



POLI:1500:AAA | FALL 2021

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Course Instructor

Instructor: Sara Mitchell, F. Wendell Miller
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Drop-in Hours (309 SH): M 3-5pm, T 1-2pm

Teaching Assistants:

Addison Huygens, PhD student, Political Science
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Drop-in Hours (323 SH): M 2-3pm; W 2-4pm

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Drop-in Hours (313 SH): T 11am-1pm; Th 1-2pm

Jianjun Yu, PhD student, Political Science
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Drop-in Hours (371 SH): M 2-4pm; T 2-3pm

Academic Course Home

[College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
DEO: Professor Brian Lai
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Class Meeting Times

Main lecture, Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30-4:20pm,
AUD Macbride Hall (MH)
Discussion sections meet once per week

Course Site

To access the course site, log into [Iowa Courses Online \(ICON\)](#) using your Hawk ID and password.

Prerequisites

None

Course Description and Goal

Course Description:

In this course, you will learn about several contemporary issues in international politics and the analytical tools to analyze them. Major parts of the course cover such topics as the dynamics of conflict and cooperation, the processes of foreign policy decision-making, major international economic issues, and basic future trends in global politics. The course also provides an overview of the primary perspectives and analytical approaches for studying world politics. The overall objective is to give students sufficient awareness of the interaction of political, technological, economic, and social factors to permit a critical appreciation of the contemporary international environment and ways of thinking about the future.

Course Goals:

After taking this class, students should be able to:

- Be familiar with major concepts and theories for studying international relations (IR)
- Translate knowledge from IR theories to ongoing events in global politics
- Learn about the relevant actors in international relations and their interests
- Understand how institutions constrain and affect interactions in international relations

Required Textbook

The **required textbook** for this course is:

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions, 4th Edition*. New York: WW Norton. ISBN (paperback): 978-0-3936-4449-4.

Note: The book can be purchased at the local bookstores listed below or ordered online. You can purchase an e-book directly from the vendor; <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393675092>. **Exact editions are required.**

- **Iowa Book, L.L.C.** Web: <https://iowabook.bncollege.com/shop/iowa-book/home> Phone: 319.337.4188
- **Iowa Hawk Shop** Web: <http://www.hawkshop.com/> Phone: 319.335.3179

Grading Criteria

Final course grades will be assessed based on the student's performance in the following items:

Graded Item	Points	% of final grade
Response Papers (2)	125	25%
Section Grade	150	30%
Exams (3)	225	45%
Total Points:	500	100%

Course grades will be distributed as follows:

99-100: A+	77-79: C+
93-98: A	73-76: C
90-92: A-	70-72: C-
87-89: B+	67-69: D+
83-86: B	63-66: D
80-82: B-	60-62: D-
	Below 60: F

Course Structure

This course includes a large lecture (220+ students) that meets twice per week along with smaller discussion sections (<30 students) that meet once per week. Students will find course information on the ICON page, including links for submitting paper assignments.

Students are expected to:

- **Read** assigned readings before each class. The date listed after each reading is the day it is due.
- **Attend** the main lectures and discussion section each week.
- **Submit** assignments by designated deadlines **via the ICON "Assignments."**
- **Participate** in discussions in assigned sections. The TAs will clarify the expectations for their sections.

Course Work

Response Papers (2): 25%

You will write two short (2-3 page) response papers (25%, 2 @ 12.5% each) based on two prompts. We provide more detailed instructions for the format and the prompts on ICON. The papers are due on 10/10 and 11/14.

If for some reason you are dissatisfied with the final grade received on your paper, you may submit a written memo to the instructor explaining why you think the grade is unfair. This memo must be submitted within 1 week of receiving the paper grade. The instructor will read the memo, re-read the paper, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade after rereading the paper a second time.

Section Grade: 30%

Each student is assigned to one of the following discussion sections.

