

POL SCI 41A: Introduction to International Relations
UCI Spring Quarter 2023

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Class Location: Online @ [Zoom](#).

Class Hours: MWF, 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

Instruction team:

Instructor N. Uras Demir (demirn@uci.edu, Call me Uras)

Office Hours: Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (or by appointment) @ SSPB 5282 or [Zoom](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION (WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?)

Welcome to Introduction to International Relations! In this course, we will explore how states, international organizations, and other actors interact with each other in the global system. We will examine the key theories, concepts, and debates in the field, and analyze contemporary global issues such as conflict, trade, alliances, human rights, and climate change. We will also consider how globalization, technological advances, and other factors are shaping the international system and impacting the behavior of states and other actors. This course will help you gain an understanding of the complexities of the global system and be better equipped to analyze and evaluate the major issues facing the international community. Whether you are interested in pursuing a career in international affairs, academia, or simply want to be an informed citizen of the world, this course will provide you with a solid foundation in the study of international relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THIS COURSE?)

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts, theories, and approaches used in the study of international relations.
 - Examine the historical context of international relations and understand the evolution of the global political system.
 - Analyze the key actors and institutions that shape international relations, including states, non-state actors, international organizations, and multinational corporations.
 - Explore the role of power, ideology, and culture in shaping international relations, including the use of force, diplomacy, and economic coercion.
 - Examine the causes and consequences of conflict and cooperation in international relations, including the role of norms, values, and interests.
 - Evaluate contemporary issues and challenges in international relations, including globalization, climate change, human rights, and terrorism.
 - Develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills necessary to analyze and evaluate international relations theories, concepts, and events.
 - Develop an awareness of the ethical and moral implications of international relations, including issues of equality, and human dignity.
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COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook & Slides

- Required: Introduction to Global Politics (Seventh Edition), by Steven L. Lamy, John S. Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (Oxford University Press). [Ebook](#) \$45, [Bookstore](#) \$44-\$100, [Amazon](#) \$47-\$80.
- Recommended: The World a Brief Introduction, by Richard Haass (Penguin Press). New ~\$15 on [Amazon](#).
- Any additional readings will be posted on the [Canvas](#) course space for our course ahead of time.
- All slides will be posted on the [Canvas](#) course space under each week's module.

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LEARNING TECH:

We will also use third-party applications, like, Kahoot and polleverywhere, in the course. These third-party technologies are free to use. We will test the applications in the first week. If you have any issues with the applications, please get in touch with us by the end of the first week.

COMMUNICATIONS:

If you have a question about the course, email your discussion or me (demirn@uci.edu) . **Messages must be sent from either Canvas or your uci.edu email account.** Please include the course name (POL SCI 41A) in the subject line. While the discussion leads and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible, sometimes emails can get lost our inboxes. If you don't receive a reply within 48 office hours (Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm), please resend your message. Course materials and updates will be posted online on the **Canvas** course space for our course. It is the students responsibility to make sure that they are able to receive notifications from Canvas and that they check this account regularly.

DISCORD:

I will also set up a Discord server for the course for communication among students; however, any formal communications with the instruction team must be conducted over Canvas or through your uci.edu email account. The server channels will serve as a space for you to communicate with each other. By joining the server, you agree to abide by the University's [Principles of Community](#). I will monitor the Discord channel to ensure it remains a civil and inclusive environment.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY:

TL;DR: Be nice, and don't cheat. If you are not sure about something, talk to me or your discussion lead! You are responsible for turning in your own work, citing material properly, and conducting yourself in a civil and ethical manner. You are also responsible for abiding by the [University's Academic Honesty policy](#) and the [Principles of Community](#).

