POLS 2310-01/INST 2310-01
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SPRING 2015

Lecture
Monday/Wednesday
11.00am - 11.50am (Geology 216)

Discussion Groups
Friday
Group 20 – 10.00 - 10.50am (Coe Library 121)
Group 21 – 11.00 - 11.50am (Coe Library 121)
Group 22 – 12.00 - 12.50pm (Coe Library 121)

Instructor: Dr. Nevin T. Aiken
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Office Location: TBA
Office Hours: Mon 12.30-2.00pm
Weds 12.30-2.00pm

Discussion Leader: Denis Iulin
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Discussion Leader: Anil Raman
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Office Location: Ross Hall 239
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9.00-10.30am

OVERVIEW
This course is designed to give students a broad introduction to the study of conflict and cooperation in the field of international relations. Accordingly, the course readings, lectures, and discussion groups will be structured around several main themes. First, a solid grounding in the basic concepts of international relations will be offered along with a brief overview of the evolving international system post-1945. Second, students will be introduced to the main theoretical perspectives within the field of international relations which seek to explain how states and other international actors relate with one another within the international system. From there the course engage in greater depth with some of the core subfields of international politics, including international security, international organizations, and international political economy. Finally, we’ll conclude by exploring key emerging trends in the modern international system, including growing levels of international integration, global inequality, international development, and challenges to the global environment. Throughout the class extensive attention will be paid to relating course materials to ongoing issues of conflict and cooperation in international politics, most notably through weekly ‘current events’ discussion sessions.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION
Discussion Participation: 15%
Global Geography Quizzes (x3): 15%
Midterm Exam I: 20%
Midterm Exam II: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Reading Response Paper: 5%

Grading Assessment
As per UNIREG 6-722 both individual assignments and final grades for this course will be assigned according to UW’s +/- grading and GPA scale (http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/uw-regulation-6-722.pdf). Students are asked to familiarize themselves with this new grading scale before class begins. Extra credit opportunities may be offered by the instructor throughout the course.
COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS

*Note: The course schedule and required readings are subject to change by the Instructor – be sure to monitor your email and the course website regularly for announcements of any changes

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Week 1 – Introduction to International Relations
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 1 (3-39)

Monday, January 26th
Lecture One: Introduction to International Relations

Wednesday, January 28th
Lecture Two: Actors and Influences

Friday, January 30th
Discussion: Introduction to Discussion Groups (with Discussion Leader)

PART II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

Week 2 – Realist Theories of International Relations
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 2 (42-82)

Monday, February 2nd
Lecture One: Power and the International System

Wednesday, February 4th
Lecture Two: Alliances and Strategy

Friday, February 6th
Discussion: Power Politics in International Relations

Week 3 – Liberal Theories of International Relations
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 3 (84-96); Chapter 4 (136-146)

Monday, February 9th
Lecture One: Liberal Traditions

Wednesday, February 11th
Lecture Two: Domestic Influences on International Politics

Friday, February 13th
Discussion: Paths to Peace in the International System?
Week 4 – Social Theories of International Relations
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 3 (96-124)

Monday, February 16th
Lecture One: Constructivist Theory

Wednesday, February 18th
Lecture Two: Critical & Gender Theories

Friday, February 20th
Discussion: Gender in International Relations

Week 5 – Theories of Foreign Policy and Decision Making
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 4 (126-134; 146-147)

Monday, February 23rd
Lecture One: Foreign Policy and Decision Making

Wednesday, February 25th
FIRST MIDTERM EXAM – ALL MATERIALS COVERED WEEKS 1-6

Friday, February 27th
*GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #1: Europe and the Middle East

PART III: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Week 6 – Contemporary Security Threats
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 6 (192-229)
Discussion Reading: Eric Edelman et al, “The Dangers of a Nuclear Iran” (2011)

Monday, March 2nd
Lecture One: Global Terrorism & Weapons of Mass Destruction

Wednesday, March 4th
Documentary: The Rise of ISIS

Friday, March 6th
Discussion: The Dangers of a Nuclear Iran?

