

POL 130: Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2019

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:30 pm - 1:20 pm, Krannert G016

Professor Swati Srivastava
Department of Political Science
Ph.D., Northwestern University

Email: srivas70@purdue.edu
Office: Beering Hall 2258
Student Hours: Mondays, 2 - 4pm

Teaching Assistant: Lejla Dervisevic
Department of Political Science
Email: ldervise@purdue.edu
Office: Beering Hall 2245
Student Hours: Thursdays, 12 - 2pm

Course Description

Are recent global events — the conflict in Syria, North Korean nuclear threats, climate change treaty breakdown, Brexit — unique to our current times or have we seen this before? The course is intended to provide a broad overview of the contemporary political and economic interactions of states and non-state actors at the global level. Governments, organizations, corporations, and people interact politically across national borders in areas of violence, markets, and rights. This course examines these international relations and the problems of war, trade, globalization, and humanitarian crises among others. It places these problems in history and asks how the world came to be today. It offers theories and frameworks to understand the world and questions whether these are adequate to imagine different futures for global politics.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Explain and critically evaluate the major theoretical approaches to international relations;
- Apply contending theoretical approaches to analyze contemporary events and dynamics in international relations; and
- Recognize and critically assess the increasing importance of transboundary issues in international politics and consequent impact on the role of the state.

Required Book

There is one required textbook, available for rent or purchase at the bookstore.

- *Essentials of International Relations, Seventh Edition*, Karen Mingst and Ivan Arreguin-Toft. Norton Publishing, 2016. [Textbook]
*Note this is not the most recent edition.
- Also, sign up for the free *New York Times* world news newsletter, The Interpreter:
<https://www.nytimes.com/column/the-interpreter>

Assignments

Keep the following deadlines in mind for the course. There will *not* be an in-class final.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ Midterm 1: | 25% | 9/16/19 (in-class and take-home) |
| ▪ Midterm 2: | 25% | 10/18/19 (in-class and take-home) |
| ▪ Final Exam: | 35% | 12/10/19 (take-home <i>only</i>) |
| ▪ 3 News Memos: | 15% | 10/4/19, 11/1/19, and 11/25/19 |

Both midterm exams will have an in-class and take-home component. In-class will be a multiple-choice exam. Take-home will be a short essay due 24 hours after the exam.

The final exam will only be take-home with short essays.

In addition, you will write three 1-page memos on current events and connect them to the class. These are due on Blackboard.

As a 3-unit course, you are expected to spend an *average of 6 hours per week outside class* doing the readings and studying for exams.

Attendance

I expect you to attend all classes, but I will *not* take attendance.

Lecture slides will not be posted online. Please ask your fellow students for any missed material.

Midterm exams will have an in-class component and will start on time. Make-up exams will only be approved in extraordinary circumstances. Schedule or travel conflicts do not count.

Grading

A letter grade will be determined by a percentage of the total accumulated points as follows:

A+ = 100 - 97.5%	B+ = 89.5 - 87.5%	C+ = 79.5 - 77.5%	D+ = 69.5 - 67.5%
A = 97 - 93%	B = 87 - 83%	C = 77 - 73%	D = 67 - 60%
A- = 92.5 - 90%	B- = 82.5 - 80%	C- = 72.5 - 70%	F = 59.5% and below

Policies

1. No use of cellphones, laptops, tablets, or other electronics in class.
2. Class communication will be through your Purdue email, which I expect you will check at least once a day. Here is some guidance on who to contact for course-related inquires:
 - a. Contact me: Enrollment, syllabus, policies, content clarifications, formal grade appeal (after TA), any circumstances affecting performance
 - b. Contact TA: Grading, content clarifications, assignment logistics
3. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours to your emails, except after 6 pm and on weekends. If you do not hear from me, feel free to check in.
4. The TA prefers contact by email first, but is also available to meet in person (during student hours or by appointment). The TA aims for reasonably prompt response to student emails, except after 6pm and on weekends.
5. Deadlines are final. Makeup exams will only be given for exceptional circumstances and must be agreed to well in advance.
6. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at drc@purdue.edu or 765-494-1247.
7. Thoroughly cite all paraphrased and quoted material in your work. You are responsible for knowing Purdue's policy regarding [academic integrity](#).
8. Be mindful of Purdue's [honor pledge](#) and give others the same respect you would like to receive in our classroom.
9. Keep the registrar's [policies](#) for adding and dropping courses in mind. Last day to withdraw from the course with a grade of W is September 16, 2019. Last day to withdraw with a grade of W or WF is October 22, 2019.
10. Keep the registrar's [policies](#) for tuition and fees refund in mind. There is no tuition refund for withdrawing from the course after September 30, 2019.
11. The syllabus is subject to change with fair notice.

