

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

POL 1080 Introduction to International Relations  
FALL SEMESTER 2017

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Office hours: by appointment over skype, or over email

The syllabus is a guide for the class; as such, it subject to change by the discretion of the Professor. Everything that is not listed on the syllabus should be resolved by email with the Professor.

### **1. Course Description**

The goal of this course is to build a sophisticated understanding of contemporary international politics, including international war, competing national interests, grand strategies, international law, and global organizations. Concepts, structures, theories, and processes associated with the international system and its institutions are introduced and integrated with historical and contemporary case studies. The contrasting ethics of social justice and power politics are explored.

### **2. Course Objective**

- Understand historical development of international relations
- Comprehend different concept within International Relations
- Critically assess theories of International Relations
- Assess contemporary issues in international relations
- Develop sensitivity for interdisciplinary analysis
- Learn how to approach research

### **3. Assignments**

- 15 reading summaries (2 % each, thus 30 % of the grade)

- 1 scientific article analysis (40 % of the grade)
- 5 current events reflections (6 % each, thus 30 % of the grade)

### Reading Summaries

The summary of each module's readings (except module 12) should be 250 words long ( $\pm 10\%$ ), or a minimum of a 2 minutes long Kaltura video. The student reviews key ideas of the readings. Since there are 15 modules, there are 15 summaries to be submitted. There are no specific deadlines for individual modules; yet, all the summaries should be submitted by Sunday 3 December 2017 11:59 pm. All summaries submitted by then will be counted towards your grade. THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS. Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

Instead of a summary, module 12 requires the student to pick one economic concept from the list listed under the subheading Module 12 in the syllabus, and describe how this concept is reflected on one of the maps from each of the Atlas readings (2 maps altogether). All other instructions (word limit, deadline) are the same for this module as for the other 14.

### Current Events Reflections

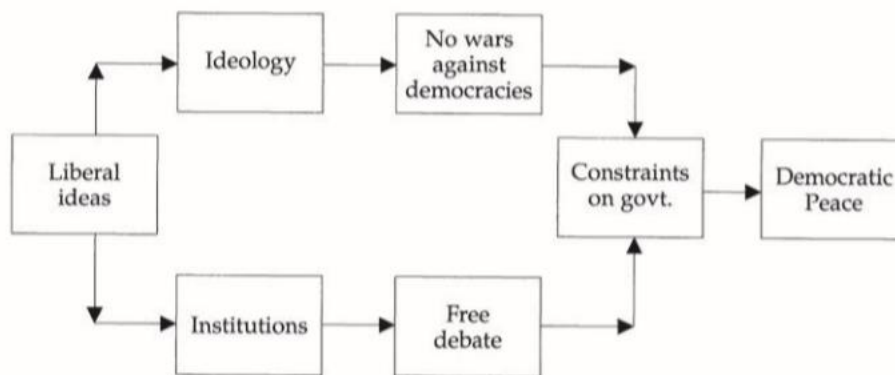
The reflections should be 250 words long ( $\pm 10\%$ ), or a minimum of a 2 minutes long Kaltura video. The student selects a current event (an event that takes place during the time of the class) in international relations and provides a review and assessment of that event using the concepts and ideas that were presented in the class. There are 6 reflections to be submitted. No specific deadlines for individual reflections are assigned; yet, all of them should be submitted by Sunday 3 December 2017 11:59 pm. Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

### Scientific Article Analysis

The student picks a scientific article from one of the scientific journal of International Relations. The following document may help you identify the journals out of which you can pick an article: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/staff/humanResources/reviewingAndRewarding/promotionAndReview/pdfs/JournalsLists-16-17.pdf> (pp. 26-28). The article can be from any issue (also an 'on-line

first') and any volume. An on-line access to these journals is available through Langsam library. The selected article MUST NOT be one of the articles which can be found as a reading in this syllabus, or the example bellow. Once you have read the article, you will construct a causal process graph of the argument made in the article. What that means is that you identify research question, independent variable(s), dependent variable(s), potential intervening variable(s), potential conditional variable(s), assumption(s) that the article is making, as well as identify the causal mechanism, how these things are connected. In a nutshell, you need to summarize the argument and the theory of the article graphically. For example, in the article – Owen, John M. 1994. How liberalism produces democratic peace. *International security*, 19(2). Pp. 87–125 – the author provides with the following graph:

**Figure 1. Causal Pathways of Liberal Democratic Peace.**



Your task is to do something similar for your article. The deadline for this assignment is Sunday 3 December 2017 11.59 pm. THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS. Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

#### **4. Grading**

100 = A +

95-99 = A

90-94 = A-

85-89 = B+

80-84 = B

75-79 = B-

70-74 = C+

65-69 = C

60-64 = C-

55-59 = D+

50-55 = D

<50 = F

There WILL NOT be any extra credits.

### **5. Academic integrity**

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct and other documented policies of the Department, College, and University related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating, will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct. A copy of the policy can be found on the University website at: [http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic\\_Integrity.html](http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic_Integrity.html).

### **6. Special needs policy**

If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the Professor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services.

### **7. Course plan**

The goal is to follow the course outline as presented below; however, some adjustments may be necessary during the class. The following course outline and readings are subject to change with appropriate notice to the students. All the readings are available on Blackboard – separated according to the modules. A module is an equivalent to a week of classes. As such, I recommend that you follow a study pace of 1 module per week. First, look at the video that I post on Blackboard under each module, secondly do the readings and lastly do your assignments.

