

Political Science 0500
Introduction to World Politics
232 Cathedral of Learning, Tues. & Thurs., 1:00-1:50
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: T/Th 4:00-5:00pm or by appointment.
Course Webpage: courseweb.pitt.edu

Course Description: This course introduces students to the study of international relations. Students will acquire the basic analytic tools necessary to understand a variety of contemporary international phenomena, including war, terrorism, globalization, environmental degradation, and human rights practices. The primary focus will be on analysis, with an eye toward current events around the world. Our basic analytical framework will start by identifying the interests of important actors in international affairs and then develop an understanding of how these interests aggregate through strategic interaction within a particular institutional environment. Why are there costly interstate and civil wars, and what are the conditions under which crisis bargaining breaks down? When do countries restrict international trade? Why is it so difficult to achieve international cooperation to protect the environment? These are just a few of the many questions that we will consider this semester.

This course has three main learning objectives. The first objective is to provide a flexible theoretical framework for understanding international relations. The second is to expose students to the history and evolution of international relations since the end of the 15th century. The final objective is to hone students' analytical skills using foreign policy memo writing and simple data visualization. Data visualization, a tool for communicating the information contained in data, is particularly useful when it comes to studying the international relations, and it has the added benefit of being highly valued outside of academia.

Requirements and Grading: Most weeks you will be expected watch a recorded lecture online before class. In class, I will hit the highlights from these lectures and answer questions about the material. I will also spend time discussing the relevant data that is available, and how to use it. There are four quizzes, three foreign policy memos and a final exam. **Students who have an A (93% or above) average on all four quizzes and all three policy memos do not have to take the final exam.** The quiz and memo averages will be calculated separately for this purpose, and each quiz/memo will be equally weighted.

In all other cases, final grades will be calculated using the following weights:

Quizzes	45%
Policy Memos	30%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	15%

We will drop your lowest quiz grade. (Note that we will only drop your lowest quiz grade if you *do not qualify* for the final exam exemption.) The three remaining quizzes will be weighted at 15% each. Each foreign policy memo will be worth 10% of your final grade. Your participation grade will be based on preparation for class and recitation attendance. I will gauge class preparation by asking students to submit questions about the assigned textbook chapters before class. The final exam will be cumulative.

Letter grades correspond to the following numerical scores:

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

We will allow two unexcused absences for the semester. This allowance doesn't mean that you do not have to do the assigned work. Instead, it means that you will be given the opportunity to make up the work you missed, if completed in a timely manner. **You need access to a laptop computer for our class and recitation sessions.**

Recitation Sections: In the recitation sections, you will take quizzes and learn how to use **R** and **R Markdown**, free open-source software, for data management, analysis and memo writing. Why **R**? The main advantage to using open-source is that you will have access to the software after you leave Pitt. Licensed software can be very expensive. In the recitation sections, you will learn simple techniques for data visualization and how to knit these visualizations with text in your policy memos. You will be expected to complete and submit the foreign policy memos through CourseWeb.

The memos will answer several critical questions: What is the significance of the policy problem you are addressing? Who are the main actors, and what are their interests? What is the relevant institutional context? What is the status quo policy, and why is it ineffective? What are two or more alternative policies to the status quo? And what policy change would you recommend? Everyone will write a memo on international security and foreign economic policy. The third memo can be on either human rights or global environmental threats.

Required Text: The required textbook for this course is Frieden, Lake and Schultz's *World Politics*. (Hereafter, FL&S.) This text is readily available for order online.

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton.

A condensed weekly course schedule and detailed daily course outline are provided below.

Course Schedule:

PART I: Foundations

Week 1	Jan. 7 & 9	Topic 1: Course Intro
Week 2	Jan. 14 & 16	Topic 2: The History of International Relations
Week 3	Jan. 21 & 23	Topic 3: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

PART II: War and Peace

Week 4	Jan. 28 & 30	Topic 4: Why are there Wars?
Week 5	Feb. 4 & 6	Topic 5: Domestic Politics and War
Week 6	Feb. 11 & 13	Topic 6: International Institutions and War
Week 7	Feb. 18 & 20	Topic 7: Civil Wars and Terrorism

PART III: International Political Economy

Week 8	Feb. 25 & 27	Topic 8: The Politics of Trade
Week 9	Mar. 3 & 5	Topic 9: International Financial Relations
Week 10	Mar. 17 & 19	Topic 10: International Monetary Relations
Week 11	Mar. 24 & 26	Topic 11: The Politics of Economic Development