Week 7 – International Conflict
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 5 (152-189)
Discussion Reading: Jeffrey Herbst ‘The Unanswered Question: The Rwandan Genocide” (2001)

Monday, March 9th
Lecture One: Interstate Conflict

Wednesday, March 11th
Lecture Two: Intrastate Conflict

Friday, March 13th
Discussion: Examining the Rwandan Genocide
Week 8 – SPRING BREAK (March 16th – 20th)
*NO SCHEDULED CLASSES THIS WEEK – HAVE A GREAT BREAK!*

Week 9 – Human Rights, Human Security, and Humanitarian Intervention
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (264-279)
Discussion Reading: John Western & J. Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age” (2011)

Monday, March 23rd
Documentary: ‘On Our Watch’ (Darfur Crisis)

Wednesday, March 25th
Lecture One: Human Rights, Human Security, and the Responsibility to Protect

Friday, March 27th
Discussion: Debating Humanitarian Intervention

PART IV: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Week 10 – International Law & Organization
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 7 (232-264)

Monday, March 30th
Lecture One: International Organization and the United Nations

Wednesday, March April 1st
Lecture Two: International Law and Justice

Friday, April 3rd
Discussion: The Evolution of International Justice

Week 11 – International Integration
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 10 (354-383)

Monday, April 6th
Lecture One: International Integration & The European Union

Wednesday, April 8th
SECOND MIDTERM EXAM – ALL MATERIALS COVERED WEEKS 7-11

Friday, April 10th
*GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #2: South/Central America and Asia*
PART V: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 12 – Issues in IR: The Global Environment
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 11 (386-421)

Monday, April 13th
Lecture One: The Global Environment

Wednesday, April 15th
Documentary: Life and Debt Part I

Friday, April 17th
Discussion: Resources: The New Geography of Conflict?

Week 13 – Issues in IR: Global Inequality & The North/South Gap
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 12 (282-317)

Monday, April 20th
Documentary: Life and Debt Part II

Wednesday, April 22nd
Lecture One: Global Inequality

Friday, April 24th
Discussion: The Dark Sides of Economic Globalization?

Week 14 – Global Trade & Finance
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 8 & 9 (282-317 & 320-351)

Monday, April 27th
Lecture One: International Trade

Wednesday, April 29th
Lecture Two: Trade Regimes

Friday, May 1st
*GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #3: AFRICA*
Week 15 – International Development and Foreign Aid
Readings: Goldstein & Pevehouse Chapter 13 (460-495)
Discussion Reading: Birdsall et al., “How to Help Poor Countries” (2005)

Monday, May 4th
Lecture One: International Development

Wednesday, May 6th
Lecture Two: Foreign Aid & Assistance

Friday, May 8th
Discussion: Addressing Global Inequality

Week 16 – Final Exam Week (May 5th – 9th)
*FINAL EXAM – ALL COURSE MATERIALS COVERED WEEKS 12-15
PLUS CUMULATIVE EXAM ESSAY QUESTION*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION

Course Participation (15%)
This class is based in large part around discussion, so active student engagement with the course material and frequent participation (particularly during our discussion groups) is crucial to success in this course. Accordingly, the participation grade will be assigned based on the student’s attendance as well as their level of active involvement during our weekly discussion groups. This will include participating in discussion activities, raising appropriate questions, and making constructive comments based on course material. In essence, active involvement for participation will be measured primarily by both the quantity and the quality of each student’s active engagement during discussion meetings sessions. Note: As participation in discussions is vital to this course, students who have more than 3 unexcused absences from discussion sections will receive a participation grade of zero.

However, it should be noted that active participation in this class also includes attendance and attentive listening during both lectures and discussions. You are expected to come prepared to class already completed the assigned readings for that week. Please do not arrive to class late or leave class early – this is disrespectful of the other students and is highly disruptive. Consistent lateness to class (more than two instances) will count as an absence and reduce the student’s participation grade. In addition, as a courtesy to fellow students please be sure to turn off all cell phones, watch alarms, music devices, and other electronic devices before both lecture sections and discussion group meetings

Current Events Discussions
Discussion participation will also include advance preparation and active involvement in the weekly ‘current events’ portion of our discussion groups. During this current events time students will be expected to ‘report back’ on major ongoing issues of significance in global politics. During the first week of discussion groups each student will be assigned a specific region of the world to monitor and provide reports back to the rest of the group during our weekly current events ‘round-up.’
Global Geography Quizzes x3 (15%)  
The politics of international relations is inextricably intertwined with global geography. Accordingly, there will be three short global geography map identification quizzes during the course worth a combined total of 15% of each student’s grade. In essence, students will be asked to identify the location of particular states within several different regions of the globe, including Africa, South and Central America, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Excellent regional maps for studying can be found in the back of the course text.

