction to international relations. I strive to make this class worth your time and I ask for the same consideration in return. I have carefully chosen readings and activities to introduce you to important questions, theories, debates and ideas. Please utilize these resources, complete the readings, participate in discussions, and ask questions.

I recognize that we may all at times face challenges that require flexibility and accommodation. If you find yourself struggling, facing a challenge, or needing an accommodation, please let me know. Together we can work on an alternative plan, but I can't help if I don't know. I want you to be successful in this course, so please prioritize communication. If you wish to keep details of any challenges you face private, that is okay, you do not need to tell me details: all you need to do is ask me for help and I will do my best to help accommodate you.

Texts

There is one book required for this course. The book is available in the bookstore.

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions and Institutions*, Fourth Edition

Occasionally, we will supplement the primary text with additional materials. All additional resources will be electronically linked in the syllabus or uploaded to Blackboard. Please inquire immediately if you are having trouble accessing additional materials.

Course Requirements

Grading will be based on the following assignments and assessments.

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes (3)	15%
Current Connections (3)	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

Class Participation

Class participation is an essential component of this course. Each class will include discussion on the topic, including general comments, criticisms, and extensions. Class participation grades will be based on attendance, preparation for class, and participation in class discussion. During class students are encouraged to think aloud, ask questions of each other, and respond to one another's work. Your participation grade is not only based on how many times you talk in class, but the quality of your comments. We will also utilize an online interactive platform called Poll Everywhere (see Technology Section below) that will allow you to respond in real time to polls and provide written comments. If you believe that active

class participation may be difficult for you due to disability or other concerns, please talk with me to discuss alternative ways for you to participate.

Attending lecture is important to your success in the course. All students will receive 3 free absences. After 3 absences, further absences will negatively affect your grade. Excused absences include illness, mental health needs, religious observances, university-approved or affiliated travel, and absences due to legal, civic, or military obligations. However, your absence can only be excused for these reasons if you contact me to explain the absence. You do not need to disclose detailed information about your absence, only the primary general reason why you cannot come to class. Please note that rush, sorority, or fraternity events are not excused.

However, I also recognize that we are living through a pandemic that may create disruptions, so I am willing to work with you individually throughout the semester on attendance, participation, and due dates. If you experience a health related disruption (such as missing class due to quarantine or isolation, health problems, etc.), please reach out to me so that we can do our best to accommodate you.

IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE NOTE: The university requires that all students have a verified attendance at least once during the first two weeks of the semester for each course. If attendance is not verified, then a student will be dropped from the course and any financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. See <http://olemiss.edu/gotoclass> for more information.

Quizzes

There will be three short quizzes. Each is an opportunity for you to check-in on how well you understand the material. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The quizzes will be held on **September 16, October 21, and November 11.**

Current Connections

Students will be responsible for three one-page papers that connect theoretical concepts in the course readings and lectures to contemporary events in global politics. The first CC paper must be completed **by October 7**, the second paper must be completed **by November 4**, and the third paper must be completed **by December 2**. *All papers must be submitted on Blackboard by 5:00 pm on the three deadline dates.*

In this assignment, students will identify a current news article (last twelve months) that relates to our class readings and discussion. Students will turn in a link to the news article along with a one-page analysis of how the current event highlights, explains, questions, or contradicts major themes from the readings. A good paper will briefly summarize the current event, and then use the remainder of the paper as a way to expand and clarify course content. The best papers will refer to specific readings assigned for that day and provide more analysis than summary. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric are on Blackboard.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be timed, open-book and open-note. It will be administered on **September 28** at 12:00pm. In order to do well on this exam, you will need to complete the readings, attend class sessions, and study beforehand. If you must miss an exam on its schedule day and time, you must inform me as soon as possible to schedule an alternative time to take the exam.

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative, but will focus primarily on topics covered after the midterm exam. We will reserve time at the end of the course to review any questions on course material before the final exam. As with the midterm exam, the final exam will be timed, open-book and open-note and you will need to complete the readings, attend class, and study beforehand to do well. It will be administered on **December 7 at 8:00 am**. With the exception of university excused absences, no make up exam will be offered. If you must miss an exam for a university-excused reason, you must inform me as soon as possible.

