

# Political Science 315: International Relations

*Fall 2018*

*TR 8:30-9:45, WMBB 133*

## Course Information

### Professor

Dr. Chelsea Estancona

Office: Gambrell 325

Professor Office Hours: TR: 11:00-12:30

Email: estancon@mailbox.sc.edu

### Teaching Assistant

Li Huang

Office: Gambrell 353

TA Office Hours: 10:00-1:00 R

Email: lh13@email.sc.edu

## Course Description

This course is designed to achieve two objectives: (1) to introduce you to some of the most important topics and puzzles in the study of international relations, and (2) to provide you with some analytic concepts that can be used to study world politics. The primary goal of the course is to teach you how to think about politics in the global arena and to prepare you for more advanced courses in international relations. I do not presume any exposure to the field of international relations, and there are no prerequisites for the course. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course, so if you do not already have your favorite source of news or history, now is a good time to find one. I recommend the New York Times, Economist, BBC World News, and Foreign Policy (all available online or through UofSC Libraries), but any favorite news source (or two!) will do.

## Course Requirements

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two midterm exams and one final exam, a writing assignment requiring at least five pages of writing, and participation in lecture. Each midterm exam is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your grade. The writing assignment is worth 20% of your course grade. Your participation grade, including regular in-class participation and current events presentations, will count for the remaining 15% of the final grade.

### Exams

The midterm and final exams are in-class, closed book & notes. They will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Please come early on exam days in order to use the entire class period for the exam. The final exam will be cumulative.

**Policy on Unexcused Absences and Make Up Exams:** You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented medical emergency or previously excused absence from the dean. If you miss a scheduled exam, you **may** be allowed to make a make-up test, but there will be a significant penalty.

### Papers

You will write one short paper (5-7 pages). This paper is designed to encourage you to think critically about the theories we discuss in class and assess the usefulness of these theories for analyzing a specific, current global phenomenon. I will

provide the details of this writing assignment in a separate document on Blackboard. These assignments are due in class as a hard copy on **December 6th**. Please note that I do not accept late work with the exception of previously approved communication due to extenuating circumstances.

**Writing policy:** This class should be an opportunity to build your writing skills. To this end, your TA and your professor are happy to talk about good practices in office hours. While we cannot read drafts prior to submission, we will gladly talk through outlines. I also strongly encourage you to take advantage of USC's Writing Center.

## Participation

In-class participation is your best opportunity for active learning and discussing the material critically. Attendance is required, and regular active participation is expected (a participation grade based solely on attendance will not be a good one). I do not expect you to come to class with all the answers (why take the class in that case?), but you should come prepared to discuss the readings, current events within the context of what we are learning, and come with questions. Quality is just as important as quantity in your participation, and quality requires listening skills. The goal is to deliberate together to improve our understanding of the material, so be careful to not talk past each other. We will occasionally use informal small groups for active in-class learning, so be prepared to work well with others.

**Absences from lecture:** Students are allowed **three absences**. Each subsequent absence will result in a 4 point reduction in the student's grade.

## Current Events Presentations

One objective of this class is to connect students to current events in the real world and prepare them to assess these events using theory learned in class. Toward this goal, each student will give a 5-10 minute presentation on a news article from a reputable source. Your TA will keep track of the events discussed, which are likely to make an appearance on midterms and the final exam. Additional information about this assignment can be found in a handout available on Blackboard.

## Course Materials

The following required book is available in the USC Bookstore.<sup>1</sup> All readings are available electronically via the [USC library e-journals and e-resources databases](#) or on the course Blackboard site. These readings are meant to provide a sampling of topics in International Relations. If there are additional topics you wish to learn more about, please let me know and I will direct you to additional resources or courses at USC.

- Frieden, Jeffrey, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, 2015. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions - Third Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York, London.<sup>2</sup>

## Important Dates

- Midterm Exam 1: October 2
- Midterm Exam 2: November 1

---

<sup>1</sup>You need not purchase the book through the bookstore, but take care to purchase the correct version of the textbook.

<sup>2</sup>Henceforth 'FLS'

- Paper due date: December 6
- Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11, 9:00 AM.

## Expectations

**Technology in Class:** Please turn your mobile phones off or to silent mode before class. No calls, no Snapchat, no Insta, no text messaging during class. On exam days your phones must be turned off and put away. Laptops are permitted **for class purposes only!** Readings should be downloaded prior to class. Please do not use your laptops for email, Facebook, Twitter, games, web surfing, or any activity that is unrelated to the course. This sounds impossible, but I promise you can do it. Learning by lecture is hard enough, and you distract yourself and your neighbors when you use phones & laptops for anything non-course related. **Be aware that your TA will sit in the back of the room: using your laptop for anything other than coursework will result in a recorded absence for that day.**

**Grading Policies:** Your TA has final authority on all grading decisions. From time to time, students may have questions regarding grades received on exams and papers. The TA is willing to review any graded assignment, however they will not accept any questions or concerns until 24 hours after the assignment has been returned to you. In addition, the TA will only take grade appeals up to two weeks after the posting of a grade. Students are required to express grade concerns in writing (in two forms, electronically and hard-copy) and include specific details as to why the grade should be changed. When the TA reviews an assignment, they will re-grade the entire assignment. The TA reserves the right to either raise or lower your grade during the review based on the reassessment of the assignment. Thus, it is important to read comments carefully and to be honest with oneself before contacting the teaching assistant with a grade appeal. Finally, if you send me your favorite Parks and Recreation .gif prior to September 1st I will raise your final grade by 2 points.

