

POLS 1402

Introduction to International Relations

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 11am - 1:30pm

Description

This course offers conceptual tools for understanding the causes and consequences of politics in the absence of a world government. It begins by presenting why there is no world government as well as the various approaches for studying international politics. It then considers many of the challenges facing the world today, including war, racism, human rights, nuclear proliferation, economic crises, and climate change. Finally, through participation in a virtual simulation, students will take on the roles of foreign policy decision-makers and grapple first-hand with the sorts of tradeoffs and responsibilities that characterize world politics.

One important goal of the course is for students to continually reflect on the core questions that animate the field of international relations. These include:

- Why is there no world government?
- How do we understand politics in the absence of government?
- What are its consequences for conflict and cooperation?
- What are its consequences for markets and economic behavior?
- Is world government possible?

Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Explain the major debates over international politics
2. Apply insights from these debates to contemporary policy issues
3. Build on their knowledge in more specialized and/or advanced courses

Requirements

Readings are an essential part of this course. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings. There will be one required textbook, but I will supplement the textbook with additional readings that will be made available on Husky well in advance of class.

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, & Kenneth A. Schultz. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 4th Edition New York: W.W. Norton.

Students will be required to purchase access to the Statecraft Simulation for \$35 for the semester. To register, go to statecraftsim.com and click "Login/Create Account" to create a student account. Sign up with: EversFall22

Time Commitment

You should expect to dedicate 3 to 5 hours a week to this course. This expectation is based on the various course activities, assignments, and assessments and the University of Connecticut's policy regarding credit hours. More information related to hours per week per credit can be accessed at the [Online Student website](#).

Assignments

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Simulation Memos	10%
Simulation Manual Quiz	5%
Simulation Performance	5%
Simulation Debriefing	2%
Active-Learning Exercises	3%

Exams: Three exams will test your mastery of the course material as covered in lecture and readings. Each exam is worth 25% of your course grade, so all three exams make up 75% of your total grade. Exams will be non-comprehensive, meaning they only cover material since the previous exam. Each exam will be made up of 30 multiple choice questions, worth 5 points each.

Simulation Memos: Each turn, you must submit a simulation memo in the Statecraft platform **before** the turn ends. These memos must be at least 300 words in length (the equivalent of one double-spaced page), although you are encouraged to write more if you wish - in a sense, these memos will become your ongoing "journal" for the simulation experience. They are intended to help ensure that students are actively participating in, and thinking about, the simulation each week. Feel free to use these memos to report what you discussed with your fellow classmates and foreign countries' representatives during virtual meetings and other contacts throughout the week. You are also encouraged to highlight any connections to the lectures and readings. Late memos and memos shorter than the required length will not be counted. If you complete all memos satisfactorily, you will receive 100% for the memo assignments. Each missed memo will lead to a 15% reduction in your final memo grade. Three or more missed memos will result in a 0.

Simulation Debriefing: You are required to attend a class wide debriefing session at the end of the semester, and actively contribute to discussion. Your participation is not just about how much you speak, but about the quality of the contributions, how it helps the discussion, etc. In preparation, you will receive a series of reflection questions in advance of the session that will ask you to integrate your simulation experience with class material. Failure to attend without consulting me will result in a 0.

Simulation Manual Quiz: The simulation manual quiz will test your knowledge of the simulation rules and procedures. The quiz will be administered before the beginning of the simulation on the Statecraft platform, and will be multiple choice.

Simulation Performance: Simulation Performance (5% plus possible extra credit): Your simulation performance score is out of 100 points possible. Performance is based on your achievement of in-game goals, such as quality of life, global peace, military power, overall wealth, and refraining from launching a nuclear attack.

Active-Learning Exercises: At the beginning of the semester, you will complete three active learning sessions out of class that have you apply class material to real world events. This may include creating a meme, watching a movie, and writing a case study.

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the course calendar and blackboard. Deadlines are based on Eastern Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. Late assignments will incur a full letter grade deduction for each day over the due date. *I reserve the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

Feedback and Grades

The best option for discussing course material and assignments is to email me. I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. In general, I will do my best to respond to all student questions within 24 hours, and return course assignment within a week. Please keep in mind that I will not respond to emails after 5 PM or anytime on the weekends.