First Midterm Exam (20%)  
The first course exam will be held in class on Wednesday, February 17th. The exam format will consist primarily of multiple choice questions combined with a small number of short answer/definitional questions. Students will be responsible for all materials covered prior to the date of the first exam (Weeks 1-6) with a primary focus on international actors, foreign policy, and international relations theory. Questions on the exam will be drawn from assigned readings, lecture content, and discussion assignments.

Second Midterm Exam (20%)  
The second course exam will be held in class on Wednesday, April 8th. The exam format will consist primarily of multiple choice questions combined with a small number of short answer/definitional questions. Students will be responsible for all materials covered between the first and second exams (Weeks 7-11) including our units on international conflict & security, international law & organizations, and international integration. Questions on the exam will be drawn from assigned readings, lecture content, and discussion assignments.

Final Exam (25%)  
The final course exam will consist primarily of multiple choice questions combined with a small number of short answer/definitional questions. For these questions students will be primarily responsible for all course materials covered after the second course exam (Weeks 12-15) including our units on the global environment, global trade, global finance, global inequality, and international development & aid.

However, in addition there will also be a longer essay question component to the final exam (worth 5% of the final course grade) that will ask students to reflect cumulatively on materials covered throughout the course to answer a broader question derived from core course themes. The Office of the Registrar will publish a document detailing the final exam time and location during Final Exams Week approximately 30 days prior to the exam. Students are advised not to make travel plans prior to the Final Exam Schedule being released.

Critical Response Paper (5%)  
As a part of developing research and analytic skills in international politics, all students will be required to write a short critical response paper reflecting on and analyzing one of the assigned weekly discussion readings assigned as part of this course. A hard copy of your theory response paper should be submitted at the beginning of class on Friday in the week that it is due. We’ll be signing students up for a response paper week during the our first discussion meetings.

These papers should follow standard formatting guidelines (title page, double-spaced; Times New Roman 12-point font; 1 inch margins, works cited list) and be 2-3 double spaced pages in length (not including title page, works cited, discussion questions, etc.). In addition, for course dates that you sign-up to write critical response papers (see below), students will also be asked to come to class prepared with comments and questions that will help to begin our discussion of the weekly discussion reading. Accordingly, along with your 2-3 page response paper each student will be asked to include 2-3 critical questions based on the reading that may be used to help spark class discussion during Friday’s discussion meeting.
The first portion (approximately 1.5 - 2 pages) of each response paper should be given over to briefly summarizing the central thesis argument (and most important sub-arguments) of the assigned discussion reading for that week. In a very concise fashion, the goal here is to show you have clearly understood and synthesized the content of the reading for that week and have a clear grasp of their main point(s) – much like a concise academic journal article abstract would do. Following these summaries, the second half of your response paper (approximately 1-2 pages) should be devoted to your own independent critical analysis of the discussion reading. This analysis should center on assessing the relative contributions of the reading and evaluating what insight it may give towards increasing our understanding of the topic area in international relations we are discussing that week. This could include discussing how the article relates back to core ideas or themes raised in the text for that week or potentially discussing how the article might help us to better understand a key contemporary current event (or events) in international relations related to the topic area we are discussing in class that week. In either case, in both your summaries and analyses you should be making specific citations/references to the required reading to substantiate your points. Keep in mind an academic critical analysis such as that being asked for in this assignment is not the place to discuss how you ‘feel’ or liked/did not like about a particular article (ie. I really liked the author’s writing style, I thought it was boring, etc.) but rather to discuss/analyze it’s contribution for helping us to better understand contemporary international politics.