ASSESSMENTS & GRADES

ASSIGNMENT	PERCENTAGE
LECTURE PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE*	5%
DISCUSSION SECTION PARTICIPATION	10%
DISCUSSION SECTION ATTENDANCE*	5%
WEEKLY READING REVIEW	10%
MIDTERM	20%
ISSUE ANALYSIS	10%
INFOGRAPHIC	10%
FINAL	30%
TOTAL	100%
EXTRA CREDIT: STUDENT EVALUATIONS	+1%
EXTRA CREDIT: WORLD GEOGRAPHY	+1%
EXTRA CREDIT: AI DISCUSSION	+1%

**If you would like an absence to count as an excused one, please contact your discussion lead with a valid documentation.*

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Assignments

- One closed book midterm exam through Canvas with lockdown browser.
- One closed book final exam through Canvas with lockdown browser.
- Nine open book brief reading reviews through Canvas. These reviews will be available from Monday 8 AM to Friday 11:59 PM each week. You can retake the review while the assignment is available.
- One ten-minute group presentation during a discussion section. You will work with your group to put together and deliver a presentation on an international event that has recently been in the news. Your presentation will include a summary of the event, the historical background, and an analysis of the central concept to the event. **The news must be related to international relations and cannot be related to domestic politics.** If you are unsure about the relevance of the issue that you picked for your presentation, reach out to us for confirmation. The standard for this presentation is high and you should practice it to make sure you are using the time appropriately. I will post several sources that you can use to begin your project.
- One infographic/poster. You will produce an infographic (or a poster) on one of the concepts (not countries, firms, or persons) listed in the index of the textbook. Your infographic should have at least 300 words that include a short analysis from an IR theoretical perspective of your choice, and one graph demonstrating some data related to your concept. You can use [Canva](#), Word, or another tool that you prefer to produce your infographic/poster. Again, the standard for this assignment is high, and you should work on this extensively to produce an output that presents complex information in a visually appealing and easily understandable way.

Attendance

- Lecture attendance is required. **Each student has five unexcused absences.** Beyond that, you get 0/5 for your attendance.* Attendance will be marked based on a random poll question.
- You must attend to the discussion section you are enrolled in.
- Discussion attendance is required. **Each student has two unexcused absences.** Beyond that, you get 0/5 for your attendance.* Attendance will be marked based on a random poll question.

Participation

- Both lectures and discussion sections will include interactive components and simulations that you will participate either directly or through the learning tech.
- You have to be present in the lecture/discussion section to receive the participation points.
- If you attended but did not get a chance to participate in the discussion section, you may receive participation points by responding to questions posted on the Weekly discussion board. You will need to respond to the discussion questions posted on the board and comment on two other posts made by your peers. Responding to the discussion questions is worth 5 points, posting comments to two other posts made by your peers is worth 2.5 points each.

Extra Credit

- Student evaluations matter for improving the course. You will receive 1 point extra credit if you complete **all of the midterm and final evaluations for both the lecture and the discussion sections.**
- Geography is an integral part of international relations. You will receive 1 point if you can score 140 or above in the world geography quiz at the following [link](#). Simply take a screenshot of your finished quiz and upload it to canvas.
- AI will increasingly become a part of learning. You will receive 1 point if you have a conversation with [ChatGPT](#) and produce a summary of what you have learned. The conversation will be based on questions relating to the political, historical, and economical aspects of a country of your choice that is different from your country of origin. Your conversation must be made of at least seven questions among which two must be the following:
 - What is the population of country X for the following years: 2003, 2013, and 2023?
 - What is the GDP of country X for the following years: 2003, 2013, and 2023?You will then need to fact check the answers to these two questions that ChatGPT using [World Bank data](#). Once you are done with your conversation, you will write a 250 word-minimum paragraph regarding what you have learned and post it on Canvas.

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GRADING SCALE

A	100-95%	C-	69-65%
A-	94-90%	D+	64-60%
B+	89-85%	D	59-55%
B	84-80%	D-	54-50%
C+	79-75%	F	49% and below
C	74-70%		

If you wish to appeal a grade, you must submit a written statement explaining why the grade should be changed. Exam days and deadlines cannot be changed unless there is an appropriately documented emergency or other grave and serious matter. The instructor and the discussion lead must be notified in advance or furnished with proof in order to make such exceptions. The instruction team reserves the right to accept or reject requests on an individual basis.

