

Political Science (POLS) 3360: International Relations (CRN 18307, section 3)

Fall, 2019
208 Liberal Arts Building
T and R: 10:30- 11:50

Instructor: Dr. Charles Boehmer

Office: 202 Benedict Hall
Email: crboehmer@utep.edu
Phone: 747-7979
Class Website: Blackboard through your MY UTEP PORTAL

Office Hours (You are very welcome to visit. If these do not meet your schedule, I will be available by appointment at other times during the week, such as after class most days. It is important that you form relationships with instructors to improve your performance, gain references and recommendation letter writers, networking, etc.)

Monday 1:30-2:30
Thursday 1:30-2:30
And by appointment

Course Goals and Overview

The goal of this course is to cover the basic concepts and theories of international relations, providing students with an understanding about how world politics is studied. Students will explore the nature of international cooperation, conflict, terrorism, ethnic conflict, weapons of mass destruction, international law and organization, international environmentalism, and international political economy. I teach this as an introductory survey course that should be seen as a pre-requisite (informal) to other upper-level courses in international relations and security studies. Although the subject matter is taught as an introduction, some students may find the topic harder to understand than American politics; the difficulty springs from the lack of effective and strong international institutions (especially the lack of a world government), which has profound effects on international politics.

After the completion of this course, students should have the following skills or knowledge that relate to the UTEP EDGE Initiative (highlighted in bold and italics):

- Have a higher level of ***confidence*** about comprehending the concepts, important theoretical approaches, and topics included in the course, such as conflict & cooperation, international environmental issues, state geography, ethnic conflict, terrorism, civil war, international organization & law, and international political economy.
- Have some foundation to analyze and ***think critically*** about topics of international security and cooperation, especially through the use of the research paper and UN simulation.
- Have ***global awareness*** of basic geographic knowledge of countries around the world and the case studies discussed during the course, and important themes and issues.
- Possess a higher level of library information literacy and ***confidence*** regarding searches and types of sources.
- Improve ***communication*** skills as part of the research process and UN simulation.

Tips for Passing this Course

1. Many students find that they need to cut corners due to income, but it is important that you find a way to purchase, share, or borrow the textbook and read it. I will put an old copy on reserve in the library (11th edition). Some quiz and exam questions are based on the textbook. If you attempt to take this course and do not read the textbook, then you will likely lower your course grade. When you do read and study, do not just aim to memorize the material. Study with an aim towards comprehension. Additionally, sometimes our minds stray when we read, or we become distracted; even when the book is open, sometimes we do not read carefully. If you are confused about ideas or concepts, then speak with the instructor by coming to office hours or making appointments. I love talking about this subject matter; tap my time during office hours or other appointments.
2. Stay informed about what is going on in the course by following the syllabus, paying attention to your miner email account (including emails that come through Blackboard), and not missing, or being late to, class in case there are stated announcements or instructions.
3. Review the power point slides, but remember that they do not suffice as a reminder of everything covered in a lecture. For this reason, you need to take notes, which forces you to concentrate on lecture and class discussions. Typing up notes is an excellent way to because it forces you to think about what we covered in class. Try to include your responses or ideas that you have in conjunction with the notes or content of the course as a way to connect it to your life in a way that you care about the subject matter. Take an active interest in the subject matter, even if it is not your top interest. After all, you are not going to learn what you don't want to know.
4. Study from your old exams and quizzes for the final exam. Make sure you get these back from the instructor.

Assessments of Student Performance

Exams: 30% (10% each)

Final Exam: 20%

Map Quizzes: 10%

Research Paper References and Classifications 10%

Country Foreign Policy Paper: 25%

Simulation Participation: 5%

Exams: Three exams will be given prior to the final exam based on the readings and lectures, and will consist of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, essay, and short-answer questions.

Final Exam: The final exam will be similar to the other tests but will be cumulative and longer. This exam evaluates your ability to integrate the readings and require a synthesis of the subject matter. The material from the last week of class will be new content.

Map Quizzes: These test for geography knowledge because a spatial understanding of the international system is vital in the analysis of geopolitics. I will provide you with a random list of countries that you will need to identify on a blank map. You will not need to know capitols.

