Political Science (POL) 2100

Introduction to International Politics

Spring 2021

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Utah State University
Tuesday / Thursday 10:30–11:45 AM
Classroom: Engineering 101

Instructor: Austin J. Knuppe
(pronounced nuh-pee)

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:00–6:00 PM,
               or by appointment
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Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of international relations (IR). As a sub-
discipline of Political Science, the IR field is concerned with the interactions of political
actors across national boundaries. We ask important questions about history and contem-
porary global affairs. What are the causes of war? What motivates transnational terror-
ism? How do domestic interest groups influence international trade policy? Do democ-
cracies behave differently than authoritarian regimes? Should governments intervene to
protect human rights in other countries? Why are global environmental problems so dif-
ficult to solve? Can international law and organizations help promote successful global
governance? What role do non-governmental actors play in a globalized world? These
are a few examples of the issues addressed by scholars in the study of global politics.

The course begins with an overview of IR as a discipline. We then examine various levels
of analysis and theoretical perspectives on global politics—including Realism, Liberal-
ism, and Constructivism—and discuss the key actors in world politics and the nature of
foreign policy decision-making. The second half of the course applies these concepts to
such issues as war and peace, the politics of economic relations, international organiza-
tions and law, sustainability and the environment, and human rights.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

In this course students will learn about the study of international relations and foreign
policy and will acquire a knowledge base for taking more advanced courses in these areas.
More specific expected learning outcomes include:
understanding basic concepts and scholarly debates in the fields of IR and foreign policy

> gaining knowledge of the key actors, institutions and processes of global politics

> becoming a more informed citizen regarding important international political challenges and issues, both contemporary and historical

**Course Texts**

Most course readings are from the following required book, both available at the campus store or on reserve at the university library:


Older editions of the textbook is acceptable, but the instructor will assign page numbers based on the most current edition. Other supplemental journal articles, news articles, and book sections are available online or on reserve, as noted in the syllabus. Access to certain websites is available only via an Utah State internet connection. The instructor will distribute detailed instructions for finding online journal articles.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend every lecture, to complete all of the required readings, and to watch or read any additional material that is posted to Canvas each week. When additional materials are posted, I will note explicitly whether they are required or merely optional for interested students. Note that lectures will sometimes cover material that is not in the readings, and the readings may contain material that is not covered in the lectures. Both are critical to your success on quizzes and exams.

Students’ performance will be evaluated based on the following four items:

> Reading Quizzes & Class Participation (25%)

> Midterm Examination (25%)

> Response Papers (25%)

> Final Examination (25%)
Class Lectures

To succeed in the course, it is essential to attend class and participate in the lectures. Lecture slides will also be posted as PDFs on Canvas. I recommend that you have the slides in front of you while you’re listening to the lecture so that you can take notes and follow the overall outline of the course material.

Reading Quizzes

During the first week, students will take a short quiz based on the content of the syllabus. The quiz is required to access course materials on Canvas and students must receive a 80% or higher to get credit for it. Students will have five percentage points subtracted from their final grade if they do not complete it.

In addition, occasional multiple-choice reading quizzes will be posted on Canvas. The quiz will remain available for a 24-hour period. The quizzes are open-book and open-note but no collaboration between students is permitted. Once you begin the quiz, you will have a limited amount of time to complete it (normally 15 minutes), so you should prepare as if you were taking an in-class quiz.

Students will be allowed two attempts to complete each quiz.

Midterm and Final Examinations

Students will complete a take-home midterm and final examination. Both examinations are open-note and will be submitted electronically to Canvas at the designated date and time. For both examinations, students can access notes, readings, and other materials, but they must work independently.

The midterm is designed to be completed in approximately 60 minutes and cover will material from the first half of the course. Students will receive the prompt on Canvas and will submit their answers at the assigned period. The final examination is designed to be completed in two house and will cover material from the second half of the course (i.e., it is not cumulative). Students will complete their exam during the university-scheduled time period and will upload their electronically responses to Canvas. The midterm and final exam will each consist of 25% of the final grade.