Section A01 (Yu)	Wednesday	8:30-9:20am	150 SH
Section A03 (Millerd)	Wednesday	12:30-1:20pm	51 SH
Section A04 (Huygens)	Wednesday	5:30-6:20pm	150 SH
Section A05 (Millerd)	Tuesday	5:00-5:50pm	151 SH
Section A06 (Millerd)	Thursday	11:00-11:50am	E132 AJB
Section A09 (Millerd)	Thursday	5:00-5:50pm	30 SH
Section A10 (Yu)	Wednesday	5:30-6:20pm	131 SH
Section A12 (Yu)	Thursday	5:00-5:50pm	151 SH
Section A13 (Huygens)	Wednesday	11:30am-12:20pm	151 SH
Section A14 (Huygens)	Thursday	2:00-2:50pm	131 SH
Section A15 (Yu)	Wednesday	11:30am-12:20pm	131 SH

Discussion sections grades (150 points) are based on attendance and participation for each class (10 points per section, 130 points total), 2 pop quizzes (5 points per quiz, 10 points total), and one current events assignment (10 points). You can miss one section without grade penalty. You will not have sections in week 1 or week 11 (during the second exam week). Sections will include a variety of activities such as discussions, simulations, and review of course material. Your section grade will be updated throughout the semester on ICON.

Exams (3): 45%

Examinations (45%, 3 @ 15% each): There are three exams covering material from the textbook, lectures, and discussion sections. Each exam is worth 15% of the final grade and consists of multiple-choice questions. Each exam covers roughly 1/3 of the course and is non-cumulative. The first two exams are scheduled on Tuesday, September 28th and Thursday, November 4th. The last exam will be scheduled during finals week, with the day and time yet to be determined by the university. The final exam is NOT comprehensive.

Requests to take the exams at other than the scheduled times must be made in advance and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to take an examination, the decision to allow a makeup and the penalty associated with that makeup, if granted, is completely at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Calendar

Learning Objectives	Learning Activities & Assessment/Assignments
Week 1 Course and Historical Introduction (August 23-27)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate IR “isms” approaches Analyze major historical events that transformed international relations 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read FLS, pp. xxiv-xxxvii (8/24) Read FLS, Ch 1, pages 2-39 (8/26) No discussion sections for Week 1 IR Knowledge Quiz: Available on ICON; due by 8/26 (11:59pm)

Week 2 Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (August 30-September 3)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compare interests, interactions, and institutions 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read FLS, Ch 2, pages 42-68 (8/31) ● Read FLS, Ch 2, pages 68-87 (9/2) ● Discussion section theme: strategic interaction models
Week 3 Why are There Wars (September 6-10)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand the bargaining model of war 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read FLS, Ch 3, pages 88-103 (9/7) ● Read FLS, Ch 3, pages 103-135 (9/9) ● Discussion section theme: bargaining model of war
Week 4 Domestic Politics and War (September 13-17)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss whether leaders use force for political purposes ● Analyze why democracies do not fight each other 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read FLS, Ch 4, pages 138-168 (9/14) ● Read FLS, Ch 4, pages 168-183 (9/16) ● Discussion section theme: democratic peace & diversionary theory
Week 5 International Institutions and War (September 20-24)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examine how military alliances deter attacks ● Assess whether peacekeeping is effective 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read FLS, Ch 5, pages 186-205 (9/21) ● Read FLS, Ch 5, pages 205-233 (9/23) ● Discussion section theme: institutions & review for exam 1
Week 6 Exam 1 (September 27-October 1)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take Exam 1 (covers chapters 1-5, material from weeks 1-5) 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exam 1: Taken in class on Tuesday, September 28th. ▪ No class on 9/30 due to APSA conference ▪ Discussion section theme: tips for writing response papers