Research Paper References and Classifications: This assignment is part of the research paper project and involves demonstrating that you are researching your topic. This paper will include a list of what references you have found relevant to include in your paper. Briefly discuss why each reference may be relevant to your paper and the classification of its type of reference (primary or

secondary and what type, such as book, article, etc.). This requires meeting with a UTEP reference librarian, especially Mr. Jacob Galindo and Ms. Angela Lucero, who have been working with my courses in this capacity. Identify with which librarian you met. This paper incentivizes a gradual building of the paper and some contact with the reference librarians to increase library and information literacy.

Country Foreign Policy Paper: Using the research references in the above paper, students will write a policy brief paper describing a country's foreign policy with other countries. This paper forms the basis for the role the student will play in the simulation in the final days of the semester. This assignment will also include a draft paper in conjunction with the University Writing Center.

Simulation Participation: This grade will be based on the quality of the student's participation in the UN Crisis simulation at the end of the semester. Students who are present the whole time but do not talk will receive one point, whereas those students who participate will receive more points. The simulation is most interesting and fun when students participate.

Other Course Policies

This instructor abides by university policies, such as excused absences and attendance, as stated in the UTEP undergraduate catalog: <http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/>. It is the student's responsibility to understand university policies and their rights. In addition to university policies, I add the following:

Attendance Policy (and make-ups): UTEP expects that students will not miss classes without valid excuses. To deter absences, I will drop students, counting against the six-course drop limit, who miss more than two class sessions without a valid excuse. Think of these as sick days, but they do not excuse you from the course exams or quizzes. Valid excuses include religious holidays, recognized university related activities (with Dean of Students letter), and military leave. In addition, I add the following policies:

- The instructor reserves the right to accept, or not, excuses related to medical issues. Naturally, it is sometimes infeasible to document in advance time lost due to illness. The exception is planned surgeries and appointments (not normal check-ups). Any class time missed will be unexcused without medical or other valid documentation. I have the ability to read in Spanish, so documentation in Spanish is permissible. Students with severe medical problems that result in missing a majority of the semester may want to consider a complete withdrawal from the university for medical purposes (this requires dropping all courses). That is an option when multiple courses are affected. In cases where there is a significant, and documented, loss of time, the instructor may withdraw a student (excused) or work with the student to set up an "incomplete" grade and course of action. The course of action will depend on how much time and assignments the student missed and the chance of the student passing the course. The more the work of a course is completed, the more an incomplete grade may be coordinated.
- Absences due to conflicts with work, child care, etc. that make it impossible for you to regularly attend this class are not permitted. If you know you will have scheduling conflicts with this class, then you should make other arrangements or post-pone this class until a future semester. Treat this course as you would a professional job in which you cannot miss many days; set yourself up for success.
- Missed exams or quizzes due to family hardship or family medical problems may not be accepted by the instructor as valid excuses. For example, helping family members move,

- picking up at the airport, driving family members to medical appointments when you know they conflict with class, and other such activities, will not be permitted as valid excuses. Emergencies such as deaths in the family must be documented, unfortunately.
- Missing any course assessments and work due to vacations and pre-booked travel arrangements are not valid excuses for make-ups. Note the date for the final exam on the course calendar. Moreover, please note that the university has used language on the academic calendar that confuses some students by stating the “last day of classes”, which means last normal class session excluding the final exams. There is a separate final exam calendar for each academic semester and term. See: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html>

Safety and Disruption: It is expected that students will treat the instructor and other students with respect, including refraining from disparaging remarks, personal insults, derogatory comments, and other unprofessional behavior, in person or electronically. Any problem related to rude conduct, or any threats to violence, etc., may result in the student being dropped from the course by the instructor and/or reported to the Dean of Students. Please also note that this course involves discussion of countries hostile to the USA, but it is important to maintain an objective and analytical approach to this subject matter and not debase course discussions with comments that are racist. There are at least two sides to every dispute.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: The instructor follows the university policies on academic honesty concerning cheating and plagiarism. Such acts will not be tolerated. Plagiarizing is the use of other people’s words, ideas (concepts, sentence or paragraph structure or phrasings), songs, or images without documentation or their consent. Anti-plagiarism software will be used in this course to evaluate papers. One can avoid plagiarism by being honest and using proper style guidelines concerning citations, footnotes, or endnotes for passages in the text that are borrowed or inspired by other person’s works. See the paper guidelines for other instructions and tips.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, or otherwise seek additional information, please contact **The Center for Accommodations and Support Services** (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in Union East, Room 106. CASS’ staff are the only individuals who can authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. The Student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions before arrangements need to be made for exams, quizzes, or other needs.