Extra Credit

Create a meme relevant to the topics or theories covered in class. Email it to me at any point throughout the semester. If you send it to me before the midterm, 1 point of extra credit will be added to your midterm exam. If you send it to me between the midterm and the final, one point of extra credit will be added to your final exam. While memes can be humorous, please make sure the meme is appropriate and does not include racist or sexist statements or images.

Course Policies

Covid-19 and Health Policies

Your health and safety is of the utmost importance to me. If you feel unwell during the semester, please let me know and your absence will be excused and we will plan alternative deadlines for you if need be.

Students are expected to comply with the University's protocols regarding Covid-19 and other health policies. As conditions may change throughout the semester, we may need to be flexible.

Masks: Per university policy, masks are optional. Please respect your classmates' choices surrounding masks.

Social Distancing: Maintain as much distance as possible between yourself and other people in the classroom. While we are limited by our room size and we will engage in some interactive activities that may require you to work with other students, we should try our best to maintain a safe distance.

Positive Tests or Exposure: If students test positive for COVID-19 or other infectious disease at any health care facility, they should contact the Student Health Center at 662-915-7274.

University Health Services will coordinate contact tracing to lessen the likelihood of spread. If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 or other infectious disease, you should contact the Student Health Center to get tested and follow the guidance recommended by the Health Center. For more information, visit <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/students/>

Quarantines: Quarantines are an important tool for controlling the spread of Covid-19. If you need to quarantine or isolate at any point this semester, you should do so, and if it disrupts or negatively impacts your ability to attend class or complete assignments, email me as soon as possible and we can work together to establish a plan for completing the necessary work. More information on quarantine protocols can be found at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/>

Late Policy

48 Hour Forgiveness Policy: For **Current Connections Papers** and **Quizzes**, if you miss the 5:00 pm deadline, you may still submit without penalty for 48 hours after the initial deadline.

Extensions on Current Connections Papers and Quizzes for more than 48 hours will be given as needed and as appropriate. Extensions for more than 48 hours on the current connections papers will be given upon request as long as the student requests the extension *before* the deadline. If the request for an extension for more than 48 hours occurs after the deadline has passed, an extension will be considered, but not guaranteed. If an extension is granted in this circumstance, there will be a penalty of one letter grade marked down per day past the due date before the extension was requested. Unexpected things happen and we must all adapt, both as students and as an instructor. The main thing that I ask is that if your submission will be later than 48 hours after the deadline, you give me appropriate notice of a delayed assignment so that I can make appropriate adjustments and support you as necessary.

When assignments are submitted electronically, please make sure you receive an email confirmation from Blackboard. I recommend taking screenshots of your submission with a time stamp to ensure that you receive full credit for your work. If you are ever unsure of your submission, email me a copy of your assignment.

If you are unable to attend the midterm or final exam, you must contact me at least 48 hours before the exam takes place to arrange an alternative time to take the exam. If you miss an exam without requesting an alternative testing time first, extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you have religious obligations or holidays that have conflicts with exams, assignments or attendance, please let me know so that we can accommodate you.

Student Support Hours

I hold Student Support Hours every Monday and Wednesday between 3:00 and 4:00pm in person and online. If those times don't work for you, please email me and we can find an alternative time to meet. We can either meet in my office (227 Deupree) or, by request, on Zoom (<https://olemiss.zoom.us/j/2435321963>).

What are Student Support Hours and why should you attend? Student Support hours are a chance for you to ask me any questions you have about class material or assignments, to further discuss any topics that we may have covered (or didn't cover) in class that you were interested in, and to talk about things outside of class that may be important to your academic success. If you cannot attend Student Support Hours, please email me if you have any questions. If you are having trouble in the course, please do not wait to talk to me. I am more than happy to assist you, but I can only help if you make me aware of any issues or if you come talk to me. Your success is important to me.

Technology

Laptops and tablets will be allowed during class for the purposes of note-taking and interactive online engagement. One common active learning component of the class is the use of polls and live written comments submitted through the platform Poll Everywhere. You will be prompted throughout classes to respond on Poll Everywhere. You can respond online at PollEv.com/poll103huber511 or you can text POL103HUBER511 to 37607 (text messaging rates apply). If participating in this manner is a challenge for you, please let me know.