Week 7 Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil Wars and Terrorism (October 4-8)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiate factors that contribute to civil wars and terrorism 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read FLS, Ch 6, pages 236-268 (10/5) Read FLS, Ch 6, pages 268-291 (10/7) Submit Response Paper #1 (10/10 by 11:59pm) Discussion section theme: civil wars & terrorism
Week 8 International Trade (October 11-15)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use political economy theories to understand how trade between countries works 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read FLS, Ch 7, pages 294-318 (10/12) Read FLS, Ch 7, pages 318-345 (10/14) Discussion section theme: trade & comparative advantage
Week 9 International Financial Relations (October 18-22)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about financing and debt in global politics 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read FLS, Ch 8, pages 346-368 (10/19) Read FLS, Ch 8, pages 368-383 (10/21) Discussion section theme: financing & debt
Week 10 International Monetary Relations (October 25-29)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how currencies and exchange rates affect our lives 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read FLS, Ch 9, pages 386-403 (10/26) Read FLS, Ch 9, pages 404-421 (10/28) Discussion section theme: monetary policy & exam 2 review
Week 11 Poverty & Exam 2 (November 1-5)	
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the major issues that create and sustain poverty Take Exam 2 (covers chapters 6-10, weeks 7-11) 	Learning Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read FLS, Ch 10 (11/2) Discussion section theme: no sections this week Exam 2: Taken in class on Thursday, November 4th.

Week 12 | International Law and Norms (November 8-12)

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate the role of law and norms in international relations

Learning Activities

- **Read** FLS, Ch 11, pages 462-479 (11/9)
- **Read** FLS, Ch 11, pages 479-495 (11/11)
- **Discussion section theme:** law & norms
- **Submit Response Paper #2 (11/14 by 11:59pm)**

Week 13 | Human Rights (November 15-19)

Learning Objectives:

- Appraise how human rights violations are addressed in IR

Learning Activities

- **Read** FLS, Ch 12, pages 498-515 (11/16)
- **Read** FLS, Ch 12, pages 515-537 (11/18)
- **Discussion section theme:** human rights

Week 14 | Thanksgiving Break (November 22-26), No Class

Week 15 | The Global Environment (November 29-December 3)

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize how climate change will affect conflict and cooperation

Learning Activities

- **Read** FLS, Ch 13, pages 540-559 (11/30)
- **Read** FLS, Ch 13, pages 559-581 (12/2)
- **Discussion section theme:** environment

Week 16 | Challenges to the Global Order (December 6-10)

Learning Objectives:

- Apply knowledge from class to future problems in international relations

Learning Activities

- **Read** FLS, Ch 14, pages 584-606 (12/7)
- **Read** FLS, Ch 14, pages 606-635 (12/9)
- **Discussion section theme:** challenges to global order & review for exam 3

Finals Week | Take Exam 3

- Covers chapters 11-14 and weeks 12-16
- Taken in our classroom on the university's designated date and time for the final exam

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Information for CLAS Undergraduates
Fall 2021

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Students are responsible for attending class and for knowing an instructor's attendance policies, which vary by course and content area. All students are expected to attend class and to contribute to its learning environment in part by complying with University policies and directives regarding appropriate classroom behavior or other matters.

ABSENCES

Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon they know that an absence might occur or as soon as possible in the case of an illness or an unavoidable circumstance. Students can use the CLAS absence form to help communicate with instructors who will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused; the form is located on ICON within the top banner under "Student Tools." Delays by students in communication with an instructor could result in a forfeit of what otherwise might be an excused absence (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>).

ABSENCES: ILLNESS, UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND UNIVERSITY SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Students who are ill, in an unavoidable circumstance affecting academic work, or who miss class because of a University sponsored activity are allowed by UI policy to make up a missed exam. Documentation is required by the instructor except in the case of a brief illness. Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon as the absence is known (<https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/students/absences-class#8.1>).

ABSENCES: HOLY DAYS

Reasonable accommodations are allowed for students whose religious holy days coincide with their classroom assignments, tests, and attendance if the student notifies the instructor in writing of any such religious Holy Day conflicts *within the first days of the semester and no later than the third week*. (See the UI Operations Manual, <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/students/absences-class#8.2>).