IMPORTANT COURSE, DEPARTMENTAL, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Global Awareness
POLS/INST 2310 fulfills the Global Awareness (G) requirement of the College of Arts and Sciences Major Requirement. Global Awareness (G) courses strive to broaden our perspectives through the exploration of viewpoints from other societies, cultures, religions, or geopolitical regions. With an eye on both historical and contemporary experience, G courses are designed to challenge our assumptions about the ways of the world and to help us understand and embrace global cultural diversity.

Course Communication Policy
The best way to reach either me or your Discussion Leaders for questions during the course will be via email. With all email inquiries it will be our policy to try and respond within 1 business day whenever possible. That said, email can be very time-consuming for answering more than just basic questions. If there is a larger or more detailed question you need help with, just send an email and we can arrange to meet during office hours or schedule an appointment to talk things over. Please do note that all formal course correspondence (including updates, changes to the schedule, changes to the reading, or potential cancellations) will be sent to students via email using their uwyo.edu email accounts. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of all students to check their university email accounts on a daily basis throughout the duration of the course.

Class Absence Policy
Please see the Dean of Students office for University policy regarding authorized absences, available online at http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/dos/info.asp?p=2483. If you must be absent from lecture, please do be sure to arrange to get notes from another student in the course. As participation in discussions is vital to this course, students who have more than 3 unexcused absences from discussion sections will receive a participation grade of zero. Consistent lateness to class (more than two instances) will count as an absence for participation.

However, in certain cases if you miss a discussion class due to a documented university-approved absence (athletics, band, rodeo, etc.) or an emergency or documented illness (with approval of the course instructor) you will have the chance to make up credit for your participation by completing a short (1-2 page) written assignment on the topic being discussed that week.
If you know you will miss a discussion for a documented university-approved absence (athletics, band, rodeo, etc.) or an emergency or documented illness absence, be sure to get in touch with your Discussion Leader by email before the class that you will miss and they will give you the details on the make-up written assignment you can do for that week to receive this credit. These written assignments will need to be emailed or submitted no later than the beginning of the next week's class meeting to receive credit for the missed class. That said, keep in mind it is ultimately your responsibility if you know you will miss a class for an excused absence to get in touch in advance of the missed class to arrange this — requests received after the missed class will not be accepted and you will receive a grade of zero for attendance and participation that week. All make-up written assignments will be graded on a simple scale of 1 (credit); .5 (partial credit) or 0 (no credit) dependent upon the degree of effort and understanding evidenced in the submitted work. All other absences from discussions will result in a grade of zero for attendance and participation for that week and will not be given the opportunity for make-up credit.

NOTE: If you are absent on the day of an Exam, Map Quiz, or other major course assignment, an authorized university absence or doctor's note will be required for you to make up the missed work – otherwise the missed work will be assigned an automatic grade of zero. It is the responsibility of each student to get in touch in advance of any absence by email with either their Discussion Leader or the Instructor to give notification that you will be unable to attend class or complete a course assignment. Except in cases of emergency, students who contact the instructor or GA discussion leader after an assignment is missed will not be allowed to make up the assignment and will receive a grade of zero. Exams or other course assignments must be made up within one week of the original date.

**Late Assignments**

All written course assignments submitted past their due date will be assigned a penalty of -5% for every 24hrs they are late (or fraction thereof) beginning from the time they were originally due. No written assignments will be accepted more than one week from the original due date except with the advance permission of the instructor. If you are handing in a written assignment late, you must make arrangements to hand it in directly to your discussion leader or to email the discussion leader an electronic copy in PDF or DOC format. All emailed assignments will be counted as received once a readable and complete version of the file is time/date stamped as arriving in your discussion leader's inbox – it is your responsibility to ensure that I have successfully received a complete and readable copy of your paper if it is emailed to me. Any papers handed in any other way (such as slipped under an office door) will be dated from the date they happen to be picked up.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with departmental and university policies on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty (such as cheating on exams, quizzes, or other course assignments). These policies can be found online at [www.uwyo.edu/Pols/Academic_Dishonesty.doc](http://www.uwyo.edu/Pols/Academic_Dishonesty.doc). As a rule, all written work submitted for this course by students must be original in its conception, organization, and phrasing. All sources used must be appropriately acknowledged, including all Internet materials. Work submitted in this course for evaluation must not be, or have been, submitted (in whole or in part) in another course. Students found to have committed academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and, depending on severity, will receive a grade of “F” for the course as well in addition to any possible additional sanctions imposed by the University.
Statement on Student Conduct
In the university environment, it is essential that our discussions take place in an environment of mutual respect and consideration between you, your fellow students and the course instructor (in both in-class and online environments). This involves remaining actively engaged and listening when the course instructor or your fellow students are speaking or presenting and arriving on time to class prepared and ready to participate. This also includes being sure to turning off/silencing and refraining from using all electronic devices that are not being used for the course (such as phones, tablets, music devices, etc.) before class begins. At all times, as per University Regulation 8-30 students should follow the University’s Student Code of Conduct and refrain from actions that lead to the “disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, [and] administration” at the university. A copy of the Student Code of Conduct can be found at: http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/_files/docs/2014-2015%20code%20of%20conduct.pdf

