

Introduction to International Relations (POLS 175)

Instructor: Dr. Uk Heo
Office: Bolton Hall 614
Phone: 229-6681
E-mail: heouk@uwm.edu

OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to survey some of the major theories and issues in the study of international relations for a better understanding of international political phenomena. These include approaches (traditional and scientific) and perspectives in international relations (idealism and realism), actors in international system (nation-state, sub-state and non-state actors, such as IGO and NGO), power and measurement of power, international conflict (Balance of Power, Alliance, Bargaining, cause of war, conflicts of interest, means of leverage), Post WWII (American) foreign policy, international political economy (Mercantilism, Liberalism, Marxism, International Trade and Monetary Regime, North-South Relations etc.), international law and organization, environment issues, the political economy of defense (arms race, arms control, the impact of defense spending on economic performance, conversion, etc.), international integration and international development.

Required Readings:

Goldstein, Joshua. 2008. International Relations. 8th ed. Addison Wesley Longman.

Grades:

Your grade for this course will be based on three exams (25% each) and five discussion questions (5% each). Exams will be given on the 6th, 11th, and the finals week. Exams will be multiple choice and taken through the D2L site. You can take an exam at any time during the week it is available, but you will only have one opportunity to take it. **Once you begin the exam, you MUST finish it.** You cannot start an exam, then enter again at a later time to finish it. Also, exams will be timed (40 minutes), so you will have a set amount of time to take the exam once you begin. You should make sure that you have set aside the whole time allotted to take the exam just in case you need it. You should also make sure that you have a secure connection before you begin. You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would any closed-book exam and be prepared to complete the exam on your own.

I will post a discussion question eight times. Your response to the discussion question will be graded based on the followings: 1) demonstration of your understanding of the subject; 2) flow/logic of your argument; and 3) grammar (typos and grammatical errors). You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) in the "Discussion Questions Forum" on the D2L site by Sunday at midnight. You are encouraged to respond to the posting of another student as well. Your response **MUST** be at least 300 words in length. Failing to meet the minimum length will result in a failing grade. **Keep in mind that all responses and posting on the Discussion Questions forum must follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face to face classroom. Your responses to the discussion questions should address the question itself and demonstrate that you understand the topic under discussion. When you**

respond to someone else's post, do so with respect and thought. Personal attacks or excessive opinion-spouting will not be tolerated. You should engage each other's ideas and respond in a thoughtful, constructive, informed manner.

Grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale that breaks down as follows. There is no extra credit or curve.

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92.9		
B+ = 87-89.9	B = 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9	
C+ = 77-79.9	C = 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9	
D+ = 67-69.9	D = 63-66.9	D- = 60-62.9	F = Below 60

Any student who cheats on an exam or commits any other act of academic dishonesty will receive an F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate University authorities.

Flow of the Class: For this course, a week will start on Monday at 12:01 AM and end on Sunday 11:59PM. Posted my lecture notes combined with the readings from the textbook, will constitute the materials for the week. You are expected to read the chapter, access the lecture notes, and answer the discussion question. Please remember that I will be sending everything to your UWM e-mail accounts. If you don't regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly (**This is your responsibility**). When you need to e-mail me something for the class, send it to me at heouk@uwm.edu.

Course Outline

Week 1 (January 22-7). Introduction

Post a brief introduction of yourself in the discussion forum.

Week 2 (January 28-February 3). Understanding International Relations

IR as a Field of Study, Approaches in studying IR, Actors in International System, Level of Analysis

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 1

Week 3 (February 4-10). Power Politics

Idealism vs. Realism, Power, Bargaining, International System, Alliance

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 2

Discussion 1: Describe and evaluate idealism and realism.

Week 4 (February 11-17). Alternatives to Power Politics

Liberalism, Feminism, Postmodernism, Peace Studies

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 3

Week 5 (February 18-24). Foreign Policy

Decision Making, Sub-state Actors, U.S. Foreign Policy

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 4

First Exam

Week 6 (February 25-March 2). International Conflict

The Cause of War, Conflicts of Interest, Conflicts of Ideas, Means of Leverage

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 5

Week 7 (March 3-9). Military Force

The Use of Force, Defense Economics, Weapon Systems, Deterrence

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 6

Discussion 2: Is the clash between the West and Islamism inevitable? Why or why not? What can be done to prevent this clash from turning into a new Cold War?

Week 8 (March 10-16). International Organization and Law

World Order, The United Nations, International Law and Sovereignty

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 7

Discussion 3: Do you think the world would be a better or a worse place without a United Nations? Why? How should the UN be strengthened to meet future challenges?

Spring Break (March 17-23)

Week 9 (March 24-March 30). International Political Economy

Markets, Trade Strategies, Trade Regimes, Ideologies in IPE, Globalism vs. Regionalism

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 8,

Discussion 4: Describe the benefits and drawbacks of free trade.

Week 10 (March 31-April 6). Money and Business

The Currency System, State Financial Positions, Multinational Business

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 9

Second Exam

Week 11 (April 7-13). The Environment

Interdependence and the Environment, Managing the Environment, Natural Resources, Pollution, Population

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 11

Week 12 (April 14-20). The North-South Gap

Poverty, Theories of Accumulation, Imperialism, The State of South, Revolution

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 12

Discussion 5: About 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 per day. Why do some countries experience abject poverty while some other countries enjoy affluence?

Week 13 (April 21-27). International Development

Development, Lessons, North-South Business, Foreign Assistance

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 13

Week 14 (April 28-May 8). Conclusion

The Third Wave of Democratization, International System in the Future

Reading: Goldstein, Ch. 14

Final Exam