

Yale University
Department of Political Science

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PLSC 111
Spring 2015
Syllabus
(January 7, 2015 version)

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Class: Mon. & Wed. 2:30-3:20PM, Sheffield Sterling Strathcona Hall, Rm. #114,
1 Prospect Street;

Office Hours: Tue. 3:30-5:30PM, Rosenkranz Hall, Rm. #337, 115 Prospect Street (book through my
website or directly at <https://calendly.com/npmonteiro/15min/>);

Sections: Rooms, days, and times TBD.

COURSE OUTLINE AND OBJECTIVES

This course aims at introducing students to the major issues, questions, and theories in world politics. The focus is both theoretical and historical. Theoretically, we will cover the main schools of thought about international relations. Historically, we will focus on the making of the contemporary world from World War I onwards. The course will provide a solid grounding for other courses on international politics and modern history. By the end of the course, students will have:

- An understanding of the main schools of international relations theory and their different approaches to analyzing world events;
- An assessment of the shift in the structure of world politics from one in which states were the only meaningful actors to one in which non-state actors and international institutions also play a role;
- An analysis of the main sources of international conflict as well as the key instruments of peace;
- A series of case studies on the crucial events and dynamics of contemporary world politics.

Specifically, we will cover the basic visions of world politics yielded by each of the main theories in the field, the causes and conduct of the two World Wars, the forces favoring peace among the great powers since 1945 (nuclear weapons, globalization, democratization, international institutions, evolving norms on the legitimate use of force), as well as key debates in contemporary world politics, including the North/South divide; peripheral wars, occupations, and counterinsurgency; the causes and consequences nuclear proliferation; the spread of democracy and its impact on world politics; the evolution of the Middle East and Arab Spring; the future of the European Union; and the evolution of civil wars. We conclude with a prospective analysis of the major challenges in world politics over the next few decades, such as the rise of China and climate change.

Finally, the course will introduce students to different International Relations faculty at Yale, who will deliver guest lectures on their topics of expertise.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Lectures: While not mandatory, attendance of the lectures is highly recommended. If you do attend the lectures, please arrive on time; lectures will start promptly at 2:30PM. Lectures will be supported by a PowerPoint presentation. Before each lecture, I will post a 1-2 page lecture handout on the Classes*V2 website, under the “Resources” tab. You may want to use this brief outline to follow the lecture and take additional notes. A PDF file of the PowerPoint presentation will be posted on Classes*V2 after each lecture.

Sections: Section attendance is mandatory. The sections will review the main concepts and arguments in the readings as well as make room for discussion of the key issues at stake in each topic. Sections will start the week of January 26. The section sign-up period will open online on Friday, January 16.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

There are no pre-requisites for the course. The course will consist in a series of lectures with pre-assigned readings. Students are expected to do all the readings and attend both weekly lectures. Students are required to attend a weekly discussion section. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- Participation in discussion section: 20%;
- Three short response papers: 15%;
- Midterm exam: 25%;
- Final exam: 40%.

Note: In order to receive an overall passing grade, students must receive a passing grade in all four components of the final grade. In other words, failing one component of the course will lead to a failing grade in the overall course.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Participation: Students should do all the readings for each week in advance of the respective discussion section and come prepared to contribute to class discussion during the sections by bringing questions that stem from the readings. Participation does not mean just attendance. Please strive to be an active participant in the section discussion.

Response Papers: Each student will submit a 2-page reaction to the readings for three different weeks. Your response papers should be posted on the Classes*V2 according to your TF’s instructions by 8:00pm the day before the section meeting in which the readings will be discussed. Short papers received after the deadline but before the relevant discussion section begins will be dropped one full letter grade. Short papers will not be accepted after the relevant discussion section starts. Each of the three short papers will be worth 5% of the final course grade. These short statements should include an analysis of the weaknesses of arguments made by the authors for the relevant week; questions with which you were left by the readings; or points of confusion that should be clarified. (You should not summarize the readings; assume that everybody else has

done the reading as well and understands the basic arguments.) You do not have to discuss all of the readings assigned for the week; you may discuss just one or two pieces, or you can pick a broader range and compare them to each other (or to readings for earlier weeks). Likewise, within each reading you select to engage, you do not have to discuss the whole piece. You may do so, but you may equally well focus on a section, a paragraph, or even a sentence that piqued your interest. You are welcome to choose any three weeks in which to write your reaction papers, though spacing things out over the semester might be best.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course and consist of two sections, each with equal weight on the exam grade.

