

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Political Science 205, Spring 2019
Portland State University

[David Kinsella](#)

Department of Political Science
Office: Urban Center Building, room 650L
503.725.3035 | kinsella@pdx.edu
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 11:30-12:30

Description

This course is an introductory survey of the political science subfield of international relations, with special emphasis on such topics as war and peace, foreign policy, international law and organization, human rights, global trade and finance, and economic development. We begin by discussing the origins of the modern state system, its key actors, and the most influential theories for understanding how international politics works. We then turn to events and issues drawn from the variety of topics that international politics encompasses – for example: Did nuclear weapons keep the Cold War cold? Do we need a world government? When is war illegal? Does prosperity in the most advanced countries require poverty in others? Is foreign aid an obligation or just charity?

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with contemporary issues in international relations and to provide an analytic foundation for more advanced coursework in the field.

Learning Objectives

The general objective of this course is to develop the student's capacity to critically examine issues in international politics, consider the range of possible interpretations and responses to those issues, and communicate this analysis to others. This is to be accomplished by exposing students to relevant literature from the fields of international politics and foreign policy. By the end of the term, students should be able to:

- show a familiarity with a wide range of substantive issues in international politics and foreign policy;
- demonstrate mastery of the main theoretical and analytical approaches to the study of international relations;
- interpret specific historical and contemporary problems using appropriate theoretical arguments and methods of analysis; and
- articulate normative positions on key ethical dilemmas arising from interactions among states and nonstate actors in global society.

Requirements and Evaluation

Course grades are based in part on a [midterm](#) (35%) and a [final](#) (50%) examination. These exams consist of both multiple-choice questions and longer essays. Students are also required to write a 3-4 page [briefing paper](#) on a current event, and make a short [presentation](#) (less than 5 minutes) on that event (15%). Attendance is expected; course grades will be adversely affected by excessive absence from class.

I hold on to students' written work for one academic term after the end of the course, so if you want to keep your final exam or paper, please retrieve it from me no later than the end of fall term 2019.

Readings and Other Course Materials

All assigned readings are available online; there are no books to purchase for the course. Unless the reading assignment includes a web link, it is available online from the PSU library. You must retrieve these readings (all journal articles) by logging into the PSU library website and locating and downloading the article from one of the library's full-content subscription services. Access to other readings requires logging into D2L.

In addition to the assigned readings, you should be reading, on a regular basis, the [New York Times](#), the [Washington Post](#), or some other news source with thorough international coverage. Your performance in the course will reflect your familiarity with current issues in international relations, and not just an understanding of lecture material and course readings.

All slides used during lectures will be made available online by appending a link to the list of weekly reading assignments.

Conduct and Courtesy

Students are responsible for being familiar with the PSU [Student Code of Conduct](#), especially the section concerning academic misconduct -- that is, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure of the definition or consequences of academic misconduct, consult your instructor.

Because they are distracting to others, cell phones may not be used during lecture and should be silenced at the start of class. Laptops and tablets may be used to take notes, but not for email, web browsing, or social media. Electronic devices may not be used to photograph, video, or stream course lectures or discussion, but lectures may be audio recorded with permission of the instructor.

Student Resources

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The [C.A.R.E. Team](#), hosted by the Dean of Student Life, is available to consult with you regarding any issues of students in distress, including sexual misconduct.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS

1-5 Apr **Global Society**

Readings

- David Kinsella, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr, *World Politics: The Menu for Choice* (Cengage, 2013), chap. 3. ([D2L](#))
- Michael Axworthy and Patrick Milton, "A Westphalian Peace for the Middle East: Why an Old Framework Could Work." *Foreign Affairs* (Snapshot: 10 October 2016). ([web](#))
- [slides](#)

8-12 Apr **Worldviews**

Readings

- Robert Gilpin, "The Theory of Hegemonic War." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (Spring 1988): 591-613.
- Michael W. Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12 (Summer 1983): 205-232.
- John Cassidy, "The Return of Karl Marx," *New Yorker* (20 October 1997): 248-259.
- [slides](#)

15-26 Apr **War – Hot, Cold, and Neither** (2 weeks)

- *Guest speaker:* Ambassador Prudence Bushnell (Friday, 19th). Read before class:
 - "The Irrepressible Prudence Bushnell," Association for Diplomatic Studies & Training ([web](#))
 - Colum Lynch, "Exclusive: Rwanda Revisited." *Foreign Policy* online, 5 April 2015. ([web](#))

Readings

- Kori Schake, "What Causes War?" *Orbis* 61 (2017): 449-462.
- John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System." *International Security* 10 (Spring 1986): 99-142.
- Edward N. Luttwak, "Give War a Chance." *Foreign Affairs* 78 (July/August 1999): 36-44.
- Barry Buzan, "Will the 'Global War on Terrorism' be the New Cold War?" *International Affairs* 82 (November 2006): 1101-1118.
- Josef Schroefl and Stuart J. Kaufman, "Hybrid Actors, Tactical Variety: Rethinking Asymmetric and Hybrid War." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 37 (2014): 862-880.
- [slides](#)

29 Apr - 1 May **U.S. Foreign Policy**

Readings

- Graham Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63 (September 1969): 689-718.
- Randall Schweller, "Three Cheers for Trump's Foreign Policy: What the Establishment Misses." *Foreign Affairs* 97 (September/October 2018): 133-142.
- [slides](#)

3 May **Midterm Exam**

6-10 May **Global Political Economy**

Readings

- Robert Gilpin, "The Politics of Transnational Relations." *International Organization* 25 (Summer 1971): 398-419.
- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye Jr., "Globalization: What's New? What's Not? (And So What?)" *Foreign Policy* 118 (Spring 2000): 104-119.
- Roger C. Altman, "Globalization in Retreat: Further Consequences of the Financial Crisis." *Foreign Affairs* 88 (July/August 2009): 2-7.
- [slides](#)

13-17 May **International Organization**

Readings

- Paul Kennedy, *The Parliament of Man: The Past, Present, and Future of the United Nations* (Vintage, 2007), chap. 1. ([D2L](#))
- Campbell Craig, "The Resurgent Idea of World Government." *Ethics and International Affairs* 22 (Summer 2008): 133-142.
- [slides](#)

20-24 May **International Law**

Readings

- Anthony Clark Arend, "International Law and Rogue States: The Failure of the Charter Framework." *New England Law Review* 36 (2002): 735-753. ([D2L](#))
- Aidan Hehir, "The Permanence of Inconsistency: Libya, the Security Council, and the Responsibility to Protect." *International Security* 38 (Summer 2013): 137-159.
- [slides](#)

29-31 May **International Ethics**

Readings

- Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162 (December 1968): 1243-1248.
- Charles R. Beitz, "Cosmopolitan Ideals and National Sentiment." *Journal of Philosophy* 80 (October 1983): 591-600.
- Simon Caney, "Cosmopolitan Justice and Equalizing Opportunities." *Metaphilosophy* 32 (January 2001): 26-68.

3-7 Jun **Global Environmental Politics**

Readings

- Robert Falkner, "The Paris Agreement and the New Logic of International Climate Politics." *International Affairs* 92 (2016): 1107-1125.
- Joshua W. Busby, "Who Cares about the Weather? Climate Change and U.S. National Security." *Security Studies* 17 (2008): 468-504
- [slides](#)

10 Jun **Final Exam, 12:30-2:20**

This syllabus is available online at web.pdx.edu/~kinsella/ps205s19.pdf and all course materials can be linked from this address. *Last updated on 7 Jun 2019.*