In the event that a student wishes to dispute their grade on an assignment, the following procedure may be used. First, students must wait at least 48 hours after the assignment has been handed back. Second, students can email me to set up an appointment. This email should include a separate, typed summary of why they believe the grade is unfair. After meeting in person to discuss the assignment, I will then reevaluate the grade. However, revised grades may be higher or lower than the original, and this new grade will be final.

To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Authentication and Verification

The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in, complete the course activities and assessments, and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include:

1. Secure access to the learning management system using your unique UConn NetID and password.
2. Students may be required to verify their identity through Online proctoring, Video Conference with ID check, etc.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to act in accordance with the [Student Conduct Code](#) as well as the [Guidelines for Academic Integrity](#) at the University of Connecticut. I expect students to take this course seriously and to behave in a mature, appropriate manner during class. Students are allowed to use laptops and tablets for notetaking only. It is very obvious when students are distracted by other activities, and if students are caught repeatedly abusing this privilege then they will lose the ability to use their devices in class.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with

Course Outline:

Pt. 1: How do we understand politics without a world government?

Session 1 Introduction
Session 2 Anarchy
Session 3 Power
Session 4 Institutions
Session 5 Ideas
Session 6 Race
Session 7 Gender
Session 8 Simulation Orientation
Session 9 Simulation Turn 1

Pt. 2: What are the consequences for conflict?

Session 10 Causes of War, Pt. 1
Session 11 Causes of War, Pt. 2
Session 12 Institutions in War, Pt. 1
Session 13 Institutions in War, Pt. 2
Session 14 Non-state Actors in War, Pt. 1
Session 15 Non-state Actors in War, Pt. 2
Session 16 Technologies in War, Pt. 1
Session 17 Technologies in War, Pt. 2

Pt. 3: What are the consequences for markets?

Session 18 Politics of Trade, Pt. 1
Session 19 Politics of Trade, Pt. 2
Session 20 Politics of Finance, Pt. 1
Session 21 Politics of Finance, Pt. 1
Session 22 Politics of Money, Pt. 1
Session 23 Politics of Money, Pt. 2
Session 24 Politics of the Environment, Pt. 1
Session 25 Politics of the Environment, Pt. 2

Pt. 4: Is change possible?

Session 26 World Government
Session 27 Debriefing

Course Schedule:

Week 1

1 Introduction (08/29)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 1: What Shaped Our World?," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019.

2 Anarchy (08/31)

- Waltz, Kenneth N. "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," in Art and Jervis, *International Politics*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Active-Learning Exercise 1: Watch Fog of War due at 12 pm on 09/03

Active Learning Exercise 2: Conduct a Case Study opens at 8pm on 09/03

Week 2

3 Labor Day - No class (09/05)

4 Power (09/07)

- Dunne, Tim and Brian C. Schmidt, "Chapter 6: Realism" in Baylis, Owen, and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Active-Learning Exercise 2: Conduct a Case Study due at noon on 09/10

Active-Learning Exercise 3: Create a Meme opens at 8pm on 09/10

Week 3

5 Institutions (09/12)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. 2019. "Chapter 11: International Law and Norms," *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 462-498
- Keohane, Robert O. 1998. "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" *Foreign Policy* 110: 82-96.

6 Ideas (09/14)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. 2019. "Chapter 11: International Law and Norms," *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 499-515

Active-Learning Exercise 3: Create a Meme due at 12pm on 09/17

Exam 1 opens at 8pm on 09/17

Week 4

7 Race (09/19)

- Shilliam, Robbie. 2017. "Chapter 18: Race in World Politics," in Baylis, Owen, and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

8 Gender (09/21)

- Kinsella, Helen. 2017. "Chapter 12: Feminism," in Baylis, Owen, and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Exam 1 due at 12pm on 09/24

Week 5

9 Simulation Orientation (09/26)

- Statecraft Manual

10 Simulation Turn One (09/28)

Manual Quiz due at noon on 09/31

Simulation Turn 0 ends at 12pm on 10/01

Simulation Turn 1 opens at 8pm on 10/01

Week 6

11 Causes of War Pt. 1: Structural and Rational Causes (10/03)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 3: Why Are There Wars," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 92-143.

