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# **POLI 150: International Relations and Global Politics**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Spring 2020

## **1 Course Information**

- Instructor: Daniel Gustafson
- Email: [gustafson@unc.edu](mailto:gustafson@unc.edu)
- Course Time: Monday/Wednesday 3:35 PM–4:50 PM
- Course Room: Dey Hall—Room 206
- Office: 451 Hamilton Hall
- Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 9:30 AM–11:00 AM or by appointment

## **2 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, Al Jazeera, and Foreign Affairs (all available online or through UNC Libraries), but any favorite news source (or two!) will do.

### **2.1 Changes to the Syllabus**

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. If changes are made, students will be informed through email and verbally in class, and a new syllabus document will be posted on Sakai.

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## 3 Course Requirements & Grading

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two exams, two writing assignments requiring at least five pages of writing, and participation in lecture. The midterm exam is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your grade. Each 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.

### 3.1 Grades

Final grades for the course will be based on the following scale. I reserve the right to make adjustments to individual grades based on overall performance in the course and/or extenuating circumstances. There will be NO extra credit provided.

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

### 3.2 Exams: 20% + 25% = 45%

There will be one midterm and a final exam. The midterm is worth 20% of your final grade, and the final exam is worth 25%. The midterm will be on **March 4** and the final exam will be on **May 4** at 4 PM. The format of each exam will be discussed more completely in class when the exam date is closer.

### 3.3 Writing Assignments: 20% + 20% = 40%

You will write two papers, each 5 pages long. These papers are designed to encourage you to think critically about the theories we discuss in class and assess the usefulness of these theories for analyzing real world events. These assignments are due at the beginning of class as a hard copy. The first paper will be due **February 26**, and the second paper will be due **April 22**. For every day that your paper is late, I will deduct ten points.

### 3.4 In-Class Participation & Current Events Presentations: 15%

In-class participation is your best opportunity for active learning and discussing the material critically. Attendance is not required, but regular active participation is expected (a par-

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ticipation grade based solely on attendance will not be a good one). I expect you to come prepared to discuss the readings as well as ideas from previous classes. 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.

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 that relates to the material that we discuss in class. The discussed events are likely to appear on midterms and the final exam. Additional information about this assignment can be found in a handout available on Sakai.

### **3.5 Policy on Unexcused Absences & Exams**

You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency. If at all possible you should contact the instructor before the exam to discuss the emergency, provide documentation, and schedule the make-up.

## **4 Course Materials**

There is one required book for this course available in the UNC Bookstore and elsewhere. We rely heavily on this textbook so it is absolutely essential that you buy it. All other course materials will be made available electronically on the course Sakai website.

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics, 4th Ed.*

## **5 Expectations**

### **5.1 Communication**

I am very happy to meet with students outside of class time. Whether it be to discuss concerns about the course, remediation with the material, or simply to engage further with the topic, please feel free to stop by Hamilton 451 during my office hours. If you are unable to meet during my office hours, which are listed at the top of this syllabus, please email me to set up a time to talk. Email is the best mode of communication with which to reach me. While I do my best to respond to emails as quickly and thoroughly as possible, please expect a response within 24 hours and plan accordingly.

Please note that email is only for brief communications. If you have long and complicated questions, come to my office hours. University Policy stipulates that no grades can be sent

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over email. *After I have graded and returned your assignment, there is a twenty-four hour moratorium before I will answer questions about that assignment.*

## **5.2 Class Discussions & Classroom Civility**

All conversation during class must be civil, reasoned, and respectful of others' opinions. An important component of this course is discussing ideas with, learning from, and working together with your peers. As such, I want to create an environment where you feel comfortable, confident, and excited about sharing your thoughts and applying what you have learned to issues you care about. I encourage students to challenge themselves to think about, voice, and debate new ideas, all while maintaining norms of civil discourse. I know we are up to this challenge.

## **5.3 Technology Use**

You may use computers or tablets to take notes. Please refrain from using cell phones in the classroom as they tend to distract from learning. If it becomes clear you are using electronics in a way that detracts from (rather than supplements) your class experience, you will be required to handwrite notes in the future.

## **5.4 Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) contact the office of Accessibility Resources & Service at UNC: [ars.unc.edu](http://ars.unc.edu), (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

## **5.5 Academic Dishonesty**

According to UNC's Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, "It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at the University of North Carolina to support the principles of academic integrity and to refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty." Failure to abide by this policy may result in punitive action taken against the offending students. Consult the UNC Writing Center's handout on plagiarism (<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/plagiarism/>) to learn more on how to avoid academic dishonesty.