However, electronic devices can also be distracting and can take away from the learning experience not only of yourself, but also of nearby students when they are not used appropriately. If technology becomes a distraction, I may reevaluate the technology policy.

While you are free to take notes in any way you please, I recommend that if possible, you take notes by hand. Handwritten notes leads to higher recall, better understanding of the material, and more critical thinking about the content.

Blackboard

All course materials are available on Blackboard. From the main page, select "Content" on the upper left-hand menu. Under this tab you will find materials for each week, including readings that are not electronically linked in the syllabus or textbooks and lecture slides. Updates and announcements will be also be posted through Blackboard so make sure you either enable notifications or routinely check our course page. All assignments will also be posted and turned in electronically on Blackboard.

Classroom Behavior

Always respect other students. During class discussions, we may touch on topics that are controversial and your classmates may have differing opinions that you disagree with. While we should all feel open to express our opinions and ask questions, remember to do so in a way that is kind and respectful. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor

your request to address you by your preferred name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

The University of Mississippi is committed to fostering an environment that prevents sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and other unwelcome sexual conduct and interpersonal violence. Individuals looking to file a report or formal complaint of sex-discrimination, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, or sexual misconduct should contact the Assistant Director of EORC/Title IX Coordinator, Honey Ussery, hbussey@olemiss.edu, or visit the following website <https://unsafe.olemiss.edu/>.

Communication Policy

I will send messages with relevant information about the course through Blackboard and email. It is your responsibility to read those messages and act accordingly. If you send me a message either through Blackboard or via email, I will do my best to respond within 24 hours Monday through Friday and 48 hours Saturday through Sunday. If this time frame has passed and you have not heard back from me, please email me again.

Email is the easiest way to get in touch with me about questions, comments, concerns etc. I highly encourage you to email me when you have any questions or concerns. Please remember that email creates a written record of communication between you and I, and as a result, you should treat it with the appropriate formality. Make sure to include “POL 103” in the subject line, address your email to “Professor Huber” or “Dr. Huber”, and sign emails with your first and last name. (Email etiquette can be confusing, see the following article for some suggestions: <https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-toemail-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087>)

I truly value communication and want to hear from you. Sometimes, we might struggle with a class or be encountering difficult situations or challenges, but we don’t know what to do. If anything is interfering with your ability to succeed in this class or if you are struggling to feel motivated or to understand the material, email me and let me know. We can work together to try to find a solution.

Grades

Grades will be assigned based on a standard scale such that:

- A.....94-100%
- A-....90-93%
- B+....87-89%
- B.....84-86%
- B-....80-83%
- C+....77-79%
- C.....74-76%
- C-....70-73%
- D....60-69%
- F.....0-59%

“C” Minimum Policy: It is the policy of the Political Science department that Political Science majors must earn a grade of at least a C in order for the class to count toward a Political Science major or minor. For this course to count for a Political Science major or minor, you must earn a minimum grade of a 74%.

Rounding Policy: Your final grade will be rounded up to the nearest 0.25 percentage point. For example, if your final grade is a 83.8, you will be rounded up to an 84. No additional rounding will occur.

If you are confused by or disagree with a grade that you received, you can contact me to discuss the grade. However, you must wait 24 hours after the grades were released to schedule a meeting with me. Additionally, I will only consider grade appeals that are submitted within 2 weeks of a grade being returned. To appeal a grade, you need to provide me with a written document (1 page maximum) explaining why your grade should be changed. I acknowledge that mistakes may happen when grading, though I try to avoid them, so I will not hold an appeal against you and will consider all appeals fairly.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. The University’s policy on academic misconduct is as follows “The University is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University, are regarded as particularly serious offenses. Disruptive behavior in an academic situation or purposefully harming academic facilities also is grounds for academic discipline.” For more information, please consult *The M Book*. Cases of possible dishonesty will be sanctioned.

Disabilities

I strive to make this course as accessible for all students. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) at The University of Mississippi is committed to ensuring equal access to a quality education for qualified students with disabilities through the provision of reasonable academic accommodations which support University standards and academic integrity. Thus, if you require any accommodation, please speak with SDS, who will provide you with a form indicating that you have an approved accommodation. I will work with you to the best of my ability to accommodate any need you may have.