ABSENCES: MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

Students absent from class due to U.S. veteran or U.S. military service obligations (including military service-related medical appointments, military orders, and National Guard Service obligations) must be excused without penalty. Instructors must make reasonable accommodations to allow students to make-up exams or other work. Students must communicate with their instructors about the expected possibility of missing class as soon as possible. (For more information, see <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/iv-8-absences-class%C2%A0-0>).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have in essence agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Academic misconduct affects a student's grade and is reported to the College which applies an additional sanction, such as suspension. Outcomes about misconduct are communicated through UI email (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

UI is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as a mental health, attention, learning, vision, and a physical or health-related condition) through the Student Disability Services (SDS) office. The student is responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. Note that accommodations are not granted retroactively but from the time of the student's request to the instructor onward; additionally, accommodations must be requested at least two weeks in advance of the related assignment or exam (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).

CLASS RECORDINGS: PRIVACY AND SHARING

Course lectures and discussions are sometimes recorded or live-streamed. These are only available to students registered for the course and the intellectual property of the faculty member. These materials may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit written consent of the instructors. Students may not share these recordings with those who are not enrolled in the course; likewise, students may not upload recordings to any other online environment. Doing so is a breach of the Code of Student Conduct and could be a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); also see <https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/code-of-student-life/>.

COMMUNICATION: UI EMAIL

Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)). Emails should

be respectful and brief, with complex matters addressed during the instructor's drop-in hours, for example. Faculty are not expected to answer email after business hours or during the weekends.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ACADEMIC MATTERS

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related academic issue should first visit with the instructor and then with the course supervisor (if one is assigned), and next with the Chair of the department or program offering the course. If not resolved, students may bring their concerns to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:

<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICIES

The final exam schedule is published during the fifth week of the fall and spring semesters or on the first day of summer classes; *students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of their final exams*. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. A student with exams scheduled on the same day and time or who have more than two final exams on the same day should visit this page for how to resolve these problems by the given deadline:

<https://registrar.uiowa.edu/makeup-final-examination-policies>. No exams may be scheduled the week before finals; some exception, however, have been made for labs, language courses, and off-cycle courses (<https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>).

FREE SPEECH AND EXPRESSION The University of Iowa supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principles of academic and artistic freedom. We are committed to open inquiry, vigorous debate, and creative expression inside and outside of the classroom. Visit Free Speech at Iowa for more information on the University's policies on free speech and academic freedom (<https://freespeech.uiowa.edu/>).

HOME OF THE COURSE The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the course's add and drop deadlines, the "second-grade only" option (SGO), and other undergraduate policies and procedures. Different UI colleges may have other policies or deadlines. See <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>. Questions? Contact CLAS at clasps@uiowa.edu or 319-335-2633.

MENTAL HEALTH

Students are encouraged to seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling stressed or overwhelmed. Students should talk to their instructors for guidance with specific class-related concerns and are encouraged to contact University Counseling Service (UCS) at 319-335-7294 during regular business hours to schedule an appointment. USC offers group and individual therapy as well as counseling for couples about relationships while making referrals to other resources (<https://counseling.uiowa.edu/>). Student Health can also address related concerns (<https://studenthealth.uiowa.edu/>). These visits are free to students. After hours, students are encouraged to call the Johnson County Community Crisis Line at (319) 351-0140 or dial 911 in an emergency.

NONDISCRIMINATION IN THE CLASSROOM

The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for people of all gender, sexual, racial, religious, and other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited in MyUI to optionally share the names and pronouns they would like their instructors and advisors to use to address them. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories indicated by the University's Human Rights policy. Contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/division/office-equal-opportunity-and-diversity-eod>.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff; all members of the UI community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Those experiencing sexual harassment are strongly encouraged to report the incidents and to seek help (<https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>).