

## **POL 003: Intro to International Relations**

**Course Meetings:** M, T, W, R, 4:10-5:25 PM. Bainer Hall 1130

**Instructor:** Jaime Jackson

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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 12-2pm or by appointment.

### **Course Objectives**

The study of international relations concerns political, military, economic, social, and cultural processes, and institutions that affect ways in which nations, sub national, and super-national entities deal with each other across the world. This course provides a broad overview of the key theoretical approaches and the major contemporary problems that characterize international relations. It examines the evolution of international relations over the past two centuries, the structure of the international system, the key actors (states, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, sub state actors, and multinational corporations). The discussions focus on the instruments of statecraft and the process of making policy in a complex and interdependent world. It reviews central phenomena and processes such as war and peace, international political economy, environmental and resource problems, and dilemmas and strategies of international cooperation.

In addition to advancing students' substantive knowledge about international relations, the course seeks to advance the students' ability to think analytically and systematically about international problems, and to connect theoretical approaches to empirical events and processes. The course is divided into three parts, each deals with a fundamental aspect of the study and practice of international politics:

- The setting of world politics.
- The major instruments of politics and the key players in international relations.
- Major problems in contemporary and future international politics.

### **Required Readings**

TEXTBOOK: Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

In addition to reading from the text book listed above, you will be alternatively assigned a few articles and podcasts. These will be made available on Canvas. See course outline for reading schedule. I also encourage you to keep up with international news (e.g. BBC World, New York Times, Washington Post, etc).

## Grading

The course grade will be based on the following:

**Class Participation** (15%) - Participation in my class includes class discussion, in-class activities (including simulations), and attendance. Attendance to class is mandatory as is participation in class discussion. Opportunities will be provided to participate through oral or written discussion so that everyone feels comfortable participating.

**Oral Presentation** (10%) - You will give one oral presentation during the summer session based on a relevant news story. You will present the highlights of a recent current event and discuss how class themes and theory can help us to make sense of this recent event. Your presentation will be no longer than 5 minutes.

**Quizzes** (20%) - There will be three quizzes administered on Thursday of Weeks 1, 3, and 5 that will assess your knowledge and comprehension of course readings. You will be allowed to drop your worst quiz grade of the three, making your overall quiz grade based on your two highest quiz scores.

**Response Papers** (20%) - You will have two response papers due by midnight on Thursday of Weeks 2 and 4. These response papers will be one page, single-spaced. Requirements for these response papers can be found on Canvas in the Response Papers folder under Files.

**Final Exam** (35%) - You will have a final exam on the last day of class that will cover readings, course lectures, and discussions. A final exam review will take place the day prior to the final exam to give students an opportunity to get help with difficult concepts. The exam will be a combination of multiple choice, identifications, and short answer questions. If you need accommodations for extra time on the exam, please register with Student Disability Services.

## Course Outline:

WEEK ONE: What are International Relations?

- **August 6th** Course Introduction
- **August 7th** What are International Relations? Reading: Chapter 1 *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*
- **August 8th** Behavior in the International System. Reading: Chapter 2 *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*

- **August 9th** Using Game Theory to Help Us Understand IR. Course Simulation. No reading. Quiz One.

#### WEEK TWO: Key Actors in International Relations

- **August 13th** Levels of Analysis. Reading: “One World, Many Actors”, in *International Relations*, Stephen McGlinchey ed.
- **August 14th** Theories of International Relations. Reading: Slaughter, Anne-Marie, “International Relations: Principal Theories.”
- **August 15th** Institutions at a Glance: Understanding the United Nations. No reading.
- **August 16th** Film Viewing: The New Rulers of the World. No Reading. Response Paper One Due by 11:59pm on Canvas.

#### WEEK THREE: Conflict in the International System

- **August 20th** Why Countries Fight. Reading: Chapter 3 *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*
- **August 21st** Domestic Price of War. Reading: Tomz, Michael. 2007. “Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach.”
- **August 22nd** Conflict at a Glance: Understanding the Balkans Conflicts. No Reading.
- **August 23rd** Democratic Peace Theory. Reading: Podcast “OWTP Episode Two: A Democratic Peace?” Quiz Two.

#### WEEK FOUR: New Security Threats and Civil Conflict

- **August 27th** Collective Security. Reading: Chapter 5 *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*
- **August 28th** Nuclear Proliferation. Reading: Podcast Council on Foreign Relations Interview with Matthew Fuhman.
- **August 29th** Civil War and Terrorism. Reading: Chapter 6 *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*

- **August 30th** Civil Conflict at a Glance: Understanding Violent and Nonviolent Resistance. No reading. Response Paper Two Due by 11:59pm on Canvas.

#### WEEK FIVE: International Political Economy

- **September 3rd** International Trade. Reading: Chapter 7: *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*
- **September 4th** Trade and Development. Reading: Podcast, This American Life “Dreams of Distant Factories.”
- **September 5th** Economic Crises at a Glance: Understanding Great Depression and 2008 Crash. No reading.
- **September 6th** Financial Relations and FDI. Reading: Chapter 8: *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*. Quiz 3.

#### WEEK SIX: Contemporary Issues in International Relations

- **September 10th** Human Rights and International Law. Reading: Podcast Radio Lab “Enemy of Mankind”.
- **September 11th** Environmental Protection. Reading: Chapter 13 *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*
- **September 12th** Wrap up and discussion. Final exam review.
- **September 13th** FINAL EXAM

#### Course Policies

*E-mail and Office Hours:* Guidelines for e-mail correspondence with the instructor: (1) include the course in the subject line along with subject; (2) 24-hour response time during the week, 48-hour response time over the weekend; (3) please use the e-mail you would like your response to come to; (4) include any attachments you wish to have reviewed or that you have referred to in the body of the text; (5) check the discussion board on Canvas prior to submitting e-mail questions; (6) consider posting to the discussion board on Canvas if you have a general question; (7) create a prioritized list of your questions for office hours visits.

*Attendance, Participation, and Weekly Readings:* Class attendance and the corresponding assignments are mandatory. All students should come prepared to participate in class discussion.

*Grade Appeals:* Students will have one week from when grades are posted to appeal their grade. All appeals must include a typed, double spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal, and you must justify with evidence from your exam, paper, or summaries. If you choose to appeal your grade, the instructor reserves the right to increase or decrease the existing grade.

## **Academic Honesty**

As a University of California student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy. Cheating and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Students are expected to work independently on all graded assignments. Please refer to the UC Davis policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. Students who engage in cheating will earn an F (no pass) grade.

All written work must reflect your own scholarship, in line with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct. For guidelines avoiding plagiarism see the SJA at <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/>. You are expected to be aware of these guidelines, ignorance of guidelines does not excuse a violation.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet any of the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UC Davis will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities.

**Laptops and tablets are permitted in-class for note-taking and in-class activities only. Please do not disrupt your classmates by surfing the web or engaging in other activities.**