Mental Health Services

Many people struggle with mental health challenges - 40-60% of undergraduate students reported having symptoms of anxiety and depression in 2022. The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students with many types of life stressors which interrupt day-to-day functioning. Additionally, we are all living through and experiencing an unpredictable, traumatic, and stressful time, which can create or worsen mental health challenges. Please know that I am here to support you and I care about your well-being. If you need support, I highly encourage you to contact the

University Counseling Center and if you need accommodation, encouragement, or support, please let me know and I will help in any way possible.

The University counseling Center offers individual counseling, couple's counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. *There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential.*

You can contact the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment at <https://counseling.olemiss.edu>, counslg@olemiss.edu, 662-915-3784, and 320 Lester Hall.

Other Services

- Are you concerned about the mental health of a friend or roommate? You can submit a Care Report to the Counseling Center https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofMississippi&layout_id=3
- What if you or someone else is having a mental health crisis and needs emergency help? Contact UPD at 915-7234 and they will contact a crisis counselor. For non-emergency help, contact the University Counseling Center to make a free appointment at (662) 915-3784 or email counslg@olemiss.edu
- Are you feeling stressed or anxious? Try listening to these relaxation exercises <https://counseling.olemiss.edu/relaxation-exercises/> and accessing other mental wellness resources at <https://counseling.olemiss.edu/mental-wellness-resources/>
- Are you finding it difficult or confusing to navigate learning during the Covid-19 pandemic? Visit the Keep Learning website for information and tips <https://keeplearning.olemiss.edu/>
- Want to improve your writing? The University Writing Center offers free consultations to assist at any stage in the writing process. For more information or to make an appointment, go to <https://writingcenter.olemiss.edu/>
- If you are having trouble affording groceries, toiletries and cleaning products, students can receive free and confidential assistance from the Grove Grocery <https://grovegrocery.olemiss.edu/services/>
- If you identify as LGBTQ+ and are in need of emergency help, you can find resources at <https://lgbtq.olemiss.edu/emergency-help/>
- If you have experienced sexual assault or harassment, you can use the following services:
 - Violence Intervention and Prevention Services – Free; Call (662) 915-1059 or email Shelli Poole <https://violenceprevention.olemiss.edu/>
 - University Counseling Center – Free; Call to make an appointment at (662) 915-3784 or email counslg@olemiss.edu
 - University Psychological Services Center – Nominal fee; Call (662) 915-7385 to make an appointment.

- Rape, Abuse Incest National Network (RAINN) online hotline and telephone hotline – Free; Call (800) 656-HOPE (4673) or chat online at <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>
- Love is respect (relationship violence); Hotline: 1-866-331-9474
- More information available at <https://unsafe.olemiss.edu/get-help-now/>

Schedule

****The assignments should be completed by the class under which they are listed****

Week 1

August 22: Course Introduction

August 24: Why and How to Study International Relations

- FLS: Introduction, pages xxiv–xxxi

August 26: Approaches and Lenses of Studying IR, Part I

- FLS: Introduction, pages xxxi–xxxvii
- *Students may add courses on a space available basis through this date.*

Week 2

August 29: Approaches and Lenses of Studying I, Part II

- Stephen Walt, “An International Relations Theory Guide to the War in Ukraine” Available on Blackboard
- Omar Shahabudin McDoom, “What political science can tell us about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine” Available on Blackboard

August 31: Historical Background

- FLS: Chapter 1, pages 2–41

September 2: Actors and Interests; Iraq War Case Study

- FLS: Chapter 2, pages 42–50
- Listen to “Author Robert Draper on What Led the U.S. to War in Iraq”, Intelligence Matters Podcast, *CBS News*
- *Last day to register or add classes. Refund period ends*

Week 3

September 5: No Class, Labor Day

September 7: Interests and Interactions; Iraq War Case Study

- FLS: Chapter 2, pages 51–68

September 9: Strategic Interactions

- FLS: Chapter 2, pages 82–87

Week 4

September 12: Institutions

- FLS: Chapter 2, pages 68–81
- Richard Gowan, “The United Nations Hasn’t Been Useless on Ukraine” *War on the Rocks* Available on Blackboard
- *Mandatory drop date for non-attendance*

