

PSC 102 Introduction to International Politics

Course Syllabus Spring 2017

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic
Office: 505 Park Hall
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Classroom: 112 O'Brian Hall
Class schedule: MWF 11-11:50 p.m.
Office hours: W 12-1 p.m. & by app.

Teaching Assistant:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to contemporary and historical international relations centered on the scientific study of international politics and the principle forms of international conflict and cooperation. It is designed to familiarize students with basic concepts and theories of international relations, including topics about war and peace, domestic influences on foreign policy, international organizations, international trade and finance, global economic development, etc.

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

This course is designed to deliver learning outcomes that satisfy the SUNY General Education Requirements in the Social Sciences and Other World Civilizations.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, a student should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental principles of international conflict and cooperation.
- Identify principle forms and patterns in international interactions, both conflictual and cooperative.
- Demonstrate the knowledge of major concepts and paradigms in the study of international relations.
- Be familiar with global historical development of international society and state sovereignty.
- Be familiar with foreign policy issues common to both Western and non-Western societies, as well as those prevalent primarily in non-Western states such as problems of economic development.
- Understand diverse forms of conflict, including global terrorism and nonconventional warfare in non-Western societies, and their underlying causes.
- Understand the current unique problem of some non-Western states related to their fragile sovereignty (“failed states”), governance, and humanitarian issues.
- Identify and analyze international institutions and other nonstate actors in world politics.
- Learn and understand the principles of international political economy as applied to trade and monetary relations

REQUIRED READINGS

There is one required textbook for the course:

David Kinsella, Bruce Russett, and Harvey Starr (2013) *World Politics: The Menu for Choice, 10th Edition*. Publisher: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. (Identified as *World Politics* in the course reading schedule).

Print copies are available for purchase or rental at the University Bookstore, located on North Campus. Used print copies can also be purchased or rented at the Greeks and Sneaks Bookstore, located on 3230 Main St. I would advise students to compare prices before making the final purchase. Whichever venue and format is chosen, each student must completely read the entire textbook for the course. The readings should be completed before the first class for which they are assigned.

OUTCOME ASSESSMENT

The final grade in this course will be based on three main components: (1) four in-class exams, (2) a cumulative final exam, and (3) four in-class reviews & self-assessments.

Note: While regular attendance will not be a part of the grade, do note that the lecture slides will not be posted on UBLearns or shared with students. If you miss a class, it will be your responsibility to get the class notes from your classmates.

Summary of the grade components:

60% Four in-class exams (15% each)

30% Cumulative Final Exam

10% Four in-class reviews & self-assessments (2.5% each)

1. *Four in-class examinations* (60% total; 15% each)

The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and concept ID questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 15% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures for the particular segment of the course (see the schedule below).

2. *Cumulative Final Exam* (30% total):

The final exam, scheduled on May 15 (11:45-2:45 pm), will be CUMULATIVE, covering the assigned reading materials and the class lectures for the entire course. It will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and concept ID questions

3. *Four in-class reviews & self-assessments* (10% total; 2.5% each):

There will be four assigned class dates, scheduled prior to each of the four exams (see the schedule below), when students will be answering questions in writing from the review materials. The questions will be answered individually but scored by another student – two students sitting next to each other will exchange their completed answers and evaluate them based on the final correct answers provided in the end. Individual scored answers must be submitted to the TA for a grade credit, as a proof that a student was present and completing this review and self-assessment on that scheduled class day. However, the individual scores would not count toward the final grade. If a student fails to submit her/his scored answers IN CLASS on the scheduled review date, there will not be any credit given.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Measure
Understand the fundamental principles of international conflict and cooperation.	Exams, reviews
Identify principle forms and patterns in international interactions, both conflictual and cooperative.	Exams, reviews
Demonstrate the knowledge of major concepts and paradigms in the study of international relations.	Exam 1, Final exam, reviews
Be familiar with global historical development of international society and state sovereignty.	Exam 1, Final exam
Be familiar with foreign policy issues common to both Western and non-Western societies, as well as those prevalent primarily in non-Western states such as problems of economic development.	Exams 2 & 4, Final exam, reviews
Understand diverse forms of conflict, including global terrorism and nonconventional warfare in non-Western societies, and their underlying causes.	Exam 3, Final exam, reviews
Understand the current unique problem of some non-Western states related to their fragile sovereignty (“failed states”), governance, and humanitarian issues.	Exam 3, Final exam, reviews
Identify and analyze international institutions and other nonstate actors in world politics.	Exam 4, Final exam, reviews
Learn and understand the principles of international political economy as applied to trade and monetary relations.	Exam 4, Final exam, reviews

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

93-100 % (A); 90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+); 83-86.9% (B); 80-82.9% (B-);
77-79.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+); 63-66.9% (D); 60-62.9% (D-); < 60% (F)

