Learning Goals

This course introduces the academic study of international relations. Prior coursework in international relations is not required. During the course, students will:

1. Learn the **theories** that help us to explain the behavior of states, the characteristics of the international system and the conditions of war or peace.
2. Develop an **empirical grounding** in international relations by covering important events and trends, including the outbreak and aftermath of wars, developments in the global economy, and the growth of international institutions.
3. Gain confidence in **critical thinking** by examining contending theoretical perspectives and interpretations.
4. Build a **foundation for future study** in upper-division international relations courses in the Politics Department (courses numbered POL 160-POL 180).

Course Website

You will also find a copy of this syllabus on the Latte. Under each section image there are links to electronic readings, activities and assignments. Additional handouts will be posted on Latte during the semester and powerpoint slides will be posted shortly after each lecture.
Discussion Sections

There is a required 50-minute section each week, starting the week of January 24th. Participation in section is a crucial learning tool. You will receive an index card on the first day on which you will write down your top three choices of section time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>TF</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12-12:50</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Khaula Kaiser</td>
<td>Olin-Sang 104</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11-11:50</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Lan Ngo</td>
<td>Olin-Sang 212</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2 – 2:50</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>Lan Ngo</td>
<td>Shiffman 002</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 – 10:50</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Merima Tricic</td>
<td>Shiffman 125</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 – 10:50</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Christiana Botticello</td>
<td>Shiffman 202</td>
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Course Requirements and Grading

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.). Course requirements and their weighting are as follows:

1. Regular attendance at section 5%
2. Active participation in section and class 10%
3. Two op-ed exercises for 10% each 20%
4. Midterm examination in class on Friday, March 10th 25%
5. Diplomatic strategy memo and reflection for simulation exercise 15%
6. Final examination on Thursday, May 11th 25%

Attendance and participation in class and section

“Regular attendance at section” means that you come to every discussion section. Each teaching fellow, or TF, will maintain an attendance sheet and it is your responsibility to ensure that the TF knows you are present. If you have an unexpected event that makes it impossible for you to attend, you should alert the TF by email. You should seek my permission if you expect to be absent for more than two sections. If you attend each section, you will receive a perfect score.

“Active participation in section and class” means that you take part in discussion in section, in ways that enrich the conversation and contribute to the understanding of your peers. In class, participation implies that you engage in discussions and activities, asking questions and contributing to debates. If you prefer not to speak in public, please email me to let me know this at the start of the semester and I will arrange for you to show your participation via written contributions. Half of your participation will be assigned based on your performance in section and half based on your performance during class sessions.
Midterm examination
The midterm exam will be held in class on Friday, March 10th. It will cover course material through Tuesday, March 7th and will include identification questions and a choice of essay questions. The final exam will be similar in structure to the midterm and will cover the material for the entire course. I reserve the right, in either the midterm or the final, to include a map question, which may be required. You will be notified in advance if the exam will include a map question.

Op-ed Exercises
You will write two op-ed (opinion editorial) pieces, of approximately 600-800 words each. For the first op-ed, you will be asked to argue why the study of World War One is relevant to our understanding of peace and security today and to link that argument to at least two of the theoretical approaches we have covered. That op-ed is due on Tuesday, February 14th.

For the second op-ed, you will respond to and take issue with an existing op-ed, which will be provided at the time of the exercise. You will develop and justify your own viewpoint, separate from that of the original author, on how the US, or another power, should respond to a particular, contemporary issue. That op-ed will be due on Tuesday, April 4th. Both op-eds will be submitted in hard copy in class.

The Simulation Exercise
The simulation exercise will have two components: the actual simulation and a written component. You will be divided into various groups representing the Permanent Five members at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). At the introductory session, you will be provided with a crisis scenario, which requires the intervention of the UNSC. Your objective is to negotiate and seek passage of a draft UNSC resolution. Participation in the simulation exercise is mandatory.

There are two parts to the written component: a diplomatic strategy memo and a reflection paper. Prior to the actual negotiations of the draft resolution, you will be required to provide input into policy deliberations on your diplomatic strategy. This input will be given in the form of a three-page memo which you will submit on Latte by April 26th. This memo accounts for ten percent of the grade. After the exercise, you will write a one-page reflection on the lessons for your team. This will also be submitted on Latte, before the final class, on May 2nd.

Grading
Assignments will be graded out of 100 points according to the following scale: A (95 and above); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (67-69). A score of less than 63 is regarded as a fail. Final scores and grades will be computed by weighting each assignment by the percentage given on the previous page.
Please keep the following course policies in mind during the term:
Electronic devices
Please turn off your phone in class. Because note-taking on laptops has been found to be less effective for retaining knowledge than handwritten notes, I strongly discourage the use of laptops. The exceptions are students who find that laptops are particularly helpful to their learning style. Anyone who is found to use their laptop in a manner that disrupts their own learning or that of others will not be permitted to use their laptop for a two-week period and will be assigned a public participation exercise, most likely involving the recitation of a poem to class at the next session.

Illnesses and personal emergencies
If an illness or emergency prevents you from taking a scheduled exam, you must inform me by e-mail or phone before the exam.

Late submission
Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized two points per day, except in cases of a documented illness or personal emergency.