## 1 MODULE

### Introduction:

- Henry Kissinger, pp 17-28; pp 804-835 (CH 1, CH 31)
- Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, pp. 3-29 (CH 1)

## 2 MODULE

### History 1: 17-19 cet.

- Henry Kissinger, pp 56-136 (CH 3, CH 4, CH 5)

## 3 MODULE

### Concepts 1:

- Power  
David Baldwin, Power and International Relations, pp. 91-122(CH 4)
- Grand Strategy  
Paul Kennedy, Grand Strategy in War and Peace, pp, 1-7 (CH 1)
- Anarchy  
Helen Milner, The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique

## 4 MODULE

### History 2: WW1

- Henry Kissinger, pp. 168-265 (CH 7, CH 8, CH 9, CH 10)

## 5 MODULE

### Concepts 2:

- Balance of power  
Michael Sheehan, The Balance of Power, pp. 1-96 (CH 1, CH 2, CH 3, CH 4)

## 6 MODULE

### History 3: WW2

- Henry Kissinger, pp. 288-368; 394-422 (CH 12, CH 13, CH 14, CH 16)

## 7 MODULE

### Concepts 3:

- Western vs. Eastern tradition of warfare: Clausewitz vs. Sun Tzu  
Michael Handel, Masters of War, pp 1-37 (CH 1, CH 2, CH 3, CH 4)
- Images of analysis  
Kenneth Waltz, Man State and War, pp. 1-15; 224-238 (CH 1, CH 8)
- Offense-Defense Theory  
Sean Lynn-Jones, Offense-Defense Theory and its Critics

## 8 MODULE

### History 4: The Cold War

- John Harper, The Cold War, pp 83-220

## 9 MODULE

### Concepts 4:

- Mutual Assured Destruction, Nuclear deterrence  
Robert Art, Kenneth Waltz (ed.), Nuclear Revolution, pp. 99-131 (CH 6, CH 7, CH 8)
- Security Dilemma  
Robert Jervis, Cooperation under the security dilemma
- Alliances  
Stephen Walt, Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power

## 10 MODULE

### History 5: Post-Cold War

- Igor Kovac, Laris Gaiser, From Bipolarity to Bipolarity: International Relations Repeating Again
- John Ikenberry, Michael Mastanduno, and William Wohlforth, Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences
- John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens, pp. 68-82 (CH 4)

## 11 MODULE

### Concepts 5:

- Misperception  
Robert Jervis, Hypotheses on Misperception  
Robert Jervis, War and Misperception
- Institutions, cooperation and interdependence  
Kenneth A. Oye, Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies  
Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane, Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions

## 12 MODULE

### Economy:

- A dictionary of Economics, available on-line through Langsam:  
[http://aj2vr6xy7z.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx\\_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx\\_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft\\_id=info%3Asid%2Fsummon.serialssolutions.com&rft\\_val\\_fmt=info%3Aofi%2Ffmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Abook&rft.genre=book&rft.title=A+Dictionary+of+Economics&rft.au=Black%2C+John&rft.au=Myles%2C+Gareth+Donald&rft.au=Hashimzade%2C+Nigar&rft.series=OUP+Catalogue&rft.date=2009-01-01&rft.pub=Oxford+University+Press&rft.isbn=9780199237043&rft.externalDocID=http%2F%2Feconpapers.repec.org%2Fbookchap%2Foxpobooks%2F9780199237043%2Fhtm&paramdict=en-US](http://aj2vr6xy7z.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft_id=info%3Asid%2Fsummon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info%3Aofi%2Ffmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Abook&rft.genre=book&rft.title=A+Dictionary+of+Economics&rft.au=Black%2C+John&rft.au=Myles%2C+Gareth+Donald&rft.au=Hashimzade%2C+Nigar&rft.series=OUP+Catalogue&rft.date=2009-01-01&rft.pub=Oxford+University+Press&rft.isbn=9780199237043&rft.externalDocID=http%2F%2Feconpapers.repec.org%2Fbookchap%2Foxpobooks%2F9780199237043%2Fhtm&paramdict=en-US).

Check the following concepts: real terms, nominal variable, microeconomics, macroeconomics, supply, demand, Say's law, equilibrium, absolute advantage, comparative advantage, competitive advantage, invisible hand, classical economics, free trade, free market, fiscal policy, monetary policy, gross domestic product, budget deficit, debt, rate of interest, economic growth, economies of scale, factor(s) of production, inflation, balance of payments, exchange rate, fixed exchange rate, floating exchange rate, managed floating exchange rate, law of diminishing returns, marginal rate of

transformation, marginal utility, unemployment, Phillips curve, Fisher effect, Dutch disease, fiat money, neoclassical economics, Keynesian economics.

Geography:

- World Atlas of Natural Disaster Risk  
Look at the maps on pp. xxxiv-20
- Human Impact on the Environment: An Illustrated World Atlas  
Look at the page 321, and follow the list of the maps

### 13 MODULE

International law:

- Peter Malanczuk, Akehurst's modern introduction to international law, pp. 1-62; 93-96; 273-275; 306-314; 342-346; 364; 373-379; 385-390

### 14 MODULE

Theories:

- IR theory and Great Debates  
Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, Steve Smith, pp. 1-35 (Introduction, CH 1)
- Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism  
John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens, pp. 101-128; 144-158 (CH 6, CH 7, CH 9)
- Game Theories  
Andrew Kydd, International Relations Theory, the Game Theoretic Approach, pp.1-10; 36-54 (CH 1, CH 3)

### 15 MODULE

Making sense of IR:

- Saul Bernard Cohen, Geopolitics of the World System, pp. 11-31
- Geoffrey Parker, Western Geopolitical Thought in The Twentieth Century, pp. 173-183
- Thucydides trap  
<http://www.belfercenter.org/thucydides-trap/overview-thucydides-trap> (check the whole web-site, but just skim through the 16 cases)



<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/> (read the article)