

Theories and Methods in International Politics (POLS 365)

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this course is to explore major theories and methods in the study of international relations. These include common theories of international conflict and international political economy. We will also discuss traditional and scientific methods used in studying international politics.

REQUIREMENTS

- Ten Discussions (5% each): 300-500 words
- One Exam (30%)
- One Research paper (20%): 8-10 pages, double-spaced with regular font and margins.

Readings

Articles assigned to this course can be found at jstor.org except the last one which can be found in D2L. To use the jstor.org, go to the homepage (www.jstor.org), click on BROWSE, then click on POLITICAL SCIENCE. Finally, look for the journal and the article.

Grades:

Your grade for this course will be based on one exam (25%), one research paper (25%) and your response to ten discussion questions (5% each). The final exam will be given on the last week of the class. The exam will be an essay test. You can take the 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 (2 hours), 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 ten times. They also appear in the syllabus. 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. Also, over the course of the semester, you **MUST** respond to the posting of another student at least once. Your response must be 300-500 words in length. **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. Each week, I will post my lecture notes and a discussion question(s). These materials, combined with the readings, will constitute the materials for the week. You are expected to do the readings, 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. When you e-mail me something for the class, send it to me at heouk@uwm.edu.

Course Outline

9/4-9: Get yourself familiar with the expectation of the course (course requirements and D2L) and post a brief introduction of yourself.

9/10-16: Introduction to Theories and Methods in Studying International Relations

Reading: Lecture Slides

Discussion 1: Is the scientific approach in studying international relations better than the traditional approach? If yes, explain why. If not, why not?

9/17-23: Ideologies and International System

Reading: Lecture Slides

Discussion 2: Is realism really realistic? If yes, explain why. If not, why not?

9/24-30: Graham Allison's Three Decision-Making Models,

Reading: Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American political Science Review* 63(3): 689-718.

Discussion 3: Graham Allison's rational actor model assumes that leaders are rational. Is this assumption reasonable?

10/1-7: Power Parity and the Likelihood of War

Kim, Woosang. 1989. "Power, Alliance, and Major Wars 1816-1975." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 33(2): 255-273.

Discussion 4: Does power balance or power preponderance lead to peace?

10/8-14: Trade and War

Readings: Mansfield, Edward and Brian Pollins (2001) "The Study of Interdependence and Conflict: Recent Advances, Open Questions, and Directions for Future Research" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(6): 834-859.

Discussion 5: If trade reduces the likelihood of war, globalization is likely to lead to peace because it promotes trade. Assess the statement.

10/15-21: Regime Types and War

Readings: Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett (1993) "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986" *American Political Science Review* 87: 624-638

Mansfield, E., and J. Snyder. (2002). "Incomplete Democratization and the Outbreak of Military Disputes." *International Studies Quarterly* 46: 529-549.

Oneal John R, Bruce Russett, and Michael L. Berbaum. (2003). "Causes of Peace: Democracy, Interdependence and International Organizations, 1885-1992. *International Studies Quarterly*, 47(3): 371-393.

Discussion 6: Is democracy more peaceful than non-democracies?

10/22-28: Deterrence

Readings; Huth, Paul and Bruce Russett (1984). "What Makes Deterrence Work? Cases from 1900 to 1980" *World Politics* 36:496-526.

Lebovic, James (2002) "The Law of Small Numbers: Deterrence and National Missile Defense" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46(4): 455-483.

Discussion 7: Take a position on the national missile defense system and defend your position.

10/29-11/4: Terrorism

Reading: Crenshaw, Martha. (2003). "Terrorism and International Violence." In Munus Midlarsky ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

O'Brien Sean (1996) "Foreign Policy Crises and the Resort to Terrorism" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40(2): 320-335

Discussion 8: What do you think caused the September 11 attack on the US?

11/5-11: Globalization

Readings: Lecture slides

Discussion 9: Describe the benefits and drawbacks of globalization.

11/12-18: **Submit a brief (1-2 pages) proposal for your term-paper.**

11/19-25: Thanksgiving

11/26- 12/2: Foreign Direct Investment

Readings: Uk Heo and Karl DeRouen, Jr. 2002. "Modernization and Dependency Revisited: U.S. Direct Investment, Development, and Polity in Latin America, 1950-1998." *Global Economic Review* 31(3): 67-93.

Discussion 10: Is foreign direct investment good for the economies of less developed

countries?

12/3-12: Final Exam

12/13: Term Paper Due