Reading Schedule

WEEK ONE	
8/19	Introduction to International Relations This syllabus
8/21	Historical Context I: Westphalian System to Concert of Europe Textbook, Chapter 2, Pages 20-30
8/23	Historical Context II: Revolutionary Period to World War II Textbook, Chapter 2, Pages 30-44
WEEK TWO	
8/26	Historical Context III: The Cold War Textbook, Chapter 2, Pages 44-56
8/28	Historical Context IV: Post-Cold War to Present Textbook, Chapter 2, Pages 56-68
8/30	NO CLASS: Academic Conference
WEEK THREE	
9/2	NO CLASS: Labor Day
9/4	State of Nature I: Hobbes and Realism Textbook, Chapter 3, Pages 76-83
9/6	State of Nature II: Locke and Liberalism Textbook, Chapter 3, Pages 83-89
WEEK FOUR	
9/9	State of Nature III: Kant and Constructivism Textbook, Chapter 3, Pages 92-95; 97-104
9/11	State of Nature IV: Marx and Radicalism Textbook, Chapter 3, Pages 89-92; 95-97
9/13	Midterm Review

WEEK FIVE	
9/16	***** MIDTERM ONE ***** Exam in class <u>and</u> take-home essay due 24 hours later
9/18	Levels of Analysis I: Introducing the Three Images Textbook, Chapter 3, Pages 70-76
9/20	Levels of Analysis II: Perspectives on the International System Textbook, Chapter 4, Pages 106-118
WEEK SIX	
9/23	Levels of Analysis III: More Perspectives on the International System Textbook, Chapter 4, Pages 118-130
9/25	Levels of Analysis IV: Conceptualizing the State Textbook, Chapter 5, Pages 132-145
9/27	Levels of Analysis V: The Nature of State Power Textbook, Chapter 5, Pages 145-151
WEEK SEVEN	
9/30	Levels of Analysis VII: Models of Foreign Policy Decision Making Textbook, Chapter 5, Pages 162-169
10/2	Levels of Analysis VI: The Exercise of State Power Textbook, Chapter 5, Pages 151-162
10/4	Levels of Analysis VIII: Challenges to the State Textbook, Chapter 5, Pages 169-177 *** News Memo One Due on Blackboard ***
WEEK EIGHT	
10/7	NO CLASS: Fall Break
10/9	Levels of Analysis IX: Foreign Policy Elites Textbook, Chapter 6, Pages 180-188

10/11	Levels of Analysis X: Individual Decision Making Textbook, Chapter 6, Pages 189-197
WEEK NINE	
10/14	Levels of Analysis XI: Private Individuals and Mass Publics Textbook, Chapter 6, Pages 197-206
10/16	Midterm Review
10/18	***** MIDTERM TWO ***** Exam in class <u>and</u> take-home essay due 24 hours later
WEEK TEN	
10/21	International Organizations and International Law I Textbook, Chapter 7, Pages 208-228
10/23	International Organizations and International Law II Textbook, Chapter 7, Pages 228-245
10/25	Nongovernmental Organizations Textbook, Chapter 7, Pages 246-258
WEEK ELEVEN	
10/28	Violence I: Causes of War Textbook, Chapter 8, Pages 260-277
10/30	Violence II: How Wars Are Fought Textbook, Chapter 8, Pages 277-291
11/1	Violence III: Trade-Offs of War Textbook, Chapter 8, Pages 291-312 *** News Memo Two Due on Blackboard ***
WEEK TWELVE	
11/4	Violence IV: Transnational Crime Textbook, Chapter 11, Pages 426-433

11/6	Violence V: Future of War Paul Scharre, <i>Army of None</i> , Introduction and Chapter 1
11/8	Violence VI: ISIS Video, "The Secret History of ISIS," <i>Frontline</i> (54:47)
WEEK THIRTEEN	
11/11	Markets I: Historical Evolution of the International Political Economy Textbook, Chapter 9, Pages 316-324
11/13	Markets II: How the Globalized Economy Works Today Textbook, Chapter 9, Pages 324-339
11/15	Markets III: Economic Challenges in the 21st Century Textbook, Chapter 10, Pages 339-354
WEEK FOURTEEN	
11/18	Markets IV: Global Financial Crisis Video: "Inside the Meltdown," <i>Frontline</i> (56:20)
11/20	Rights I: Historical Foundations Textbook, Chapter 11, Pages 360-372
11/22	Rights II: The Role of the International Community and Specific Problems Textbook, Chapter 11, Pages 372-382
WEEK FIFTEEN	
11/25	Rights III: Refugees Textbook, Chapter 11, Pages 386-392 ***News Memo Three Due on Blackboard***\
11/27, 11/29	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break

WEEK SIXTEEN AND BEYOND	
12/2	Persistent Challenges: The Environment Textbook, Chapter 12, Pages 396-418
12/4	Looking Ahead Textbook, Chapter 12, Pages 433-440
12/6	Final Exam Review
12/10	****FINAL EXAM**** Take-home essays only