12 Causes of War Pt. 2: Domestic Politics and Ideas (10/10)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 3: Why Are There Wars," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 92-143.

Simulation Turn 1 ends at 12pm on 10/08

Simulation Turn 2 opens at 8pm on 10/08

Week 7

13 Institutions in War Pt. 1: Alliances and Collective Security (10/10)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 5: International Institutions and Wars," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 194-244.

14 Institutions in War Pt. 2: End of War and Covert Action (10/12)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 5: International Institutions and Wars," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 194-244.

Simulation Turn 2 ends at 12pm on 10/15

Simulation Turn 3 opens at 8pm on 10/15

Week 8

15 Non-state Actors in War Pt. 1: Terrorism (10/17)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 6: Violence by Nonstate Actors," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 245-303.

16 Non-state Actors in War Pt. 2: Civil Wars (10/19)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. "Chapter 6: Violence by Nonstate Actors," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 245-303.

Simulation Turn 3 ends at 12pm on 10/22

Simulation Turn 4 opens at 8pm on 10/22

Exam 2 opens at 8pm on 10/22

Week 9

17 Technologies in War Pt. 1: Nuclear Proliferation (10/24)

- Sagan, Scott. 1996. "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a

Bomb”, *International Security* 21(3): 54-86.

18 Technologies in War Pt. 2: Drones, AI, and Cyber (10/26)

- Horowitz, Michael. 2020. “Do Emerging Technologies Matter for International Politics?”, *Annual Review of Political Science* 23(1), 385-400

Exam 2 due at 12pm on 10/29

Simulation Turn 4 ends at 12pm on 10/29

Simulation Turn 5 opens at 8pm on 10/29

Week 10

19 Politics of Trade Pt. 1: The International Trade Regime (10/31)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. “Chapter 7: International Trade,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 305-358.

20 Politics of Trade Pt. 2: The Determinants of Trade Policy (11/02)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. “Chapter 7: International Trade,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 305-358.

Simulation Turn 5 ends at 12pm on 11/05

Simulation Turn 6 opens at 8pm on 11/05

Week 11

21 Politics of Finance Pt. 1: The International Financial Regime (11/07)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. “Chapter 8: International Financial Relations,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 346-405.

22 Politics of Finance Pt. 2: The Determinants of Finance (11/09)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. “Chapter 8: International Financial Relations,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 364-405.

Simulation Turn 6 ends at 12pm on 11/12

Simulation Turn 7 opens at 8pm on 11/12

Week 12

23 Politics of Money Pt. 1: The International Monetary Regime (11/14)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. “Chapter 9: International Monetary Relations,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 406-445

24 Politics of Money Pt. 2: The Determinants of Monetary Policy (11/16)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. “Chapter 9: International Monetary Relations,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2019, 406-445.

Simulation Turn 7 ends at 12pm on 11/18

Simulation Turn 8 opens at 12pm on 12/03

Fall Break

Week 14

25 Politics of the Environment Pt. 1: International Environmental Regime (11/28)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. 2019. “Chapter 13: The Global Environment,” in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 504-607

- Katharine J. Mach, Caroline M. Kraan, W. Neil Adger, Halvard Buhaug, Marshall Burke, James D. Fearon, Christopher B. Field et al. 2019 "Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict." *Nature* 571(7764): 193–197.

26 Politics of the Environment Pt. 2: The Determinants of Environmental Policy (11/30)

- Frieden, Jeffry A, David A Lake, and Kenneth A Schultz. 2019. "Chapter 13: The Global Environment," in *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 504-607
- Katharine J. Mach, Caroline M. Kraan, W. Neil Adger, Halvard Buhaug, Marshall Burke, James D. Fearon, Christopher B. Field et al. 2019 "Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict." *Nature* 571(7764): 193–197.

* *Simulation Turn 8 ends at 12pm on 12/03**

Exam 3 opens at 8pm on 12/08

Week 15

27 World Government (12/05)

- Craig, Campbell. 2008. "The Resurgent Idea of World Government." *Ethics & international affairs* 22(2), 133–142
- Strange, Susan. 1999. "The Westfailure System." *Review of International Studies*, 25(3), 345-354

27 Debriefing (12/07)

Exam 3 due at 12pm on 12/12