Final exam date
University rules prohibit instructors from offering early final exams. Students requiring a make-up final exam should be advised that the conflict resolution block, as scheduled by the Registrar’s Office, is on the afternoon of Thursday, May 11th.

Student athletes
If your participation in intercollegiate athletic competition conflicts with any of the requirements for the course, please provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts no later than Tuesday, February 14th.

Disability statement
If you need academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please make sure that I receive your letter of accommodation no later than Tuesday, February 14th. For questions please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at 6-3470.

Academic integrity
I expect you to adhere to the highest academic integrity. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the Department of Student Development and Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes: buying papers; borrowing papers; lending papers; using a paper in two classes without the permission of both instructors; plagiarism, either by quoting without including quotation marks or paraphrasing without citation; and using or accessing electronic devices during an exam. If you have questions about academic integrity, consult the Academic Integrity Resources on the LTS website. Always feel free to ask your TF or me about these issues.
Readings and Course Materials

Textbooks
Textbooks are available for purchase or rental at the university bookstore. They are also on reserve at the Library. Purchasing used versions of these texts, or the earlier edition, is a wonderful way to save money and will give you the same insights as the current edition.

Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft, Essentials of International Relations, Seventh edition (W. W. Norton, 2017). This text will be referenced as M&A in the course schedule.


Online Materials
Any reading not from one of these two textbooks is generally available as a link on the Latte course page. These readings are designated (ER) for “electronic reading” in the course schedule. Study guides listing important terms, concepts, people, and events from lectures on the causes of war and peace will also be posted to Latte.

Additional Readings
The course schedule indicates additional readings that are recommended for those students who have a particular interest in a given topic. They are not required but will enrich your understanding and give you additional viewpoints.

Background Reading on Historic Events
It is particularly important that you are attentive to the lectures on the major instances of conflict that we cover in the section, The Causes of War and Peace. In many cases, the factual material that you will use to mount an argument about these events will be covered best in lecture, and there is limited historical coverage in the two textbooks. The study guides for this section will highlight the material that you should know. In addition, however, I recommend the following materials. Books in this section have been selected on the basis of their authority and brevity:

On World War One: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/origins_01.shtml


On the Cold War: PBS Documentary: The Cuban Missile Crisis – At the Brink https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pI3GZUryOX0

COURSE SCHEDULE

NB: Page numbers in this course schedule refer to the seventh edition of Mingst and Arreguin-Toft. If you are using the sixth edition, I refer you to the concordance on Latte, which links page citations here to the relevant pages in the sixth edition. Any readings form Art & Jervis listed here, and which are not in the twelfth edition, are available electronically on Latte.

January 17th  Introduction
- M&A, Chapter One, pp. 3-19.

THEORY

January 20th   Theory Overview

January 24th   Anarchy and the International System

January 27th  Power and Polarity


January 31st State Preferences and Constructed Understandings
- Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” in A&J.


THE CAUSES OF WAR AND PEACE

February 3rd  Lead Up to WWI
February 7th  
**WWI: Causes and Conduct**  

February 10th  
**Interwar Years**  
- Dale Copeland, “Economic Interdependence and War,” in A&J.  

February 14th  
**Causes of WWII**  
- James Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” in A&J.  

February 17th  
**Post WWII Settlement**  
- “Suggested Post-Surrender Program for Germany” (Morgenthau Plan), 1944 (ER)  

February 20 – 24  
**Midterm Recess (no class)**

February 28th  
**Early Cold War**  
- George F. Kennan’s Long Telegram, 22 February 1946 (ER).

*Additional:* Amatzia Baram, “Deterrence Lessons from Iraq: Rationality Is Not the Only Key to Containment,” *Foreign Affairs* 76 (July-August 2012)

March 3rd  
**Cold War Escalation**  


March 7th  
**Cold War Resolution and its Consequences**  


**March 10**

*In-class Midterm*

**Contemporary Issues**

**March 14**

*Civil and Ethnic Conflict*
- World Bank, “Shape of Violence Today,” in A&J.

**March 17**

*Human Rights*
- Martha Finnemore, “Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” from *The Purpose of Intervention*. (ER)


**March 21**

*International Organizations and Intervention*
- Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age,” in A&J.
- Caroline Hartzell and Matthew Hoddie, “Crafting Peace through Power Sharing,” in A&J.

**March 24**

*Terrorism*
- Audrey Kurth Cronin, “Ending Terrorism” in A&J.

*Additional*: Herbert Lin, “Cyber Conflict and National Security,” in A&J.
March 28\textsuperscript{th}  \textbf{Nuclear Proliferation}


March 31\textsuperscript{st}  \textbf{The Rise of China}

April 4\textsuperscript{th}  \textbf{US Grand Strategy}

April 7\textsuperscript{th}  \textbf{No Class}

April 10 – 18  \textbf{Spring Recess (No classes)}

April 21\textsuperscript{st}  \textbf{Introduction to Simulation Exercise}
- UNSC Resolution vocabulary (ER).

April 25\textsuperscript{th} & 28th  \textbf{Simulated UNSC Meetings}

May 2\textsuperscript{nd}  \textbf{Course Review}

May 11\textsuperscript{th}  \textbf{Final Examination Tentatively Scheduled 1:30-4:30}