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

February 17 (F) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 1
February 20 (M) - Exam 1
March 13 (M) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 2
March 15 (W) - Exam 2
April 21 (F) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 3
April 24 (M) - Exam 3
May 8 (M) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 4
May 10 (W) - Exam 4
May 15 (M, 11:45 am - 2:45 pm) 107 Talbert Hall - Cumulative FINAL EXAM

Make-Up Policy

Make-up exams and review/self-assessments will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness. A doctor, excusing you for the specific date of your missed class for medical reasons, must provide the excuse in writing. Simply checking in with a doctor’s office without the doctor’s authorization for missing the class will not be considered a valid circumstance for an excuse. Do note that the UB Health Services do not provide such an excuse (unless you give permission for full medical disclosure to the instructor). The request for a valid

make-up needs to be made to me in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed exam or review class. Otherwise, the make-up will not be granted.

Electronic Communication

I encourage students to visit me during my office hours for any questions and inquiries. If the circumstances necessitate it (such as the emergency situations), you can also e-mail me or Joshua Reichardt (the course TA) on weekdays ONLY. Please makes sure to adhere to the following courtesy policy: (1) use only your UB e-mail address; (2) do address me and the TA properly by our last names in the message (either as Dr. Danilovic or Prof. Danilovic, and Mr. Reichardt); (3) sign it with your full name; and (4) keep your message brief. Messages that do not follow this netiquette policy will not be answered. To protect the privacy of each student, I do not provide any grade or personal information through e-mail or by phone, regardless of who is requesting it.

Academic Integrity and Acceptable Classroom Behavior

There will be zero tolerance for cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty which will result in an automatic grade “F” for the course. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>. Every student should also read carefully the UB policy about acceptable classroom at <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/obstruction.shtml>. Any disruptions or other violations of this policy will not be tolerated.

Policy on Laptops, Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices

In the past, I was consistently alerted that the use of laptops, iPads and similar electronic methods for taking notes was a distraction for students sitting nearby. Cell phones are, of course, a distraction both for those using them, other students and myself as your lecturer. Therefore, none of these electronic devices are permitted in this class and must be outside your immediate reach. I will reduce your final grade by a full point (1% of the final grade) on each occasion that I see you using your cell phone or laptop for up to a total of 10 points. When it happens, you will be notified of the grade penalty right away and will have to immediately remove the device. It is best for you and everyone else to please avoid these distracting activities or you risk significantly decreasing your final grade (up to 10%), besides also interrupting the normal flow of class.

Intellectual Property

In accordance with the UB’s College of Arts and Science’s policy, the course materials prepared by the professor in this course, including the syllabus, all lectures and presentations are the professor’s intellectual property. Video, audio, and photographic recording of lectures and lecture slides is prohibited without her explicit written permission. The selling or dissemination of exams, study guides, homework assignments and handouts, and notes is also prohibited without her explicit written permission.

Accessibility Resources

If you have any disability which requires reasonable accommodations to enable you to participate in this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources, 25 Capen Hall, 645-2608, and also the instructor of this course. The Office of Accessibility Resources will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

SCHEDULE

January 30

COURSE OVERVIEW

February 1-3

World Politics: Analytical Framework

World Politics, Ch. 1

(Administrative reminder: Last day to drop/add is on February 6.)

February 6-8

Major Theories in International Relations

World Politics, Ch. 2

February 10-15

Global Actors: States, IGOs, and Other Players

World Politics, Ch. 3

February 17

IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #1

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #1 Monday, February 20</p>

February 22-24

Power and Influence

World Politics, Ch. 4

February 27- March 3

Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

World Politics, Ch. 5

March 6-10

Decision-Making Process in Foreign Policy

World Politics, Ch. 6

March 13

IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #2

<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM #2 Wednesday, March 15</p>

(no class on March 17)

March 20-24

NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK

March 27-29

Conflict: Patterns and Causes

World Politics, Ch. 7 (pp. 159-174)

March 31- April 5

Conflict: Patterns and Causes (cont.)

World Politics, Ch. 7 (pp. 175-190)

April 7-12

Security Dilemma, Deterrence, and Arms Control

World Politics, Ch. 8

April 14-19

Just War Tradition and Human Rights

World Politics, Ch. 9

(Administrative reminder: Last Day to Resign is on April 21.)

April 21

IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #3

<p>EXAM #3 Monday, April 24</p>

April 26-28

International Organizations

World Politics, Ch. 10

May 1-3

International Political Economy: Trade and Monetary Relations

World Politics, Ch. 11

May 3-5

Global Underdevelopment

World Politics, Ch. 13

May 8

IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #4

EXAM #4
Wednesday, May 10

May 12

REVIEW SESSION FOR THE FINAL EXAM

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM
Monday, May 15
11:45 am - 2:45 pm
107 Talbert Hall

~ Have a Good Summer Break ~