

# Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Brian Blankenship

Course Location: TBA

Course Meeting Time: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

## Course Description

This course provides students with an introduction to the academic study of international politics. Students will learn various approaches to understanding international relations and foreign policy, including through the lens of “levels of analysis.” The course covers a broad range of issues, including those related to security, economics, and social forces, both historical and contemporary.

## Learning Objectives

In addition to substantive knowledge, students can expect to develop the following skills over the duration of the course:

- Students will come to a critical understanding of competing theories and debates in international relations.
- Students will improve their persuasive and analytical writing skills.
- Students will learn how to dissect, restate, and critique theoretical and empirical arguments in scholarly political science work.

## Requirements

### **Attendance and Participation: 20%**

Attendance at discussion sections and weekly readings are mandatory, and students should come prepared with discussion points and questions based on the week’s materials. Class may not be missed except in case of exceptional emergency, religious observance, or illness with a doctor’s note, and I must be informed as far ahead of time as practicable. Absences harm not only the participation grade, but affect grading of all other work as I am less able to assess the student’s understanding of and engagement with the relevant texts. Make-up work may be assigned for approved absences.

**First Exam: 20%**

**Second Exam: 20%**

**Final Exam: 40%**

### **Course Texts**

Almost all readings will be placed on library reserve, electronically or physically. The only book required for purchase is:

Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics*, 13th edition. New York: Pearson, 2017.

## **Course Schedule**

### **1 The Nature of International Relations**

#### **Section 1. What is International Relations?**

Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," in Art and Jervis.

Snyder, Jack. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy* (Nov/Dec.): 53-62.

#### **Section 2. Anarchy and the International System**

Waltz, Kenneth, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," in Art and Jervis.

Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. *Man, the State and War* (New York: Columbia University Press), chapter 1.

Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 17 (1): 67-85 .

#### **Section 3. What are the Consequences of Anarchy?**

Mearsheimer, John J., "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in Art and Jervis.

Wendt, Alexander, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It," in Art and Jervis.

Introduction to Mueller, John. 1989. *Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War* (New York: Basic Books).

### **2 Understanding and Studying International Politics**

#### **Section 4. Levels of Analysis: The System Level**

Jervis, Robert. 2017. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, 2nd ed. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), chapter 1.

Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. *Man, the State and War* (New York: Columbia University Press), chapters 6 and 7.

## **Section 5. Levels of Analysis: The Domestic and Individual Levels**

Doyle, Michael W., "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs," in Art and Jervis.

Russett, Bruce. 1993. *Grasping the Democratic Peace* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), chapter 2.

Jervis, Robert. 2013. "Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know?" *Security Studies* 22 (2): 153-179.

## **3 International Security**

### **Section 6. Understanding War and Peace**

Fearon, James D., "Rationalist Explanations for War," in Art and Jervis.

Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (2): 167-214.

### **Section 7. Power and the Functions of Force**

Nye, Joseph S., Jr., "What Is Power in Global Affairs?" in Art and Jervis.

Art, Robert J., "The Four Functions of Force," in Art and Jervis.

Schelling, Thomas G., "The Diplomacy of Violence," in Art and Jervis.

Art, Robert J., "The Fungibility of Force," in Art and Jervis.

### **Section 8. International Institutions**

Roberts, Adams, and Dominik Zaum, "The U.N. Security Council," in Art and Jervis.

Hoffman, Stanley, "The Uses and Limits of International Law," in Art and Jervis.

Keohane, Robert, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?," in Art and Jervis.

Mearsheimer, John. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19 (3): 5-49.

### **Section 9. Human Rights and International Norms**

Howard, Rhoda E., and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics," in Art and Jervis.

Western, Jon, and Joshua S. Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age," in Art and Jervis.

Downes, Alexander B., "To the Shores of Tripoli? Regime Change and Its Consequences," in Art and Jervis.

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Activist Networks," in Art and Jervis.

Betts, Richard. 1994. "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention." *Foreign Affairs* 73 (6): 20-33.

## **4 International Political Economy**

### **Section 10. The Relationship Between Politics and Economics**

Gilpin, Robert, "The Nature of Political Economy," in Art and Jervis.

Keohane, Robert, and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. 2012. *Power and Interdependence*, 4th ed. (New York: Pearson), chapter 1.

Krasner, Stephen D.. 1976. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." *World Politics* 28 (3): 317-347.

Copeland, Dale C., "Economic Interdependence and War," in Art and Jervis.

### **Section 11. International Trade and Globalization**

Rodrik, Dani, "Why Doesn't Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade?" in Art and Jervis.

Frankel, Jeffrey, "Globalization of the Economy," in Art and Jervis.

Naim, Moises, "What Globalization Is and Is Not," in Art and Jervis.

## **5 Contemporary Issues in International Politics**

### **Section 12. U.S. Primacy and China's Rise: Where are We Headed?**

Jervis, Robert, "The Era of Leading Power Peace," in Art and Jervis.

Art, Robert J., "The United States and the Rise of China," in Art and Jervis.

Ikenberry, G. John, "The Future of the Liberal World Order," in Art and Jervis.

Posen, Barry R., "Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?" in Art and Jervis.

### **Section 13. Security Issues**

Waltz, Kenneth. 1981. "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better," *Adelphi Papers*, Number 171 (London: International Institute for Strategic Studies).

Sokolski, Henry, "Our Not So Peaceful Nuclear Future," in Art and Jervis.

Hoffman, Bruce, "What is Terrorism?" in Art and Jervis.

Cronin, Audrey Kurth, "Ending Terrorism," in Art and Jervis.

Lin, Herbert, "Cyber Conflict and National Security," in Art and Jervis.

### **Section 14. Economic, Social, and Environmental Issues**

Hardin, Garrett, "The Tragedy of the Commons," in Art and Jervis.

Dupont, Alan, "The Strategic Implications of Climate Change," in Art and Jervis.