POL 240
Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2012

Professor: David Carter
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Office Hours: 3–5pm Tues.
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Course Location: 28 McCosh
Course Time: 10:00am–10:50pm Tues./Thurs.

Preceptors:
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OVERVIEW: This course provides a broad exploration of the field of international relations. We cover key theoretical concepts in IR and discuss how empirical evidence and key historical events relate to and inform theory. The course is organized around specific substantive questions such as: why do states choose to fight rather than negotiate?; why are levels of economic development among states so unequal?; how do international institutions affect conflict and cooperation?; what logic is behind the use of terrorism by political actors?; and, why do states experience civil war? Most weeks in the course, we will explore one big topic. Each week, we will generally first read the textbook chapter, which provides a nice overview and references to key pieces of literature. For the second lecture (and precept), we will read two or three important articles on the topic. This way, we will gain background through the textbook and subsequently build upon it with more specialized readings.

GRADING: Final grades for this course are determined as follows:

- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Final Exam - 30%
- Precept Participation - 20%
- Two Short Papers - 30%

Below are more detailed explanations of each of the components to the final grade.

1. EXAMINATIONS: Two in-class examinations will be given during the course. The exams will consist of two sections: identification of key concepts and essay. The identification section will list 8–10 key concepts or ideas from the course readings and lectures of which students will need to choose 6–8 to explain. The concept
should be correctly explained and then briefly applied to an actual example from the readings or from current events. The essay portion of the exams will consist of 3 questions of which students must choose 2 to answer. All identification concepts and essay questions will come directly from the readings and lectures, so exams will reward all who have kept up with the work. The second examination will focus mostly on material covered since the first examination; however, concepts covered previous to the first examination will inevitably come up, as the topics in the course are all closely linked.

2. **Short Papers:** Two short papers, 3–5 pages each, will be due during the semester. One paper should take a current event and a second should take a historical event and discuss and analyze it using the concepts learned in class. For instance, you might analyze the Argentinian junta’s decision to attack Britain in the Falklands using ideas from the “War and Peace” topic in the course. The only restriction on topics is that you do not choose one that is used in the assigned readings or analyzed in lectures. You will obviously need to consult newspapers and other sources (e.g., history books) to write the papers. The two papers have due dates listed in the Course Schedule; however you can turn your paper in at any point before the specified date.

3. **Participation:** Active participation in precept discussions are important to ensure that everyone benefits as much as possible from the course. A baseline for the participation grade is simply attendance. It is quite hard for your preceptor to award a good participation grade to students who are not there. Beyond that, students are expected to weigh in on discussions in a way that demonstrates they have done the readings and more importantly, given some serious thought to them. Your preceptor is fully in charge of your final precept grade, although we will all closely coordinate to make sure our grading standards are the same.

**COURSE POLICIES:** The course will follow the Politics department late penalty of 1/3 grade drop for each 24 hour delay in submission of written assignments. Requests for extensions or re-grading must be accompanied by a comprehensive written explanation including note from Princeton health services in case of medical justification. Note that re-grading will be completed by the professor and may result in raising or lowering the original grade. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University Honor Code and plagiarism policy:
http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/intro/index.htm

**READINGS:** The course has one main textbook. Any additional readings will be available online.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. February 7: Introduction to the Study of International Relations.
   - FLS: Introduction and Chapter 1

   - FLS: Chapter 2

3. February 14: War and Peace.
   - FLS: Chapter 3

4. February 16: War and Peace.

5. February 21: War and Peace: Domestic Politics.
   - FLS: Chapter 4

6. February 23: War and Peace: Domestic Politics.

   - FLS: Chapter 5


• FLS: Chapter 6


    First Short Paper Due, 5pm.


    • FLS: Chapter 7


12. March 15: International Monetary Relations.

    • FLS: Chapter 8


    • FLS: Chapter 9


17. April 5: Development and Foreign Aid.


• FLS: Chapter 11


20. April 17: Territorial Disputes and International Law.


• FLS: Chapter 12


22. April 24: Transnational Networks in IR.
23. **April 26: Terrorism in IR.**


24. **May 1: Civil Wars in International Relations.**


25. **May 3: The Future of IR.**

Second Short Paper Due, 5pm.

- FLS: Chapter 13

26. **Final Exam:** Date TBA.