**Professor Communication:** I may not be able to answer all email immediately, but will do my best to do so promptly. If you need to notify me of something important (e.g., absence from an exam), come to my office hours **before** the exam. If you have an emergency and can't inform me in person, you may do so by email, but you will need to follow up with an office visit when you are able. If you have course related questions that require a detailed response from me (e.g., review questions the night before a test), email is not likely to work. Come see me or your TA during either of our office hours (top of page). If these office hours do not fit with your course schedule, we are happy to schedule another time to meet.

**Honor Code:** The Carolinian Creed is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out [at this website](#). If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Creed's application. **All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with the following signed statement: I have practiced personal and academic integrity in completing this assignment.**

## Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
The following schedule is tentative. Any changes will be announced well in advance.		
August 23	Greetings and Logistics	Course Syllabus & Assignment Handouts
August 28	Introduction	FLS Introduction: pp. xx-xxxiii

## Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
		Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories" (2004)
August 30	What is International Relations?	FLS Chapter 2, pp. 42-79, Ikenberry, Chapter 2: Varieties of Order
September 4	Games of International Interaction	FLS "Primer on Game Theory", pp. 82-87
September 6	Overcoming the Prisoner's Dilemma	U.N. Charter  Stewart, P. "The Unruled World: The Case for Good Enough Global Governance" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , (Jan/Feb 2014): 58-73.
September 11	NONE	
September 13	NONE	
September 18	Domestic Politics, Sovereignty, and IR	Putnam, R, 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games" <i>International Organization</i> 42(3).  Krasner, S. "Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States"
September 20	Collective Security	FLS, Chapter 5: pp. 185-210  Goldgeier, "The Future of NATO." 2010. pp. 3-23
September 25	Why war? Bargaining, Part 1	FLS Chapter 3: pp. 88-117,  Lake, D., 2011. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War?" <i>International Security</i> 35(3): 7-52. (skim technical parts)
September 27	Why War? Bargaining, Part 2	FLS Chapter 3: pp. 118-133,  Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War" (1995)
October 2	First Midterm Exam	No Reading
October 4	Nuclear Proliferation and WMD	FLS, Chapter 14: pp. 579-589,

## Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
		Joffe, J. "Less Than Zero" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol. 90:1 Jan/Feb 2011  "Getting Tough on North Korea" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol. 96:3 May/June 2017
October 9	Intrastate Conflict	FLS, Chapter 6: pp. 234-264,  Denny, E. and Walter, B. "Ethnicity and Civil War." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , 51(2), 2014.  <i>Optional:</i> Walter, B. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> Vol. 12, 2009.
October 11	Terrorism	FLS, Chapter 6: 264-287,  Fortna, V.P., "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes." <i>International Organization</i> Vol. 69, 2015
October 16	Current Research in Civil War	Thomas, J.L. and Bond, K. "Women's Participation in Violent Political Organizations." <i>American Political Science Review</i> Vol. 109 (3), 2015  Kalyvas, S. "How Civil Wars Help Explain Organized Crime – and How They Do Not." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> , Vol 59(8), 2015.
October 18	Fall Break	
October 23	Intrastate Conflict Resolution	United Nations -"Guidance for Effective Mediation"  Beardsley, K. "Agreement without Peace? International Mediation and Time Inconsistency Problems?", <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , Vol 52(4), 2008. ONLY READ pp. 723- 729, 737-738
October 25	Intervention and Global Collective Action	FLS, Chapter 11, pp. 456-473

## Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
		<p>Bellamy, A. "The Responsibility to Protect and the Problem of Military Intervention." <i>International Affairs</i> Vol 84(4), 2008.</p> <p>"The Responsibility to Protect in Syria and Beyond."</p> <p><i>Optional:</i> Power, S. "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the U.S. Let the Rwandan Genocide Happen."</p>
October 30	Human Rights	FLS, Chapter 12
November 1	2nd Midterm	No Readings
November 6	No Class	Election Day
November 8	No Class	Peace Science Society Meeting
November 13	Overview of International Political Economy	<p>FLS, Chapter 7: pp. 291-311</p> <p>FLS, Chapter 8: pp. 340-355</p> <p>FLS, Chapter 9: pp. 383-395</p>
November 15	Trade and Comparative Advantage	<p>FLS, Chapter 7: pp. 334-339</p> <p>Council on Foreign Relations, "The Future of U.S. Trade Policy." <i>CFR Backgrounders</i>. 2015.</p> <p>Irwin, D. "The Truth on Trade: What Critics Get Wrong About the Global Economy." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. 2016.</p>
November 20	International Economic Institutions	<p>FLS, Chapter 7: pp. 319-328</p> <p>FLS, Chapter 8: pp. 355-360</p> <p>Drezner, D. "The Irony of Global Economic Governance: The System Worked." <i>Council on Foreign Relations, International Institutions and Global Governance Program</i>. 2012.</p>
November 22	No Class	Thanksgiving Break

## Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings
November 27	Foreign Direct Investment and Multi-national Corporations	FLS, Chapter 8: 365-375  Pandya, S. "Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment: Globalized Production in the Twenty-First Century." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> . Vol 19. 2016.
November 29	Foreign Aid and Development	FLS, Chapter 10: pp. 420-448,  Radelet, S. "Prosperity Rising: The Success of Global Development, and How to Keep it Going?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 2016.
December 4	Climate Change, Food Insecurity, and Poverty	FLS, Chapter 13: pp. 532-553.  Hardin, G. "The Tragedy of the Commons." <i>Science</i> . Vol 162. 1968.
December 6	Last Class: Changing World Order?	<b>Papers Due</b> , Readings TBD
December 11	FINAL EXAM	9:00-11:30 am