Course Description and Goals:

International Politics (also called World Politics) is a subfield of international studies that investigates various interactions between countries, including political, military, diplomatic, and economic relations. The purpose of this course is to provide a detailed walkthrough to various topics of International Politics. Of course, as an upper division course in the field of international studies, the material covered is not easy. But the challenges students encounter in this course will breed the knowledge and tools for students to navigate future careers in diplomacy, international business, education, or advocacy.

The course is designed to focus on the role of actors and institutions in shaping today's international system. We will discuss the preferences of these actors and how they try to fulfill their policy goals in an anarchic state system. We will begin with the foundational theories of international politics (realism, liberalism, constructivism, etc.), and continue to theories of peace and conflict and other important topics, including international political economy (trade and finance), development, and international law. Students are expected to acquire substantial knowledge of International Politics after finishing this class.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students can expect to learn how to:

1. Define, understand, and use concepts and terms relevant to the study of contemporary international politics.

2. Apply a body of factual knowledge directly relevant to understanding causes and effects of international conflict and cooperation among nation-states.

3. Analyze empirical evidence relevant to evaluating different points of view on historical and contemporary problems in world politics.

4. Analyze alternative explanations for patterns of conflict and cooperation among different nation-states.

Cross-listing with POSC 3352, MLINS 5352, and MLPOS 5352.
Required Texts


Other recommended readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Students will be assessed according to their knowledge of the course materials and their ability to analyze, explain, and apply their knowledge to new and different contexts. Students who are regularly prepared for lecture and active in discussion also tend to earn higher grades on their and exams.

You are expected to attend lecture and do all of the reading. The assigned materials should be read before class on the date that they are listed. Lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed the reading for that day and are able to analyze the content.

- **Attendance, Discussion and Participation (20%)**
  Participation in class discussion is extremely important in the context of learning. Students are expected to come to each of the class and provide insights and share their ideas with others.

- **Three Short Essays (30%)**
  You will be required to answer ONE of the questions posted on Blackboard. Each essay constitutes 10% of your final grade.

Technical details:

- Your essay need to be typed and submitted to Blackboard under “Assignments.”
- You need to provide a title page indicating your name and which question you are answering.
- **Three academic references (newspapers, books/book chapters, academic articles, etc.) is required.** You are encouraged to follow the format of the *American Political Science Review* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* for your citations and reference. The Center for International Studies does not require a unified citation style, and the only requirement is to be consistent in the format you choose.
- The length of the essay is 3 pages, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1 inch margins.
- Sloppy writing should be avoided.

\footnote{For graduate students, five academic references are required.}

\footnote{For graduate students, 5 pages.}
Dates to submit your answer on Blackboard:
1. 2/23.
2. 4/6.
3. 5/11.

- A Midterm Closed-Book Exam (20%)
The midterm exam will be a closed-book test, given at March 20. The exam will include multiple-choice, true-or-false, fill-the-blank, and short answer questions. The questions will be drawn from the lectures and required readings.

- A Final Open-Book Exam (30%)
The final exam will be an open-book test, given at May 8, 12:00-2:30 pm. You can bring your textbook and class notes as your references. However, all electronic devices (laptops, cell-phones, and etc.) are strictly prohibited in this exam. The exam will include multiple-choice, true-or-false, fill-the-blank, and short answer questions. The questions will be drawn from the lectures and readings from the whole semester (cumulative).

- Extra Credit Students are encouraged to participate in the speaker/lecture series held by the Center for International Studies. Attending the lecture, and submitting a one page response memo (double-spaced, 1-in margins, and Times New Roman font) within ONE week after the lecture will grant TWO additional points to the final exam score. Students can earn at most 10 addition points for their final exam.

Graduate Student Addendum to Syllabus:
The quality of work from graduate students should be, by definition, superior in most instances to undergraduate work. MLA students are required to provide additional pages of analysis per essay assignment/exam. On examinations, graduate students will also be held to a higher standard with regard to the precision of answers. In other words, partial credit will be limited.

Policy on Missed Exams and Late Papers
- If you have an “acceptable excuse” that causes you to miss an exam/quiz (e.g., illness with a note from a doctor), contact your professor (me) within two business days of the test (preferably contact me before the test) and a make-up exam will be scheduled. Note that the format of the make-up exam/quiz may be different from the format of the regular exam.
- If you miss a test/quiz and do not have an “acceptable excuse,” you will receive a 0 on the test/quiz.
- Late papers and exams lose a letter grade per day late (including both business and non-business days). However, if you have an “acceptable excuse,” you will have extra time to finish your assignments.
• If you are late for over three days (> 3, including both business and non-business days) without an “acceptable excuse,” you will receive a 0 on the test/assignment.

Grading Policy:

The grade will be rounding to one decimal place. No additional rounding will be executed.

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\begin{array}{cccc}
A = \geq 93 & B+ = 87-89.9 & C+ = 77-79.9 & D+ = 67-69.9 \\
A- = 90-92.9 & B = 83-86.9 & C = 73-76.9 & D = 60-66.9 \\
B- = 80-82.9 & C- = 70-72.9 & F = Below 60
\end{array}
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Academic Honesty: Cheating will not be tolerated. You must write your own quizzes and exams. Plagiarism is a representation of another person’s work as your own (for example, directly quoting from another source without using quotation marks). See the University of St. Thomas regulations, “Scholastic Dishonesty.” If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any exam or assignment, you will be punished to the maximum extent possible. While some cross-pollination of ideas may occur, student papers must not be written in collaboration. Student papers of similar flow, structure, word-choice, and content will be treated in the same manner as if they were plagiarized.

Disability Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with me (the professor) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713)525-2169 or 6953.
Course Outline and Readings

Readings are expected to be done by the beginning of the lecture date of the topic.

1. January 18
   Course overview

2. January 23
   Topic 1: What is World Politics?
   Required readings:
   - FLS: Introduction and Chapter 1.
   Recommended readings:

3. January 25-February 1
   Topic 2: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions
   Required readings:
   - FLS: Chapter 2.
   Recommended readings:

4. February 6-13
   Topic 3: International Conflict
   Required readings:
   - FLS: Chapter 3.
   Recommended readings:

5. February 15-22 [No Class, February 27, Leading thesis presentations to AABSS]
   Topic 4: Domestic Politics and Conflict
   Required readings:
• FLS: Chapter 4.

Recommended readings:


6. March 1-8 [Happy Spring Break!]

Topic 5: International Institutions and Conflict

Required readings:

• FLS: Chapter 5.

Recommended readings:


7. March 20

The Midterm Exam

8. March 22-April 3 [No Class, March 29, Happy Easter Break!]

Topic 6: International Trade

Required readings:

• FLS: Chapter 7.

Recommended readings:


9. April 10-17 [No Class, April 5, Attending MPSA]

Topic 7: International Finance

Required readings:

• FLS: Chapter 8.

Recommended readings:


10. April 19-26
   Topic 8: International Monetary Policy
   Required readings:
   • FLS: Chapter 9.

   Recommended readings:

11. May 1-3
    Topic 9: International Development
    Required readings:
    • FLS: Chapter 10.

    Recommended readings:

12. May 3
    Review

13. May 8 (12:00-2:30 pm)
    The Final Exam