

**INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

PSCI 240, Spring 2018

Tuesday, Thursday: 11am - 12:20pm, Founders Hall 111

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Office hours: Tuesday, 9 – 11am

### **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? This is a required core course for the political science major where you will learn about 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. You will examine these international relations and the problems of war, trade, globalization, and humanitarian crises among others. You will place these problems in history and ask how the world came to be today. Moreover, you will evaluate existing theories and frameworks and question whether these are adequate to imagine different futures for global politics.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Explain and critically evaluate 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.

This class also promotes several of the outcomes identified by Humboldt State University:

- Promotes an expanded world perspective by engaging students through case studies and various media sources;
- Promotes effective written and oral communication through in-class writing assignments and discussion;
- Encourages critical and creative thinking through the exploration of international themes using several different disciplinary lenses;
- Provides information on international opportunities, thus promoting student preparation for an international career.

### **Required Texts**

*Essentials of International Relations*, Seventh Edition, Karen Mingst and Ivan Arreguin-Toft. Norton Publishing, 2017.

All other readings are available as PDFs on Canvas.

## Assignments

5 Mini-Quizzes: Random		15%
Midterm 1:	2/15/18	25%
Midterm 2:	3/22/18	25%
Final Exam:	5/11/18	35%

Midterms and the final exam will be in two parts. The first part will be in class, featuring short answers, and will be open book/notes. The second part will be a take-home essay that engages with a current world event. You will use course readings to take specific stances in these assignments. Mini-Quizzes will be closed book and feature definitional and ID questions. Due dates are subject to change with fair notice.

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

## Grading

HSU's guidelines for grading correspond to student performance where,

- A — Outstanding achievement
- B — Very good, commendable achievement
- C — Satisfactory achievement
- D — Minimum performance
- F — Failure without credit

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

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

## Policies

1. Attendance: I expect you to attend all classes but I will not take attendance. Please ask your fellow students for any missed material.
2. Communication: 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. Please follow this sample email as a guideline:

*Professor Srivastava, I am in your PSCI 240 class this semester. I read the syllabus and could not find information on recommended readings for week three. Could you please send me some additional resources? Thank you.*

All HSU students are responsible for checking their HSU email account for official communications. While students may elect to redirect messages sent to their official HSU email address to another address, those who redirect their email to another address do so at their own risk. [[HSU Email Policy.](#)]

3. Assignments: All assignments will be completed in class. There will be at least seven unannounced mini-quizzes, of which I will count five of your highest scores. There will

- be two non-cumulative midterm exams at the one-third and two-third points in the course and a cumulative final exam during finals week. The midterms and final exams will be open book.
4. Rescheduling: There will be no rescheduling of midterms or final exam except in officially documented circumstances. There is no make-up of mini-quizzes as you may miss two without penalty.
  5. Accommodation: Students requesting disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in the Learning Commons, Lower Library, 826-4678. Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange.
  6. Academic Honesty: Students are responsible for knowing HSU's policy regarding [academic honesty](#).
  7. Classroom Behavior: Please give others the same respect you would like to receive. Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding [disruptive behavior](#).
  8. Add/Drop Period: The last day to drop the class without penalty is Monday, January 29, 2018 at 11:59PM.

### Reading Schedule

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	
1/16	<b>Introduction to International Relations</b>
1/18	<b>Historical Context: Westphalian System to Present</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 2, Pages 20-69
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	
1/23	<b>State of Nature I: Hobbes and Locke</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 3, Pages 76-89
1/25	<b>Realism and Liberalism</b> Hans Morgenthau, <i>Politics Among Nations</i> , excerpts Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics"
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	
1/30	<b>State of Nature II: Kant and Marx</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 3, Pages 89-105
2/1	<b>Constructivism and Radicalism</b> Hedley Bull, <i>The Anarchical Society</i> , excerpts Robert Cox, "Social Forces, States, and World Orders"

<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	
2/6	<b>Three Images of International Politics</b> Kenneth Waltz, <i>Man, the State, War</i> , Introduction
2/8	<b>Levels of Analysis I: The International System</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 4, Pages 106-131
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	
2/13	<b>Beyond Anarchy</b> Alexander Wendt, "Why a World State is Inevitable"
2/15	*****MIDTERM ONE*****
<b>WEEK SIX</b>	
2/20	<b>Levels of Analysis II: The State</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 5, Pages 145-162
2/22	<b>Models of Foreign Policy Decision-Making</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 5, Pages 162-169;
<b>WEEK SEVEN</b>	
2/27	<b>Narratives of Fear</b> Jutta Weldes, <i>Constructing National Interests: The United States and the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , Chapter 1
3/1	<b>Levels of Analysis III: Individuals and Misperception</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 6, Pages 180-197
<b>WEEK EIGHT</b>	
3/6	<b>International Organizations: Governmental and Non-Governmental</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 7, Pages 208-240; 240-258
3/6	<b>Change Agents</b> Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics"
<b>WEEK NINE</b>	
3/13- 3/15	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

<b>WEEK TEN</b>	
3/20	<b>Old and New Wars</b> Mary Kaldor, <i>Old and New Wars</i> , chapter 2.
3/22	*****MIDTERM TWO*****
<b>WEEK ELEVEN</b>	
3/27	<b>Causes of War</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 8, Pages 260-277
3/29	<b>How Wars Are Fought</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 8, Pages 277-291
<b>WEEK TWELVE</b>	
4/3	NO CLASS: ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
4/5	<b>Terrorism</b> NO CLASS, WATCH AT HOME: The Secret History of ISIS <i>Frontline</i> (52 min)
<b>WEEK THIRTEEN</b>	
4/10	<b>How the Globalized Economy Works Today</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 9, Pages 316-339
4/12	<b>Global Inequality</b> Thomas Piketty, <i>Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</i> , Chapter 1
<b>WEEK FOURTEEN</b>	
4/17	<b>Economic Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 10, Pages 340-354
4/19	<b>Austerity Politics</b> Mark Blyth, <i>Austerity: History of a Dangerous Idea</i> , Chapter 1
<b>WEEK FIFTEEN</b>	
4/24	<b>Origins of Human Rights</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 11, Pages 360-382

4/26	<b>Gender and Rights</b> Charli Carpenter, “‘Women and Children First’: Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95”
<b>WEEK SIXTEEN AND BEYOND</b>	
5/1	<b>Refugees</b> Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, Chapter 11, Pages 386-392
5/3	<b>Looking Ahead</b> Alexander Wendt and Raymond Duvall, “Sovereignty and the UFO”
5/11	*****FINAL EXAM***** [Due on Canvas]