University of Wyoming Student Services
Students finding they are having difficulty with their writing are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the services provided through the UW Writing Center. Information on this resource is available online at: http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/WRITINGCENTER/ Also, it is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability. Information on the UDSS is available online at: http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/UDSS/

Early Alert Grading System
Early Alert gives students a chance to see a progress report of class grades within the first 4-5 weeks of the semester. In late February, you will be invited to view your Early Alert report in WYOWEB. When you click on the Students tab in WYOWEB, you will see Quick Links on the left side bar, go to EARLY ALERT grades. You will see either a P for pass, or a D or F grade for each of your courses. If you have withdrawn from the class you will see a W. Be sure to talk to your instructor if you have a D or F grade. Remember, this is a progress report—not a final grade! This is an ideal time to visit with your instructor and/or your advisor to talk about your options and avenues for support in the class (call 766-2398 for the Center for Advising & Career Services).

STEP Tutor Center
The STEP Tutor Center in Coe Library offers free evening tutoring for over 40 courses. Visit Coe Library between 6:00-10:00pm (Sun. – Thurs.) and see the STEP website for full details about tutoring opportunities and other UW resources: www.uwyo.edu/STEP.

Student Success Workshops
Come to Coe Library Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. to hear strategies for exam preparation, time management, breaking bad habits, note taking, and more. Workshops are held in classroom 121 on the lower level of Coe. For a full schedule of workshops, see http://www.uwyo.edu/studentaff/step/tutoring/workshops.pdf.

Key Academic Dates to Keep in Mind This Semester
Last day to withdraw from classes - March 27.
Last day to withdraw from the university - April 24.
Advising Week: March 30 - April 3.
A NOTE ON REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Required Textbook Readings
The only required text to purchase for this course will be Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, International Relations: Tenth Edition 2012-2013 Update (Longman/Pearson Publishers, 2012). This book should be readily available in the UW bookstore (and via various online retailers) by the time the course begins in August. As this text will be the primary source of readings for the course and will be used on a weekly basis, it is highly recommended that you pick up a copy as soon as possible. As other earlier editions of this book are available, please do be sure to pick up the correct edition.

Required Discussion Readings
In addition to the readings from the core course text to accompany our lectures, there will also be required short article ‘discussion readings’ that you will be asked to read – and come prepared to discuss – for our weekly discussion meetings. In essence, these are short scholarly/policy articles on current events in the field that will provide us with the chance to engage in greater detail with some of the key topics being covered in the broader course. All of these readings will be posted in advance under the appropriate week in the ‘Files’ section of our Wyocourses site for you to download.

Weekly Current Events Readings
In addition to these textbook readings, all students will be required to follow a major national newspaper throughout the duration of the course as a way to help relate what we’re learning to ongoing real-world current events. As mentioned above, this will form a key component of student’s discussion group participation. Remember, this is a key component of the course and discussing these current events readings will be the basis for a large portion of your participation grade, so be sure not to neglect these! The New York Times is highly recommended as it has an excellent international focus and can be found for free around campus as well as at the bookstore, newsstands, the library, or online at: http://www.nytimes.com/. Also recommended is The Economist weekly magazine which contains an excellent summary of contemporary news and global issues. However, this involves a paid subscription (though substantial student discounts are available for both print and online editions) at: http://www.economist.com/