- In the first section, you will be asked to answer six out of eight ID questions in no more than a paragraph of 5-8 lines each. Topics will include concepts as well as historical events and figures.
- In the second section, you will have to write one out of two possible short essays.

All questions and essays will address topics from the lectures and readings.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover the entire course and consist in three sections, each with equal weight on the exam grade.

- In the first section, you will be asked to answer eight out of ten ID questions in no more than a paragraph of 5-8 lines each. Topics will include concepts as well as historical events and figures. Three-quarters of the topics will be from the second half of the course, with the remaining IDs coming from the first half.
- In the second section, you will have to write two out of three possible short essays about topics from the second half of the course.
- In the third section, you will be asked to write one out of two possible long essays on topics that require you to reflect on the entire course.

All questions and essays will address topics from the lectures and readings.

COURSE POLICIES

Policy on Plagiarism: Please read these elements of the university's policy on plagiarism.

- You need to cite all sources used for papers, including drafts of papers, and repeat the reference each time you use the source in your written work.
- You need to place quotation marks around any cited or cut-and-pasted materials, IN ADDITION TO footnoting or otherwise marking the source.
- If you do not quote directly – that is, if you paraphrase – you still need to mark your source each time you use borrowed material. Otherwise you have plagiarized.
- It is also advisable that you list all sources consulted for the draft or paper in the closing materials, such as a bibliography or roster of sources consulted.
- You may not submit the same paper, or substantially the same paper, in more than one course. If topics for two courses coincide, you need written permission from both instructors before either combining work on two papers or revising an earlier paper for submission to a new course.

It is the policy of Yale College that all cases of academic dishonesty be reported to the chair of the Executive Committee.

Policy on Electronic Devices: I reserve the right to ban the use of electronic devices in the classroom if it appears that they are serving purposes other than taking lecture notes. All cell phones must be turned off during lecture and section.

While all these policies will be strictly enforced, I know that emergencies and illnesses might arise during the term. If that happens to be the case, please let me know as early as possible so that we can work out alternative arrangements for you to complete your work within a reasonable period of time. In emergency cases, you will need to present a “dean’s excuse” in order to be allowed to turn in late work or justify a series of absences from class sessions.

READINGS

The readings for this class were chosen to represent a wide variety of perspectives on world politics and give the students a solid empirical grasp of the issues at stake. We will use a textbook, a reader, and then assorted readings by scholars of world politics. The following books are required for purchase and have been ordered through the Yale bookstore as a bundle:

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2nd edition (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2013) [referred to in the course schedule below as FLS];
- Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 5th edition (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014) [referred to in the course schedule below as MS];
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 2nd edition (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014).

All other readings will be made available in PDF format on the course website on the Classes*v2 server, under the “Resources” tab. The readings for each session are listed in the order you should do them.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I – TOOLS FOR THINKING ABOUT WORLD POLITICS

Week 1

Lecture 1.1 (January 12) – *Intro: Competing Visions of World Politics*

- Jack L. Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” in MS chapter 1;
- Thucydides, “Melian Dialogue, from *The Peloponnesian War*,” in MS chapter 1.

Lecture 1.2 (January 14) – *Agents in World Politics: the State and Beyond*

- Andrew Moravcsik, “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics,” *International Organization*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (1997), pp. 513-553;
- Thomas Risse, “Transnational Actors and World Politics,” in Walter Carsnaes et al., editors, *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002), pp. 255-274.