September 14: Conflict and War, The Bargaining Model

- FLS: September 9, pages 88–103

September 16: No Class, Professor at a Conference

- *Quiz 1 must be completed on Blackboard by 5:00 pm CST*

Week 5

September 19: Conflict and War, Incomplete Information

- FLS: Chapter 3, pages 103–117

September 21: Conflict and War, Commitment Problems

- FLS: Chapter 3, pages 118–137
- Graham Allison, “The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?” *The Atlantic* [Blackboard]

September 23: Conflict and War, Bargaining Model Activity

- “War in Afghanistan” *Council on Foreign Relations* [Blackboard]

Week 6

September 26: Review Session

September 28: *Midterm*

September 30: Domestic Politics and War, Leaders and Interest Groups

- FLS: Chapter 4, pages 138–168

Week 7

October 3: Domestic Politics and War, Collective Action Problems

- Julia Simon, “Egypt May Not Need Fighter Jets, But The US Keeps Sending Them Anyway,” *NPR* (Aug 8, 2013)

October 5: Domestic Politics and War, Regime Type

- FLS: Chapter 4, pages 168–185

October 7: Alliances

- FLS: Chapter 5, pages 186–205, 205–207
- ***First CC Paper Must be Submitted on Blackboard by 5:00 pm CST***

Week 8

October 10: Collective Security

- FLS: Chapter 6, pages 205–235

October 12: Civil Wars

- FLS: Chapter 6, pages 236–268

October 14: Civil Wars II and Introduction to Terrorism

- FLS: Chapter, 6, pages 268–293

Week 9

October 17: Terrorism II and Islamic State Case Study

- “The rise and fall of the Islamic State group: The long and short story” *BBC*

October 19: International Trade

- FLS: Chapter 7, pages 294–318

October 21: International Trade II, Comparative Advantage

- FLS: Chapter 7, pages 340–345
- Watch the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rUfoU04QJM>
- ***Quiz 2 must be completed on Blackboard by 5:00 pm CST***

Week 10

October 24: International Trade III

- No reading for today

October 26: International Trade and Institutions

- FLS: Chapter 7, pages 318–339

October 28: International Financial Relations

- FLS: Chapter 8, pages 346–377

Week 11

October 31: International Migration

- FLS: Chapter 8, pages 377–385
- “Key Findings about US immigrants” *Pew Research Center* [Blackboard]

November 2: International Monetary Relations and Financial Crises

- FLS: Chapter 9, pages 386–423
- Watch: Paul Solman, “How the 2008 financial crisis crashed the economy and changed the world” *PBS* <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-the-2008-financial-crisis-crashed-the-economy-and-changed-the-world>

November 4: No Class, Professor at a Conference

- ***Second CC Paper Must be Submitted on Blackboard by 5:00 pm CST***

Week 12

November 7: Development, Domestic Factors

- FLS: Chapter 10, pages 424–445

November 9: Development, International Factors and Globalization

- FLS: Chapter 10, pages 445–461

November 11: International Law

- FLS: Chapter 11, pages 462–479
- Stewart M. Patrick, “Does Syria Mean the End of the Responsibility to Protect?” *The Atlantic* [Blackboard]
- ***Quiz 3 must be completed on Blackboard by 5:00 pm CST***

Week 13

November 14: International Norms and Transnational Advocacy Networks

- FLS: Chapter 11, pages 479–497

November 16: Human Rights

- FLS: Chapter 12, pages 498–539

November 18: The Global Environment, Collective Action Problems

- FLS: Chapter 13, pages 540–568

Week 14

November 21-25: Happy Thanksgiving, No Class

Week 15

November 28: The Global Environment, Cooperation

- FLS: Chapter 13, pages 568–583
- Helen Briggs, “What is the Paris climate agreement and why did the US rejoin?” *BBC* [Blackboard]

November 30 : Challenges to the Global Order

- FLS: Chapter 14, pages 584–635

December 2: Review Session

- ***Third CC Paper Must be Submitted on Blackboard by 5:00 pm CST***

*****Final exam will be Wednesday, December 7 at 8:00 am *****