

Fall 2021

PSCI 121: Introduction to International Relations

Section A: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 09:05-10:00 am, Rolvaag Memorial Library 515

Section B: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10:45-11:40 am, Tomson Hall 210

Instructor: Dr. Seyma Akyol

E-Mail: akyol1@stolaf.edu (best way to reach me)

Office & Office Hours: Holland Hall 422 & Mondays 2pm-5pm or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of international politics and will equip you with the theoretical and conceptual tools to understand the world of international politics. We will discuss the main theories of International Relations (IR) that have been used to explain relations among states and other global actors. Moreover, we will explore special issues in world politics and the concepts and theories of this field of study. The emphasis is on acquiring the conceptual tools that help students to organize and analyze information about global politics. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Employ theoretical frameworks for analyzing contemporary global problems
- Explain the political and social implications of global cultural diversity for the conduct of international relations in both official and informal international interactions
- Understand how theory influences policy-making in the international system by focusing on key actors, their decisions, and the dilemmas they face.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EVALUATION

To facilitate successful completion of the course, students are expected to:

- Attend and participate in class
- Complete reading assignments on time
- Complete the assignments, in-class quizzes, and examinations as scheduled.

As a courtesy to your fellow students (and the instructor), plan to arrive on time, mute cell phones and other electronic devices, and remain in the classroom for the duration of the class.

You are expected attend class regularly. Lectures and class discussion will sometimes dovetail the text but will also provide information that is *not* in your text and for which you will be responsible on the exam.

If you cannot meet a deadline or cannot be present for an exam, you should contact the instructor *prior* to the date the work is due, or the exam is to take place. E-mail is the preferred option for contacting me. Unless you have reached *prior* agreement with the instructor, the following rules apply: *No* late assignments will be accepted. *No* make-up examinations will be given. Exceptions can only be made for serious illness and other issues that have been reported.

The course grade will be determined on basis of the following, with the various assignments weighted as indicated:

- Attendance & Participation: 10%
- Quizzes: 15% (3 of them- 5% each)
- Discussion Questions: 15% (3 of them- 5% each)
- Midterm Exams: 20% (2 of them- 10% each)
- Group Project & Presentation: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Students who have questions about their performance in the course should contact the instructor and plan to meet during office hours or another mutually agreed upon time.

GRADING

I follow the College's official grading benchmark. You can access them in the Academic catalog section on "grades."

93 and above: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B
80-82: B-	77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	64-66: D	61-63: D-	60 and below: F

ASSIGNMENTS AND LEARNING

The assignments for the course will together add up to your grade for the course. However, they are also targeted to achieve specific learning outcomes. Here's what each type of assignment is designed to do:

- Attendance will be taken regularly, as it is a prerequisite for participation. Students who miss class sessions, as well as those who attend regularly but do not participate actively, will have their grade lowered proportionally. Perfect attendance does not mean a perfect participation grade - you must be actively engaged in class to score well in this area. Participation points are assigned based upon the quantity and quality of a student's contributions to the class. Your attendance is important both to your ability to master course material and to the overall quality of class discussion. You are permitted two unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. I do not need to know the reason or see any documentation. However, you will be penalized for any unexcused absences beyond the two.
- Quizzes are designed to encourage reading the assigned chapters, and adopt the habit of learning the material regularly, as opposed to studying for the exams at the last minute.

- Discussion questions will be available on Moodle and the questions will be relevant to a given week's topic. You will have until Friday 11.59 pm to complete the discussion questions for a given week. I expect every student to provide individual answers; but you are also encouraged to respond to your peers' answers.
- Midterm and final examinations encourage you to attain command of the material presented in the course beyond memorization. The examinations will be a mixture of multiple choice and essay questions which will test your knowledge to apply and/or critically evaluate theories and concepts in light of historical and contemporary facts. We will have review session prior to the final examination.
- Forming groups of 4, students will engage in a research project that focuses on one of the topics we cover in this course. In light of the lectures and readings, I expect students to narrow down the topic of their research and present it to the rest of the class. Groups should check-in with me during the first week of November to discuss their topics.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 4th edition*. New York: W.W. Norton. (Indicated as FLS in the course outline below.)
- Matthews, Elizabeth G. and Rhonda L. Callaway. 2020. *International Relations Theory: A Primer, 2nd edition*. New York, NY, Oxford University Press.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

I expect you to be diligent about avoiding plagiarism or cheating in any form. I am committed to treating Honor System violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/thebook/academic/integrity/>.

COMMUNICATION

While I am always happy to communicate via e-mail for quick clarification questions, e-mails are not the best way to discuss substantive questions concerning course material. I encourage you to come to office hours or schedule meetings with me if you would like me to clarify concepts or discuss issues in depth.

TECHNOLOGY

You may use of laptops/tablets during lectures only for educational purposes (e-book and taking notes- although existing research proves that taking notes by hand improves learning outcomes). Any other use of your laptops/tablets will lower your participation grade. Please make sure not to use your phones during class time and silence all of your devices.

DISABILITY AND ACCESS ACCOMMODATIONS

I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. Students seeking accommodations, please contact Disability and Access staff at 507-786-3288 or by visiting wp.stolaf.edu/asc/dac.

PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUN

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

COURSE CONTENT & OUTLINE

September 10: Introduction & Syllabus Overview

Theories and Approaches to World Politics

September 13-15: Course Overview & Understanding International Relations

Read: Matthews and Calloway Chapter 1

September 17-20: Realism

Read: Matthews and Calloway Chapter 2

September 22-24: Liberalism

Read: Matthews and Calloway Chapter 3

Assignment: Discussion Question due on September 24, 11:59 pm

September 27- 29: Constructivism

Read: Matthews and Calloway Chapter 5

October 1- 4: IR Theories and Foreign Policy

Read: Foreign Policy (available on Moodle)

October 1: Quiz #1

Issues in World Politics: Conflict and War

October 6-8: Why States Fight?

Read: FLS Chapter 3

(No in-person class on October 8th- lecture recording will be available on Moodle)

October 13: Domestic Politics and War

Read: FLS Chapter 4

October 15: Midterm #1

October 18: Fall Break- No class

October 20: International Institutions and War

Read: FLS Chapter 5

Assignment: Chapter 5 Discussion Questions Due on Friday, October 22 midnight

October 22-25: Violence by Non-State Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

Read: FLS Chapter 6

October 27-29: Conflict Management

Read: FLS Chapter 5 (re-read from page 205 until the end of the chapter)

Greig, Michael J. and Paul F. Diehl. 2012. *International Mediation*. Polity Press: Malden, MA (Introduction). (available on Moodle)

October 29: Quiz #2

Issues in World Politics: International Political Economy

November 1- 3: International Trade

Read: FLS Chapter 7

November 5- 8: International Financial Institutions

Read: FLS Chapter 8

November 1 through 5- Group check-ins during office hours or by appointment

November 10-12: International Development

Read: FLS Chapter 10

Assignment: Chapter 10 Discussion Questions Due on Friday, November 12 midnight

November 15: Midterm #2

Issues in World Politics: International Cooperation

November 17-19: International Law & Organizations & Norms

Read: FLS Chapter 11

November 19: Quiz #3

November 22: Human Rights

Read: FLS Chapter 12

November 24 through November 28: Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29: Human Rights continued

December 1: Environmental Issues
Read: FLS Chapter 13

December 3-6-8: Presentations

December 10-13: Wrap Up- Review

Final Exam for Section A: Saturday, December 18, 9:00-11:00 am
Final Exam for Section B: Thursday, December 16, 9:00-11:00 am