International Relations INR 2001
Introduction to International Relations
Course Syllabus

Fall 2012
M W 12:00 - 12:50 PM, SIPA 125
Office: SIPA 431
Dr. Paul A. Kowert

Introduction to International Relations will help you to understand and evaluate three related problems in international relations: (1) making peace and providing security, (2) making wealth and ensuring prosperity, and (3) making meaning and preserving community values. Put another way, this course will examine both conflict and cooperation in the pursuit of these goals (peace, wealth, and meaning). At one extreme, conflict over the appropriate ways to achieve these goals has led to violence among peoples and war among states. On the other hand, efforts to identify cooperative solutions to these problems have gradually led to the emergence of powerful international institutions and to the promise, if not always the reality, of more harmonious international relationships. Adding urgency to our investigation of these problems is the realization that globalization has worked both to intensify conflict and to heighten the demand for international cooperation.

This course will improve your grasp of these problems. It will familiarize you with the terminology used by political leaders and policy advisers in their efforts to provide security, wealth, and meaning, and also by social scientists as they seek to comprehend these efforts. It will describe the principal explanations for both conflict and cooperation in each of these areas. And it will explore the relevance of all of these problems at multiple levels, ranging from the interests of nation states to the impact of international relations on our daily lives.

Course Requirements

Class Participation: Regular class attendance is essential to success in this course—the mid-term and final exams may cover material presented in the lectures but not in the assigned readings.

This course also requires attendance and participation in a weekly discussion section (scheduled at various times on Friday each week). These discussion sections are led by teaching assistants (TAs), who may also distribute in-class or take-home assignments. It is important to do the assigned readings before coming to each class. In the event that a class must be cancelled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings. Do not assume that a class (either a lecture, a test, or a discussion section) is cancelled unless so informed by your professor, your TA, or by another university representative in person (or, in the event of an emergency, through FIU's automated emergency system).

Quickwrite Exercises: The Friday discussion sections will typically begin with a "quickwrite" exercise, map quiz, or other assignment. The quickwrites are brief writing exercises, involving one or more questions about the readings assigned for that week. You should take handwritten notes on the readings (not typed or electronic), and you may use these notes (but nothing else) during the exercise. These exercises cannot be made up (to do them, you must be present on time, in class), but your two lowest grades will be dropped. Successful completion of these assignments can also give you a major advantage in the course: If you do not miss more than 1 exercise or quiz, and if you have earned at least a B average on these assignments, then you may choose to count your quickwrite exercise grade (the average of your quickwrite and quiz grades) as your final exam grade (and skip the final).

Exams: The Mid-Term Exams will cover the lectures, classroom discussions, and reading assignments from the first and second parts of this course. We will discuss the format of the test in class before the exam. The Final Exam is cumulative, and will be held during the scheduled examination week (tentatively, Friday, December 7, 9:45 - 11:45 am). You will be permitted to take a make-up exam, for any missed exam, only in the event of documented illness or other serious extenuating circumstances. No books, notes, or personal electronic devices (cell phones, computers, mp3 players, etc.) may be used during exams.
Your grade will be determined on the basis of these course requirements as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quickwrite Exercises &amp; Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Numerical grades on these assignments are converted to a final letter grade in the following manner. For grades in the A range, 90-92 is an A-; 93 or greater is an A. For grades in the B range, 80-82 is a B-; 83-86 is a B; and 87-89 is a B+. Grades in the C range (70-72 = C-; 73-76 = C; 77-79 = C+) and D range (60-62 = D-; 63-66 = D; 67-69 = D+) are calculated in a similar manner. Numerical grades between 0 and 59 result in an F.

**Academic Integrity**

Be certain that you are familiar with the University's rules concerning academic misconduct as described in the Student Handbook. Cheating or other forms of misconduct can result in severe penalties (which, according to University policy, may include a failing grade and/or expulsion from the University). For more information on these policies, see the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution website: [http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/](http://www.fiu.edu/~sccr/).

**Textbooks**

The required texts for this course are available at the campus bookstore (use ISBN 1256823724 for the discounted package price).


2. Pearson-Foreign Affairs Custom Publications, *Among Nations: Readings in International Relations* (New York: Longman, 2010). This is a custom reader; be sure to purchase the one for this course (ISBN 0558728324 if purchasing separately).

**Website and Online Supplements**

The course website is located in the Blackboard Learn environment on the FIU eCampus: [https://ecampus.fiu.edu/](https://ecampus.fiu.edu/). Here, you will find the information contained on this syllabus (including reading assignments and exams), as well as one reading assignment not contained in the textbooks. The site also features a moderated forum on which you may discuss course-related topics, and other supplementary course material. Posts should maintain a professional and respectful tone (and will be removed if they do not or if they are unrelated to course objectives).

The textbook publisher, Pearson-Longman, also maintains a website with material including chapter guides, online flashcards and quizzes, and current events news. Reviewing this material is not required, but will help you to prepare for the examinations. These MyPoliSciKit supplements are located online at: [http://www.mypoliscikit.com/](http://www.mypoliscikit.com/). Access is typically included in the price of the discounted textbook package, or it can be purchased separately. For online assistance, see: 247pearsoned.com.

**Questions? Problems?**

You are welcome to discuss this course with me during my office hours. To make an appointment, please contact me by email (kowert@fiu.edu). For most problems, however, you should first consult with your TA.
Syllabus

1. **Monday, August 20 — Introduction**
   What is politics?  What is international relations?  What is this course about?

2. **Wednesday, August 22 — Core Concepts:  One World, Many Voices**
   How does international relations reflect dual processes of unification and division?

3. **Friday, August 24 — Discussion Section**
   Topic:  Unity and Division in the Late Twentieth Century.