DISABILITIES AND ACCOMMODATION POLICY

This class will be run in an inclusive and welcoming environment. If you need accommodation due to a physical or mental condition that interferes with your academic experience, please contact the DSC (dsc@uci.edu) or let us know as soon as possible so that we can help you connect with the DSC. The people at the DSC are student allies, and they will make arrangements that will help you with your course progress.

MANAGING STRESS

Your mental wellbeing is above anything else! Being a student is often stressful. This is especially true for students who are members of underrepresented groups in academia. Please know that my door is always open to discuss how to make your workload more manageable and any specific challenges you may be having in our class or the university. While I will be there to support you, I am not a trained specialist but fortunately there are such professionals available to you as a student at UCI:

- **[The Counseling Center](#) offers FREE, CONFIDENTIAL short-term therapy for all registered students and can also help with referrals for longer-term care. For more information, give them a call at (949)824-6457 or visit their [website](#).**

Please note that these resources are not only for folks with formal mental health diagnoses but for anyone dealing with **stress** and **anxiety**. Also, it can be intimidating and an unwelcome addition to your emotional load to seek out help. Please let us know if it would be helpful to have someone contact the relevant services on your behalf or even walk over to the Counseling Center with you!

CAMPUS RESOURCES

We will be mentioning various campus resources throughout the quarter, but if you are dealing with any issues interfering with your academic experience, PLEASE talk to us so we can explore support mechanisms available at UCI together.

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Schedule	Subject	Reading	Anything Due?
Week 1, April 3 Monday	Introduction to International Relations	Chapter 1	
Week 1, April 5 Wednesday	Historical Context I: 1618-1914	Chapter 2	
Week 1, April 7 Friday	Historical Context II: 1914-1945	Chapter 2	Reading Review 1
Week 2, April 10 Monday	Historical Context III: 1945-1989	Chapter 2	
Week 2, April 12 Wednesday	Historical Context IV: 1989-Present	Chapter 2	
Week 2, April 14 Friday	Theory: Realism	Chapter 3	Reading Review 2
Week 3, April 17 Monday	Theory: Liberalism	Chapter 3	
Week 3, April 19 Wednesday	Theory: Marxism	Chapter 3	
Week 3, April 21 Friday	Theory: Constructivist IR	Chapter 3	Reading Review 3
Week 4, April 24 Monday	Theory: Feminist IR	Chapter 3	
Week 4, April 26 Wednesday	Making Foreign Policy I	Chapter 4	
Week 4, April 28 Friday	Making Foreign Policy II	Chapter 4	Reading Review 4
Week 5, May 1 Monday	Globalization		
Week 5, May 3 Wednesday	Review I		
Week 5, May 5 Friday	MIDTERM EXAM		
Week 6, May 8 Monday	Global Governance	Chapter 5	
Week 6, May 10 Wednesday	Regional Governance	Chapter 5	
Week 6, May 12 Friday	Non-Governmental Actors	Chapter 5	Reading Review 5
Week 7, May 15 Monday	Security and Conflict I	Chapter 6	
Week 7, May 17 Wednesday	Security and Conflict II	Chapter 6	

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Schedule	Subject	Reading	Anything Due?
Week 7, May 19 Friday	Security and Conflict III	Chapter 6	Infographic & Reading Review 6
Week 8, May 22 Monday	Human Rights I	Chapter 7	
Week 8, May 24 Wednesday	Human Rights II	Chapter 7	
Week 8, May 26 Friday	Global Trade I	Chapter 8	Reading Review 7
Week 9, May 29 Monday	No Class	No Class	
Week 9, May 31 Wednesday	Global Trade II	Chapter 8	
Week 9, June 2 Friday	Global Finance	Chapter 8	Reading Review 8
Week 10, June 5 Monday	Development	Chapter 9	
Week 10, June 7 Wednesday	Environment	Chapter 10	
Week 10, June 9 Friday	Review II		Reading Review 9
TBD	FINAL EXAM		

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.