

PSCI 2223-880: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
LIBR N424A
MWF 1:00 - 1:50
SPRING 2020

Professor: Megan Shannon

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Office hours: Mondays and Fridays, 11am - noon (no appointment necessary)

What This Class Promises to You

While George Washington and Thomas Jefferson warned Americans against entangling global relationships, their vision now seems impossible, since the world's most pressing problems require international cooperation. Not only does international politics affect our daily lives, it does so in puzzling ways. The goal of this class is to explore puzzles in international politics, including:

- If war is so costly, why do countries fight?
- If trade is economically efficient, why do countries sometimes restrict trade?
- If everyone values the earth's resources, why is global cooperation over the environment so hard to achieve?

We investigate these and other questions by identifying the interests, interactions, and institutions that lead to global outcomes. Actors have particular interests, but when they interact with others, they may end up with outcomes that do not reflect their interests. Global actors also work under institutions and rules that can constrain and change their behavior. By exploring the behavior that results from interests, interactions, and institutions, we explain today's events and make predictions about the future. By the semester's end, you will understand a variety of political problems facing the world today. You will also have a healthy appreciation for how much more there is to learn about international relations.

This is not a current events nor a history class. Even though we talk about historical events, and we think about the future, the theories we learn about apply to international politics across time. Moreover, this is not a class about any one particular country or region of the world. Even though we discuss particular countries as examples, the theories apply globally to a broad number of countries and regions.

What You Bring to the Class

The University of Colorado is a learning community that seeks to understand the world around us. CU cannot achieve those goals without the engagement of its undergraduate students. That means your participation in this class is valuable. You have unique gifts, skills, and insights that advance our search for truth and knowledge. If you withhold participation, it stifles and hinders the ability of the community to learn.

By enrolling in this class, you have the opportunity to develop, enhance, and contribute knowledge in political science. As members of this class, we commit to:

- Being on time to class
- Doing the readings before coming to class

- Using technology responsibly, and in a way that allows other students to engage the course material
- Participating in active learning activities during class

Class Materials

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 4th edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN 9780393644494. The ebook is available here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol4>.
- Clicker, which can be purchased from the CU bookstore.

Coming to my office hours

I will be in my office with the door open and available to talk on Mondays and Fridays from 11:00am to noon. You do not need to make an appointment or let me know you are coming in advance - just drop by. I'm a fairly nice person and I hope you will not feel intimidated to stop by my office hours. You can come alone or with a friend. You can come to talk about the class, study skills, your career goals, etc.

Understandably, you may find it hard to discuss difficulties, dilemmas, and dissatisfaction with me. Please resist the temptation to remain anonymous and let problems fester. If you have concerns about your class performance, the way the class is being taught, the functionality of the class on Canvas, or anything else related to this course, email me or your teaching assistant. We will work together to find a solution.

Grades and Policies

In-Class Exams (top 3 grades), 75%

There will be four in-class, closed book examinations given in this class. **You must take all four exams**, and the top three exam grades will count toward your final grade. Exams will not be given at any other time other than those specified in this syllabus. Exams are given during our normal class time and begin at 1:00pm, with the exception of Exam 4, which begins at 4:30pm. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam or make it up at another time. Examinations will not be given to anyone at a day and time other than that which is already specified on the syllabus unless you have discussed with me in advance special arrangements due to disability or final exam conflict. Students requiring accommodation on the exams must show a letter from Disability Services and must contact me five days prior to the exam to make arrangements.

Attendance and Participation, 10%

I will assess attendance and participation with clickers. Attendance will be taken every class meeting. You have two 'free' absences this semester; after that, some attendance points will be deducted. Participation points can be gained by asking questions, contributing to class discussion, and being engaged. Participation points can be lost by checking cellphones during class, failing to engage in discussion, arriving late consistently, and leaving early consistently. Please make sure you have your clicker and that it has batteries and is in working order before every class. I cannot field technological problems with clickers, nor can I make alternative arrangements if you forget your clicker.

International Institutions and International Human Rights Papers 15%

You will write two short (three to four page) papers on topics in international institutions and international human rights.

Written Work Policy

Written work must be uploaded to Canvas as well as turned in as a hard copy. Work turned in late will be docked one letter grade for each day late, beginning at the end of class on the day the written work is due.

Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices, including computers, tablets, and mobile phones, are not allowed while class is in session. This policy is aimed at providing the best learning environment for all students. Computers, phones, and other devices must be put in airplane mode or turned off and put away during class. If you need to make a call, send a text, or use an electronic device during class, leave the lecture hall and return when you are finished. Students will receive a warning when violating this policy. Students who repeatedly violate this policy will be asked to leave the class. Exceptions to this policy are at the instructor's discretion.