PART IV: Transnational Politics

Week 12	Mar. 31 & April 2	Topic 12: International Law and Norms
Week 13	April 7 & April 9	Topic 13: International Human Rights
Week 14	April 14 & 16	Topic 14: International Environmental Politics
FINALS	April 25	FINAL EXAM (8-9:50am)

Detailed Course Outline:

Day	Date	For Class	In Class / Recitation
T&Th	Jan. 7 & 9		Course Intro
Week 2: The History of International Relations			
T&Th F	Jan. 14 & 16 Jan. 17	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 1	History of IR Getting Started with R
Week 3: Interests, Institutions, Interactions			
T&Th Fr	Jan. 21 & 23 Jan. 24	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 2	<i>I</i> ³ : Interests, Interactions, Institutions QUIZ #1
Week 4: Why are there Wars?			
T&Th Fr	Jan. 28 & 30 Jan. 31	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 3	Rationalist Explanations for War Working with and Visualizing Data in R
Week 5: Domestic Politics and War			
T&Th Fr	Feb. 4 & 6 Feb. 7	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 4	Wag the Dog, Democratic Peace and more Begin MEMO # 1
Week 6: International Institutions and War			
T&Th Fr	Feb. 11 & 13 Feb. 14	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 5	Alliances and Collective Security Finish MEMO # 1
Week 7: Civil War and Terrorism			
T&Th Fr	Feb. 18 & 20 Feb. 21	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 6	Nonstate Actors and Conflict QUIZ #2
Week 8: The Politics of Trade			
T&Th Fr	Feb. 25 & 27 Feb. 28	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 7	Trade Policy Politics More Visualization Techniques
Week 9: International Financial Relations			
T&Th Fr	Mar. 3 & 5 Oct. Mar. 6	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 8	The Politics of International Finance Begin Memo #2
Week 10: International Monetary Relations			
T&Th Fr	Mar. 17 & 19 Mar. 20	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 9	Exchange Rate Politics Finish Memo #2
Week 11: The Politics of Economic Development			
T&Th Fr	Mar. 24 & 26 Mar. 27	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 10	Controlling for Confounds QUIZ #3
Week 12: International Law and Norms			
T&Th Fr	Mar. 31 & April 2 April 3	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 11	The Politics of Norms and Law Begin Memo #3
Week 13: International Human Rights			
T&Th Fr	April 7 & 9 April 10	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 12	Human Rights and International Relations Finish Memo #3
Week 14: International Environmental Politics			
T&Th Fr	April 14 & 16 April 17	Online Lecture, FL&S, Chapter 13	Global Environmental Cooperation QUIZ #4
Week 15: Final Exam Week			
Saturday	April 25		FINAL EXAM (8am)

General Education Requirements: A Course in Social Science and Global Issues

As a **Course in Social Science**, PS 0500 partially fulfills the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences General Education Requirement (GER) for **Division Requirements in the Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences** as described for the GERs starting Fall 2018. The relevant part of that GER reads as follows:

Each student is required to take nine courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences distributed as below. Such courses allow students to pursue their own interests while they explore diverse views of a broad range of human cultures, modes of thought, and bodies of knowledge. The courses that fulfill these requirements are truly courses in the disciplines that draw on the unique resources of a research university.

5. A Course in Social Science. A course that treats topics considered of significant importance in the social or behavioral sciences (including social psychology). Courses will introduce students to the subject matter and methodology of a particular discipline and will involve them in the modes of investigation, analysis, and judgment characteristically applied by practitioners.

As a **Course in Global Issues**, PS 0500 partially fulfills the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences General Education Requirement (GER) for **Global Awareness and Cultural Understanding** as described for the GERs starting Fall 2018. The relevant part of that GER reads as follows:

Each student must complete three courses in global awareness and cultural understanding distributed as below.

1. A Course in Global Issues. This course will examine significant issues that are global in scale. Courses could address, for example: globalization; the global and cultural impact of climate change/sustainability; the effects of and resistances to colonialism; or worldwide issues related to health, gender, ethnicity, race, technology, labor, law, or the economy.

Course Policies:

Academic Integrity: Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. For the full Academic Integrity Policy, go to www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity.

Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347

for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Email Communication: Each student is issued a University email address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This email address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read email sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an email forwarding service that allows students to read their email via other service providers (e, g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their email from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If email is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University email address. To forward email sent to your University account, go to accounts.pitt.edu, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html.