Overview and Objectives

This course provides students with the background and conceptual tools they need to understand contemporary international relations. Students will be introduced to the literature in a broad way, to make them familiar with the main theoretical traditions in the field, as well as read original scholarly work that provides a more in-depth analysis of each week’s topic. Together, we will create a working outline that links the core concepts in international relations to particular current interest such as the economic and security implications of the rise of China, nation-building in Africa, the ongoing conflict(s) in the Middle East, and the global economic crisis. By the end of the semester, students in this course should have a clearer comprehension of international relations and analytical approaches to studying political problems.

Requirements

There will be four examinations, each worth 25%. All exams will be in-class and consist of multiple choice and short answer questions covering material from both the readings and lectures. The exams WILL NOT BE CUMULATIVE.

Grading Scale:

- A 93-100
- A- 90-92
- B+ 87-89
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D+ 67-69
- D 63-66
- D- 60-62
- F ≤ 59

Make-up Exams Policy

By enrolling in this course you are entering into a contract to take the scheduled exams. In the exceptional circumstances that you will miss an exam you will be required to take a makeup exam. If you miss an exam, please notify me as soon as possible.
Attendance

Attendance is required. This is a large class and I cannot take attendance every day. To ensure attendance, there will be several short pop quizzes throughout the semester.

Required Texts


All assigned scholarly articles are available on www.scholar.google.com. Just search using the author’s name and article title.

I also encourage you to keep up-to-date on current events by reading articles relating to foreign policy and international relations in a major news media source. Two good sources are the New York Times and the Washington Post. They have substantial coverage of international events, and you can subscribe to either at a very reasonable student rate. A major weekly news magazine, such as the Economist, will also provide strong coverage of international events. You will also find that many news organizations provide news online, free of charge (i.e., www.news.google.com).

Disabilities

As Washington University we realize that students encounter many challenges in your educational experience. WashU has great resources. The first point of contact is Cornerstone http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/ If you have any special needs or concerns, please contact me by email ochyzh@wustl.edu as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor. See WashUs formal policy: http://wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html
Grade Complaints

Students who think they have received an unfair grade for one of the exams should write a formal one-page memo summarizing the nature of their complaint and why the work warrants a higher grade. We take grading very seriously and attempt to minimize biased grading. This includes giving higher grades to students who lobby for extra points. Thus grade complaints should not be made casually. Grade complaints should be emailed to me within one week of receiving the grade. I reserve the right to adjust the grade upward or downward.

Course Outline

I reserve the right to modify the assigned readings based on the pace of the.

Week 1 (Aug. 26): What is International Relations?
FLS - Introduction.

Week 2 (Sept. 2): What Shaped Our World?
Monday, Sep 2—Labor Day, no class
FLS - Ch. 1.

Week 3 (Sept. 9): Interests, Interactions, and Institutions
FLS - Ch. 2.

Week 4 (Sept. 16): Bargaining and War
FLS - Ch. 3.

Week 5 (Sept. 23): Domestic Politics and War
FLS - Ch. 4.
Week 6 (Sept. 30): International Institutions and War and Exam 1
FLS - Ch. 5.
Exam on Wednesday, Oct. 2

Week 7 (Oct. 7): International Trade
FLS - Ch. 7.

Week 8 (Oct. 14): International Finance
FLS - Ch. 8.

Week 9 (Oct. 21): International Monetary Relations
FLS - Ch. 9.

Week 10 (Oct. 28): Development and Exam 2
FLS - Ch. 10.
Exam on Wednesday, Oct. 30

Week 11 (Nov. 4): International Law and Norms
FLS - Ch. 11.

Week 12 (Nov. 11): Terrorism
FLS - Ch. 6.
Week 13 (Nov. 18): International Human Rights and Exam 3

FLS - Ch. 12.


Exam on Wednesday, Nov. 20

Week 14 (Nov. 25): The Global Environment

FLS - Ch. 13.


Week 15 (Dec. 2): The Future of International Politics and Exam 4

FLS - Ch. 14.

Exam 4 on Wednesday, Dec. 4