Grading Scale

	B+ 89 - 87	C+ 79 - 77	D+ 69 - 67	
A 93 - 100	B 86 - 83	C 76 - 73	D 66 - 63	F 59 - 0
A- 92 - 90	B- 82 - 80	C- 72 - 70	D- 62 - 60	

Requirement	Due Date and Time	Weight
Exam One	February 3 at 1:00pm	Top Three Exams 75%
International Institutions Paper	February 17 at 1:00pm	7.5%
Exam Two	February 26 at 1:00pm	Top Three Exams 75%
International Human Rights Paper	March 20 at 1:00pm	7.5%
Exam Three	April 3 at 1:00pm	Top Three Exams 75%
Exam Four	May 4 at 4:30pm	Top Three Exams 75%
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	10%

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

This schedule is subject to change with advance notice.

January 13 and 15: Foundations and History of International Politics

Why should we care about international politics? What makes international politics different from domestic politics? What historical events contributed to the current world order?

Jan 15: Chapter 1

January 17, 22, and 24: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

What do actors want from politics? Why can't actors always get what they want? Do rules matter in world politics?

Jan 17: Chapter 2, pp 45-68

Jan 22: Chapter 2, pp 69-87

January 27, 29, and 31: International Conflict

If war is so costly, why do countries fight?

Jan 27: Chapter 3, pp 88-127

Jan 29: Chapter 3, pp 128-137

Exam 1: Monday, February 3, in class

February 5, 7, and 10: Domestic Politics and War

What domestic interests affect matters of war and peace?

Feb 5: Chapter 4, pp 138-155

Feb 7: Chapter 4, pp 156-185

February 12, 14, and 17: International Institutions and War

Can international law and institutions prevent war?

Feb 12: Chapter 5, pp 186-205

Feb 14: Chapter 5, pp 206-235

Feb 17: International institutions paper due at the beginning of class

February 19, 21, and 24: Civil War and Terrorism

Why does war happen within countries? Why do terrorists kill?

Feb 19: Chapter 6, pp 236-268

Feb 21: Chapter 6, pp 269-293

Exam 2: Wednesday, February 26th, in class

February 28, March 2, and March 4: International Law and Norms

Without global police to enforce it, can international law change how countries behave?

Feb 28: Chapter 11, pp 462-475

Mar 2: Chapter 11, pp 476-497

March 9, 11, and 13: Human Rights

If everyone values human rights, why hasn't the human rights movement been more successful?

Mar 9: Chapter 12, pp 498-528

Mar 11: Chapter 12, pp 529-539

March 16, 18, and 20: The Global Environment

If everyone values the earth's resources, why is global cooperation over the environment so hard to achieve?

Mar 16: Chapter 13, pp 540-570

Mar 18: Chapter 13, pp 571-583

Mar 20: Human rights paper due at the beginning of class

Week of March 23: No class, Spring Break

March 30 and April 1: The Future of International Politics

How might challenges such as the rise of China and the spread of nuclear weapons change the global order?

Mar 30: Chapter 14, pp 584-606

Apr 1: Chapter 14, pp 607-636

Exam 3: Friday, April 3, in class

April 6, 8, and 10: International Trade

What's so good about trade? Why do countries sometimes restrict trade?

Apr 6: Chapter 7, pp 294-318

Apr 8: Chapter 7, pp 319-345

April 13, 15, and 17: International Finance and Migration

How and why do labor and capital flow overseas?

Apr 13: Chapter 8, pp 346-371

Apr 15: Chapter 8, pp 372-385

April 20, 22, and 24: International Monetary Policy

Without world government, how do countries supply money and regulate currency?

Apr 20: Chapter 9, pp 386-412

Apr 22: Chapter 9, pp 413-423

April 27 and 29: International Development

Why are some countries rich and others poor?

Apr 27: Chapter 10, pp 424-445

Apr 29: Chapter 10, pp 446-460

Exam 4: Monday, May 4, 4:30pm in LIBR N424A

Other Course Policies

Honor Code

By my writing this syllabus, and by your enrolling in this course, we agree to uphold the CU Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at <https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/honor-code>.

Attendance and Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students should use their free absences from class to accommodate religious holidays. If you have any religious conflicts with scheduled exams in this class, please see me immediately. <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams1>.

Classroom Behavior

You and I are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior at <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior>.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website <https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students>. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and

stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website <https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/>. Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.