Both exams will follow the same format, including a combination of short- and long-answer essay questions. Unlike in-class examinations which often quiz students on course "trivia" (e.g., people, dates, events, and concepts), the exams in this course will concentrate on analysis and application. They will require students to take a theory, concept, or event from the course and apply it to a contemporary problem, question, or policy.

The instructor will provide a brief study guide for both examinations approximately
one week before the exam date.

Response Papers

Over the course of the semester, students will write five response papers focusing on the assigned readings from the course. Each week the instructor will post a prompt and students have the option of submitting written responses electronically via Canvas. The goal is to help students process their understanding of the readings, as well as cover content not addressed during class lectures.

Response papers should be **500 words**, not including citations (please use footnotes). Papers must be submitted in a serif font (e.g., Times New Roman) of size 12 with 1” margins on all sides and page numbers. The filename of the electronic version must include the name of the student submitting it (e.g., knuppe-response-paper-1.PDF). Your paper must be well written and carefully edited (and will be assessed on content and style). An indispensable guide is Strunk & White’s *Elements of Style*. You might also consult the USU Writing Center.

The best response papers typically have some combination of the following attributes:

- Answers to each question outlined in the prompt
- Clear and concise writing; including a thesis statement or original argument in the first paragraph
- Specific references to assigned readings or course content (include quotations or footnotes citing paper numbers)
- Conclusion which offers new questions, arguments, or reflections on the assigned readings listed on the prompt

Extra Credit

Students often find themselves a percentage point or two shy from their desired final grade (e.g., an 89% but they want to earn an A- for their final grade). To address these concerns—and mitigate any panicked emails at the end of the semester—I offer an optional extra credit assignment that can **boost a student’s final grade by 1% point**.

To receive extra credit, students should select a recent documentary, book, or long-form magazine article (e.g., *Foreign Affairs*) that addresses a topic relevant to international political and write a 1,000 word review. A high-quality review does more than describe a text or film’s argument or theme. Rather, students should seek to address one or more of the following components:
> engage a relevant question or puzzle covered in the course
> introduce new or relevant information to the discussion
> reference specific course material in one’s analysis (a reading, lecture, etc.)
> provide a substantive rebuttal or challenge to the author’s primary argument, theme, or method

Book or film selections must be pre-approved by the instructor prior to submission. Reviews are due on Canvass by 5 PM MDT on the last full day of class (Thursday, April 29th).

**Course Policies**

**Attendance Policy**

I have no formal attendance policy, but active participation in the lectures is an integral component of students’ participation grade. Class attendance will also help students prepare for the midterm and final examinations, as well as the journal assignment.

**Communication and Office Hours**

I primarily use emails and announcements on Canvas to communicate with students. Please check Canvas frequently throughout the semester.

You should feel free to email me with any specific questions about course materials or logistics. Please treat your email as a professional correspondence and be as clear and specific as possible, and please include “PS 2100” somewhere in the subject line. Because of the high enrollments and format of this course, I receive many emails and can only respond effectively if I understand your inquiry. I will hold weekly office hours in Old Main Hall, as indicated at the top of the syllabus. If you are unavailable during this time period, feel free to email me to schedule a separate appointment.

**Collaboration With Other Students**

In completing the assignments, you are encouraged to interact with your instructor and student colleagues. However, sharing answers to the assignments, including online reading quizzes or exams, is strictly prohibited. If assignments are submitted that look suspiciously similar, they will be investigated for academic misconduct (see below).
Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted, unless a prior extension has been granted by the instructor (Canvas will not accept assignments after the stated deadline on the relevant due dates). For this reason, you are strongly encouraged to start working on your assignments early, and to attend class and office hours to have questions answered promptly.