4. **Monday, August 27 — Core Concepts:  Levels and the State**
   How do personal, national, and international politics interact?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 1, pp. 3-26.
   In-class presentation on using FIU eCampus (ecampus.fiu.edu) and MyPoliSciKit (www.mypoliscikit.com).

5. **Wednesday, August 29 — Core Concepts:  Theories, Paradigms**
   What is a theory? What are the most prominent theories of international relations?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 2, pp. 43-49.
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 96-103.

6. **Friday, August 31 — Discussion Section**
   Topic:  Applying theories to history … and to the future.

Problem I:  Making Peace

Monday, September 3:  Labor Day (University Closed)

7. **Wednesday, September 5 — International Systems**
   What is a system? What is polarity? What kind of international system is stable?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 2, pp. 49-71.

8. **Friday, September 7 — Discussion Section**
   Topic:  Wars of the world.

9. **Monday, September 10 — Defining the National Interest**
   What do states really want?  Can they get it?  What is the security dilemma?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 6, pp. 193-226.

10. **Wednesday, September 12 — Balancing, Bandwagoning, and other Strategies**
    What strategies do states use to manage their security?
    Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 2, pp. 71-79.
11. **Friday, September 14 — Discussion Section**  
   *Topic: Defining and pursuing national security.*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 5, pp. 177-188.

12. **Monday, September 17 — The Structure of Domestic Politics**  
   *Do different kinds of states choose different foreign policies?*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 90-96.

13. **Wednesday, September 19 — Foreign Policy Making and Interest Groups**  
   *Whose interests are served?*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 4, pp. 136-147.

14. **Friday, September 21 — Discussion Section**  
   *Topic: Society, Interest Groups, and Foreign Policy.*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 103-106.

15. **Monday, September 24 — Foreign Policy Making and Leadership**  
   *Who makes policy choices? How?*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 4, pp. 127-135.

16. **Wednesday, September 26 — Human Security**  
   *Who is being secured? How does the meaning of security change?*  

17. **Friday, September 28 — Discussion Section**  
   *Topic: Human Rights.*  

18. **Monday, October 1 — MID-TERM EXAMINATION 1**

   **Problem II: Making Wealth**

19. **Wednesday, October 3 — International Trade and the International System**  
   *How is international trade organized? Who organizes it, and who benefits?*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 8, pp. 283-309.

20. **Friday, October 5 — Discussion Section**  
   *Topic: Globalization and Trade.*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 8, pp. 309-314.  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 10, pp. 370-381.

21. **Monday, October 8 — Regulating the International Financial System**  
   *How are public goods produced? How is the international financial system regulated?*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 9, pp. 321-333.

22. **Wednesday, October 10 — Money and the Unholy Trinity of International Finance**  
   *What economic goals matter most to states?*  
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 9, pp. 333-349.

23. **Friday, October 12 — Discussion Section**  
   *Topic: Globalization and its discontents.*  
   Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, "Has Globalization Passed its Peak?" in *Among Nations.*
24. Monday, October 15 — International Economic Competition
   Must states compete economically? Can they cooperate for mutual benefit?

25. Wednesday, October 17 — Economic Integration and Regional Growth
   Is regional integration a public good?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 10, pp. 355-370.

26. Friday, October 19 — Discussion Section

27. Monday, October 22 — The Environment and Limits to Growth
   How is growth possible in a finite world?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 11, pp. 387-418.

28. Wednesday, October 24 — Global Poverty and Development
   How is wealth distributed? What problems do developing countries face?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 12, pp. 425-443.

29. Friday, October 26 — Discussion Section
   Topic: The Postcolonial legacy.
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 12, pp. 443-455.

30. Monday, October 29 — Self Reliance, Aid and Other Development Strategies
   What are the principal strategies of poverty reduction and national development?

31. Wednesday, October 31 — MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2

32. Friday, November 2 — Discussion Section
   Topic: Extra Credit Exercise.

   Problem III: Making Meaning

33. Monday, November 5 — Culture and Meaning
   How do civilizational, religious, and other differences shape international relations?
   Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" in Among Nations.

34. Wednesday, November 7 — Revenge of the Local
   Do ethnic, kin, religious, and other local communities offer essential meaning?
   Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 5, pp. 160-177.

35. Friday, November 9 — National Identities
   Where do national identities come from?
   Fareed Zakaria, "Culture is Destiny," in Among Nations.

Monday, November 12: Veteran's Day (University Closed)
36. **Wednesday, November 14 — National Images, Soft Power, and Foreign Policy**
   How do national identities present themselves, and how do they shape foreign policy?
   Joseph S. Nye, Jr., "Soft Power and American Foreign Policy," in *Among Nations*.

37. **Friday, November 16 — Discussion Section**
   *Topic: Is the state dead?*
   Martin Wolf, "Will the Nation State Survive Globalization?" in *Among Nations*.

38. **Monday, November 19 — Building Communities of Meaning and Obligation**
   Can an international legal community be created? Can international society transform international politics?

39. **Wednesday, November 21 — International Organizations**
   What are the principle institutions of the global community, and how do they function?

**Thursday & Friday, November 22-23: Thanksgiving Holiday (University Closed)**

**Conclusion**

40. **Monday, November 26 — Transforming International Relations?**
   *Is "international relations" obsolete? Could it be?*

41. **Wednesday, November 28 — Unifying, Dividing, and the Big Picture**
   *Is it possible to move beyond the dual pressures of unification and division in international relations?*

42. **Friday, November 30 — Review Sessions for Final Exam**

**Final Exam (tentative):** Friday, December 7, 9:45 - 11:45 am, regular lecture room
**Important Note:** FIU sets the exam time, which often differs from the regular class time!