Lecture 2.1 (January 16) – Structures in World Politics: Anarchy and Power
(NOTE FRIDAY SESSION; NO CLASS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19)

- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 2nd edition (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), chapters 2-3;
- Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics,” in MS chapter 3;

Week 2

Lecture 2.2 (January 21) – Interactions in World Politics: Levels of Analysis

- FLS chapter 2;
- J. David Singer, “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations,” *World Politics*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (1961), pp. 77-92;
- Robert D. Putnam, “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games,” in MS chapter 5.

PART II – THE CAUSES OF WAR AND PEACE

Week 3

Lecture 3.1 (January 26) – War in History: The Evolution of Warfare

- FLS chapter 1;
- Michael Howard, *War in European History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976), chapters 5-6.

Lecture 3.2 (January 28) – Causes of War: Anarchy, Intentions, and Information

- FLS chapter 3;
- Carl von Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy, from *On War*,” in MS chapter 8;
- Robert Jervis, “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma,” in MS chapter 8;
- Jack S. Levy, “The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace,” *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 1 (1998), pp. 139-165.

Week 4

Lecture 4.1 (February 02) – War in History: The Causes of World War I

- Jack Snyder, “Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984,” *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (1984), pp. 108-146;
- Scott Sagan, “1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability,” *International Security*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (1986), pp. 151-175.

Lecture 4.2 (February 04) – War in History: The Conduct of World War I

- Stephen Biddle, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004), chapter 5.

Week 5

Lecture 5.1 (February 09) – Causes of War: Revisionism, Domestic Politics, and Commitments

- FLS chapter 4;
- Michael W. Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” in MS chapter 3.

Lecture 5.2 (February 11) -- *War in History: The Causes of World War II*

- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 2nd edition (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), pp. 155-190, 209-224, 267-272, and 305-322;
- David Reynolds, "1940: Fulcrum of the Twentieth Century?" *International Affairs*, Vol. 66, No. 2 (1990), pp. 325-350.

Week 6

Lecture 6.1 (February 16) – *War in History: The Conduct of World War II*

- Scott D. Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988), pp. 893-922;
- Bruce M. Russett, *No Clear and Present Danger: A Skeptical View of the United States Entry into WWII* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1971), chapters 2-3.

Lecture 6.2 (February 18) – *Causes of Peace: Nuclear Weapons* (Will need to reschedule session)

- Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 1995), chapters 1-2;
- Thomas Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence," in MS chapter 8.

Week 7

Lecture 7.1 (February 23) – *Causes of Peace: The Kantian Tripod*

- Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points," in MS chapter 2;
- Robert O. Keohane, "From *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*," in MS chapter 7;
- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions, in MS chapter 7;
- Bruce Russett, John Oneal, and David Davis, "The Third Leg of the Kantian Tripod: International Organizations and Militarized Disputes, 1950-1985," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 3 (1998), pp. 441-467.

Lecture 7.2 (February 25) – *Peace in History: Pax Britannica, the Cold War, and Pax Americana*

- FLS chapter 5;
- George F. Kennan ("X"), "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," in MS chapter 2;
- Frank Fukuyama, "The Future of History," in MS chapter 2;
- G. John Ikenberry, Michael Mastanduno, and William Wohlforth, "Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences," in MS chapter 4.

PART III – PROBLEMS IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Week 8

Lecture 8.1 (March 02) – *International Law, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Intervention*

Guest Lecturer: Thania Sanchez, assistant professor of political science;

- FLS chapters 11 and 12;
- Martha Finnemore, "Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention, from *The Purpose of Intervention*," in MS chapter 8;
- Amartya Sen, "Human Rights and Capabilities," in MS chapter 10;

- Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights and Cultural Relativism, from *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*,” in MS chapter 10;
- Emilie M. Hafner-Burton and Kiyotery Tsutsui, “Justice Lost! The Failure of International Human Rights Law to Matter Where Needed Most,” in MS chapter 10;

Lecture 8.2 (March 04) – Development and the North / South Divide

Guest Lecturer: Maggie Peters, assistant professor of political science;

- FLS chapters 7, 8, and 10;

Week 9

Lecture 9.1 (March 23) – Asymmetric Warfare and the Future of Afghanistan

Guest Lecturer: Jason Lyall, associate professor of political science;

- Jason Lyall and Isaiah Wilson III, “Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars,” *International Organization*, Vol. 63, No. 1 (2009), pp. 67-106;
- United States Army, *U.S. Army Field Manual 3-24, Marine Corps War-fighting Publication 3-33.5: Insurgencies and Countering Insurgencies* (Washington, DC: Department of the Army, 2 June 2014), chapters 9-10.