## **5.6 Honor Code**

All students participating in the class are assumed to be familiar with and adhering to the UNC Honor Code. I treat violations of the Honor Code seriously. More information is

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available at [studentconduct.unc.edu](http://studentconduct.unc.edu).

## 6 Research Requirement

Students enrolled in POLI 100, POLI 130, or POLI 150 are required to take part in the Department of Political Science research activities as part of their course requirement. The research requirement can be fulfilled either by participating in research studies offered by the Political Science Subject Pool (PSSP) (Option 1) or by writing a 5-page research paper (Option 2). The total time commitment should not exceed 3 hours. This requirement does not substitute for other course requirements, nor does it generate extra credit.

**OPTION 1:** Students who choose to participate in the Political Science Subject Pool will be required to accumulate ten credits towards their research requirement. Typically, each study completed will satisfy one credit towards the requirement; occasionally, a study will count for more than one credit. Active studies for you to participate in will be listed on the Subject Pools website.

**OPTION 2:** Students who choose not to participate in the Political Science Subject Pool or you fail to reach your 10 credit minimum must satisfy the requirement by completing an alternative assignment, which consists of writing a five-page, double-spaced, research-oriented paper. Although it is not exactly the same as participating in an actual research study, this assignment has been designed to expand your understanding of the realm of political science research. At the end of the semester, you will be given a list of articles from The Monkey Cagea blog intended to make political science research more accessible where you will be required to react to the article you select. Articles from The Monkey Cage may present findings from a recently published academic article, introduce readers to a new topic, or present contemporary political events through the lens of political science research. It will be your responsibility, in your paper, to discuss how the article was conducted, what conclusion(s) the author of the article draws from their methodological approach, and detail how convincing you find their conclusions. This paper will be graded pass/fail by the Subject Pool Director, Professor Anna Bassi.

Failure to satisfy the research requirement will result in an incomplete that will be removed only upon satisfaction of the requirement. Credit will be administered by the PSSP Director.

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# Tentative Course Schedule<sup>1</sup>

Date	Topic	Readings & Assignments
January 8	Logistics & Overview	
January 13	Introduction to IR	FLS Introduction (xxiv–xxxvii) Snyder 2004
January 15	Varieties of Order and Interaction	FLS Chapter 2 (42–79) Ikenberry 2001
January 22	Strategic International Interaction	FLS “Primer on Game Theory” (82–87)
January 27	Overcoming the Prisoner’s Dilemma	U.N. Charter Patrick 2014
January 29	Encouraging Cooperation: The United Nations	
February 3	Domestic Politics, Sovereignty, and IR	Putnam 1988 Krasner 2004
February 5	Alliances & Collective Security	FLS Chapter 5 (185–212) Goldgeier 2010
February 10	Nuclear Proliferation and WMD	FLS Chapter 14 (593–606) Joffe & Davis 2011; Waltz 2012
February 12	The Long Peace	FLS Chapter 4 (168–183) Pinker 2011
February 17	Why War? Bargaining, Part 1	FLS Chapter 3 (88–117) Fearon 1995
February 19	Why War? Bargaining, Part 2	FLS Chapter 3 (118–135) Lake 2011
February 24	Intrastate Conflict	FLS Chapter 6 (236–268) Denny & Walter 2014
February 26	Terrorism	FLS Chapter 6 (268–291) Fortna 2015
March 2	Mass Mobilization & Government Repression	Stephan & Chenoweth 2008 Ritter & Conrad 2016
March 4	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
March 16	<i>The Fog of War I</i>	
March 18	<i>The Fog of War II</i>	
March 23	Third Parties in Civil Conflict	U.N. “Guidance for Effective Mediation” Beardsley 2008
March 25	Human Rights	FLS Chapter 12 (498–537)
March 30	Policy Debate: Dealing with the Syrian Civil War	Readings and roles TBD
April 1	Review of Conflict	
April 6	International Political Economy I	FLS Chapter 7 (294–318), Chapter 8 (346–360) Chapter 9 (385–402)
April 8	International Political Economy II	FLS Chapter 7 (340–345) Irwin 2016
April 13	International Economic Institutions	FLS Chapter 7 (324–337), Chapter 8 (360–371) Drezner 2012
April 15	Foreign Direct Investment	FLS Chapter 8 (371–383) Pandya 2016
April 20	Development, Poverty, and Aid	FLS Chapter 10 (424–459) Radelet 2016
April 22	Climate Change & Food Insecurity	FLS Chapter 13 (540–581) von Uexhall et al. 2016
May 4	<b>Final Exam (4 PM)</b>	

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<sup>1</sup>Readings and papers are due the date of class listed.