Technical Problems

It is your responsibility to ensure that you can view lecture videos and other material posted to Canvas, and that you can use the Canvas site to take quizzes and exams, submit papers, etc. We cannot troubleshoot technical problems for all of our students, so you should consult the online Service Desk or contact their phone number at (435)-797-HELP or email servicedesk@usu.edu. If you are having a problem with Canvas, a good first step is to try a different internet browser or computer.

Academic Integrity

The University expects that students and faculty alike maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University (Student Conduct) addresses academic integrity and honesty and notes the following:

Academic Integrity

Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the University by not participating in or facilitating others’ participation in any act of academic dishonesty and by reporting all violations or suspected violations of the Academic Integrity Standard to their instructors.

The Honor Pledge

To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: “I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.” Violations of the Academic Integrity Standard (academic violations) include, but are not limited to cheating, falsification, and plagiarism.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

**Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn #101, 435-797-2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

**Mental Health**

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Students are also encouraged to download the SafeUT App to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.

**Sexual Harassment**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all
members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity (AA/EO) Office for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305), and has designated the AA/EO Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

Please note the page numbers listed below, as only selected pages of certain articles or book sections are assigned.

**Tuesday, January 19th**  
**Course Introduction**

❖ Complete syllabus quiz and baseline assessment

**Thursday, January 21st**  
**Conceptual Foundations of IR**

❖ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 1, pp. 3-17.


**Tuesday, January 26th**  
**International Relations Theories, Part I**

❖ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 3, pp. 67-81


**Thursday, January 28th**  
**International Relations Theories, Part II**

❖ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 3, pp. 81-86
Tuesday, February 2nd

International Relations Theories, Part III


- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 3, pp. 86-92


Thursday, February 4th

International Relations Theories, Part IV

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 3, pp. 92-105


Tuesday, February 9th

The Levels of Analysis, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 4, pp. 107-123


Thursday, February 11th

The Levels of Analysis, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 4, pp. 124-131


Tuesday, February 16th

The Levels of Analysis, Part III

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 4, pp. 132-147

Thursday, February 18th  
**The State and the Tools of Statecraft, Part I**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 5, pp. 149-157

Tuesday, February 23rd  
**The State and the Tools of Statecraft, Part II**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 5, pp. 157-165

Thursday, February 25th  
**The State and the Tools of Statecraft, Part III**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 5, pp. 165-185

Tuesday, March 2nd  
**International Cooperation and International Law, Part I**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 7, pp. 233-246

Thursday, March 4th  
**International Cooperation and International Law, Part II**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 7, pp. 246-267

Tuesday, March 9th  
**Midterm Examination (online between 10:30-11:45 AM MDT)**
Study Guide provided by instructor

Thursday, March 11th  No Class Day

Tuesday, March 16th  War and International Security, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 6, pp. 187-206

Thursday, March 18th  War and International Security, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 6, pp. 206-212

Tuesday, March 23rd  War and International Security, Part III

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 6, pp. 212-224

Thursday, March 25th  War and International Security, Part IV

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 224-231

Tuesday, March 30th  International Political Economy, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 269-279
Thursday, April 1st  

**International Political Economy, Part II**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 279-295

Tuesday, April 6th  

**International Political Economy, Part III**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 295-317

Thursday, April 8th  

**No Class Day**

Tuesday, April 13th  

**Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations, Part I**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 9, pp. 319-340

Thursday, April 15th  

**Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations, Part II**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 9, pp. 340-359

Tuesday, April 20th  

**Human Rights, Part I**

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 10, pp. 365-374
Thursday, April 22\textsuperscript{nd} \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Human Rights, Part II}

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 10, pp. 374-399

Tuesday, April 27\textsuperscript{th} \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Human Security, Part I}

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 11, pp. 401-417

Thursday, April 29\textsuperscript{th} \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Human Security, Part II}

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 11, pp. 417-442


Tuesday, May 4\textsuperscript{th} \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Final Examination (online between 9:30–11:20 AM MDT)}

- Study Guide provided by instructor
- Complete online course evaluation and endline assessment to access final grade