Lecture 9.2 (March 25) – Nuclear Proliferation and the Iranian Nuclear Program

Guest Lecturer: Alexandre Debs, assistant professor of political science;

- Nuno P. Monteiro and Alexandre Debs, “The Strategic Logic of Nuclear Proliferation,” *International Security*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (2014), pp. 7-51;
- Colin H. Kahl, Raj Pattani, and Jacob Stokes, “If All Else Fails: The Challenges of Containing a Nuclear-Armed Iran,” Center for New American Security, 2013, sections I-III;
- Mathew Kroenig, “Time to Attack Iran: Why a Strike Is the Least Bad Option,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 91, No. 1 (January/February 2012), pp. 76-86;
- Barry R. Posen, “A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A difficult but Not Impossible Policy Problem,” in MS chapter 8.

Week 10

Lecture 10.1 (March 30) – The Spread of Democracy and Its International Consequences

Guest Lecturer: Susan Hyde, associate professor of political science;

- Seva Gunitsky, “From Shocks to Waves: Hegemonic Transitions and Democratization in the Twentieth Century,” *International Organization*, Vol. 68, No. 03 (2014), pp. 561-597.

Lecture 10.2 (April 01) – The Future of the European Union

Guest Lecturer: David Cameron, professor of political science;

- Sebastian Rosato, “Europe’s Troubles: Power Politics and the State of the European Project,” *International Security*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (2011), pp. 45-86.

Week 11

Lecture 11.1 (April 06) – The Arab Spring and the Future of the Middle East

Guest Lecturer: Adria Lawrence, assistant professor of political science;

- Olive Roy, “The Transformation of the Arab World,” in MS chapter 5;

- Eva Bellin, “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism: Lessons of the Arab Spring,” *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (2012), pp. 127-149;
- Jason Brownlee, Tarek Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds, “Tracking the Arab Spring: Why the Modest Harvest?” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (2013), pp. 29-44.

Lecture 11.2 (April 08) – Civil War

Guest Lecturer: Nicholas Sambanis, professor of political science;

- FLS chapter 6;
- James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 1 (2003), pp. 75-90;
- Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, “Civil War,” *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (2010), pp. 3-57.

Week 12

Lecture 12.1 (April 13) – The Rise of China and the Future of the International System

Guest Lecturer: Jessica Weiss, assistant professor of political science;

- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 2nd edition (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), chapter 10;
- Thomas J. Christensen, “Posing Problems without Catching up: China's Rise and Challenges for U.S. Security Policy,” *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (2001), pp. 5-40;
- Avery Goldstein, “First Things First: The Pressing Danger of Crisis Instability in U.S.-China Relations,” *International Security*, Vol. 37, No. 4 (2013), pp. 49-89.

Lecture 12.2 (April 15) – U.S. Grand Strategy and the Future of the U.S. Global Role

- William Wohlforth, “The Stability of a Unipolar World,” *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (1999), pp. 5-41;
- Nuno P. Monteiro, *Theory of Unipolar Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), chapters 4-5 and 8.

Week 13

Lecture 13.1 (April 20) – The Environment and the Future of World Politics

- FLS chapter 13;
- Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” in MS chapter 11;
- Elinor Ostrom, “Institutions and the Environment,” in MS chapter 11;
- Robert O. Keohane and David G. Victor, “The Regime Complex for Climate Change,” in MS chapter 11;

Lecture 13.2 (April 22) – Wrap-up and Conclusion

- FLS chapter 14.