Readings

The text for this course is: Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse, *International Relations*, 12th Edition): Pearson. ISBN: 9780135229255 (abbreviated as G&P below). Note, the Nau textbook is not for this course; it is for the online section.

Schedule of Classes (note, the specific dates are preliminary and I will provide exact page numbers where relevant once I receive my copy of the textbook)

Week 1 (8/27 & 8/29): Introductions and Basic Terms and Concepts: The Field, Actors, the State System

- G&P, Chapter 1

Week 2 (9/03 & 9/05): Basic Concepts of Anarchy, the Security Dilemma, & Power

- G&P Chapter 2: Anarchy, Sovereignty, Security Dilemma, Power
 - Meet in Library on 9/05 with reference librarians Angela Lucero and Jacob Galindo
- **Map quiz on states of the Americas (North & South America, plus Caribbean islands of Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba – 9/03**

Week 3 (9/10 & 9/12): Realism

- G&P Chapter 2 (pages to be announced)
- ** Map quiz on states of Europe (includes Iceland, and as far east as Russia, will not include Turkey and Caucus region later included in Asia) (9/10) **

Week 4 (9/17 & 9/19): Liberalism and Exam #1

- ** Exam #1 on the lectures and readings to this point (likely 9/17) **
- G&P Chapter 3

Week 5 (9/24 & 9/26): Liberalism and International Organization & Law

- G&P Chapter 2 (Review rationality, Prisoners' Dilemma)
 - G&P Chapter 3 (Focus on Idealism and Neoliberalism)
 - G&P Chapter 7 (content before Human Rights section)
- ** Map quiz on states of Asia (likely on 9/24, includes from Turkey, Caucus Region, Arabian Peninsula and east to Japan and Indonesia) **

Week 6 (10/01 & 10/03): Environment & Population

- G&P Chapter 11

Week 7 (10/08 & 10/10): Start Human Rights and Exam #2

- ** Exam #2 on the lectures and readings since Exam #1 (likely 10/08) **
- G&P Chapter 7 (start at Human Rights section and rest of chapter)

Week 8 (10/15 & 10/17): Human Rights continued

- G&P Chapter 7 (continued)
- ** List and Classification of Research References due 10/20 by end of calendar day**

Week 9 (10/22 & 10/24): Conflicts & Militaries

- G&P Chapter 5
- ** Map quiz on states of Africa (likely on 10/24) **

Week 10 (10/29 & 10/31): War & Terrorism, and Gender & War

- G&P Chapter 6

Week 11 (11/05 & 11/07): International Trade and Exam #3

- ** Exam #3 on the lectures, and readings since Exam #2 (likely 11/05) **
- G&P Chapter 8

Week 12 (11/12 & 11/14): International Trade

- G&P Chapter 8

Week 13 (11/19 & 11/21): Global Finance & Business

- G&P Chapter 9

****Draft of Paper Due**** (TBD based on UWC discussion)

Week 14 (11/26): Global Finance & Business

- G&P Chapter 9

Week 15 (12/03 & 12/05): UN Crisis Simulation

**** Country Foreign Policy Paper due on 12/02 by end of calendar day ****

**** UN Crisis Simulation ****

****Final Exam ** Thursday, December 12 10:00a.m. to 12:45 p.m.** This exam is cumulative by drawing on questions from earlier exams. It also includes state identifications, like our map quizzes, but not necessarily the same countries. In addition to the older subject matter, the exam will include questions based on the readings since exam #3 and countries in the western hemisphere (the Americas), plus Australia and New Zealand.