

Political Science (POLS) 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*)

Office: [330C Old Main Hall](#)
Office Hours: Wednesday, 4:00–6:00 PM,
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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 contemporary global affairs. What are the causes of war? What motivates transnational terrorism? How do domestic interest groups influence international trade policy? Do democracies behave differently than authoritarian regimes? Should governments intervene to protect human rights in other countries? Why are global environmental problems so difficult 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, Liberalism, 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 organizations 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:

Mingst, Karen A., Heather Elko McKibben, and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft. *Essentials of International Relations*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2018 (eighth edition).

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 hours 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 Canvas 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.
- Keohane, Robert O. "Political Science as a Vocation." *PS: Political Science and Politics* vol. 42, no. 2 (April 2009): 359-363.

Tuesday, January 26th

International Relations Theories, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 3, pp. 67-81
- Mearsheimer, John J. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001: 29-54 ("Anarchy and the Struggle for Power").

Thursday, January 28th

International Relations Theories, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 3, pp. 81-86

▷ Moravcsik, Andrew. "The New Liberalism." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Tuesday, February 2nd

International Relations Theories, Part III

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

▷ Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy is What States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* vol. 46, no. 2 (Spring 1992): 391-425.

Thursday, February 4th

International Relations Theories, Part IV

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

▷ Sjoberg, Laura, and J. Ann Tickner. "Feminist perspectives on International Relations." *Handbook of International Relations*. New York: SAGE, 2013: 170-194.

Tuesday, February 9th

The Levels of Analysis, Part I

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

▷ Lake, David A. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009: 1-16; 176-189.

Thursday, February 11th

The Levels of Analysis, Part II

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

▷ Schultz, Kenneth. "Domestic Politics and International Relations." *Handbook of International Relations*. New York: SAGE, 2013: 478-502.

Tuesday, February 16th

The Levels of Analysis, Part III

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

▷ Yarhi-Milo, Keren. "In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries." *International Security* vol. 38, no. 1 (Summer 2013): 7-51.

Thursday, February 18th

The State and the Tools of Statecraft, Part I

- ▷ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 5, pp. 149-157
- ▷ Putnam, Robert D. “Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games.” *International Organization* vol. 42, no. 3 (Summer 1988): 427-460.

Tuesday, February 23rd

The State and the Tools of Statecraft, Part II

- ▷ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 5, pp. 157-165
- ▷ Schelling, Thomas C. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966: Ch. 1 “The Diplomacy of Violence.”

Thursday, February 25th

The State and the Tools of Statecraft, Part III

- ▷ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 5, pp. 165-185
- ▷ Brulé, David, and Alex Mintz. “Foreign Policy Decision Making: Evolution, Models, and Methods.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Tuesday, March 2nd

International Cooperation and International Law, Part I

- ▷ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 7, pp. 233-246
- ▷ Axelrod, Robert, and Robert O. Keohane. “Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions.” *World Politics* vol. 38, no. 1 (October 1985): 226-254.

Thursday, March 4th

International Cooperation and International Law, Part II

- ▷ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 7, pp. 246-267
- ▷ Hurd, Ian. “Legitimacy and Authority in International Politics.” *International Organization* vol. 53, no. 2 (Spring 1999): 379-408.

Tuesday, March 9th

Midtem 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

▸ Chenoweth, Erica, Richard English, Andreas Gofas, and Stathis N. Kalyvas, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Terrorism*. Oxford University Press, 2019: Chapter 2: “The Landscape of Political Violence”: 11-33.

Thursday, March 18th

War and International Security, Part II

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

▸ Fearon, James D. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization* vol. 49, no. 3 (Summer 1995): 379-414.

Tuesday, March 23rd

War and International Security, Part III

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

▸ Jervis, Robert. “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma.” *World Politics* vol. 30, no. 2 (January 1978): 167-214.

Thursday, March 25th

War and International Security, Part IV

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

▸ Gopal, Anand, “[America’s War on Syria’s Civilians](#),” *The New Yorker*, 21 December 2020.

Tuesday, March 30th

International Political Economy, Part I

▸ Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 269-279

▸ Tomz, Michael. “International Finance.” *Handbook of International Relations*. 2nd Edition. New York: SAGE, 2012: 692-719.

Thursday, April 1st

International Political Economy, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 279-295
- Banerjee, Abhijit V., and Esther Duflo. *Good Economics for Hard Times*. New York: Penguin, 2019, Chapter 3: “The Pains from Trade”: 51-97.

Tuesday, April 6th

International Political Economy, Part III

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 8, pp. 295-317
- Drezner, Daniel. “The Irony of Global Economic Governance: The System Worked.” International Institutions and Global Governance Program. Council on Foreign Relations. October 2012.

Thursday, April 8th

No Class Day

Tuesday, April 13th

Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 9, pp. 319-340
- Barnett, Michael, and Martha Finnemore. *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004: 1-44.

Thursday, April 15th

Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 9, pp. 340-359
- Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998: 1-38.

Tuesday, April 20th

Human Rights, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 10, pp. 365-374
- Robeyns, Ingrid. “The Capability Approach: a Theoretical Survey.” *Journal of Human Development* vol. 6, no. 1 (March 2005): 93-117.

Thursday, April 22nd

Human Rights, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 10, pp. 374-399
- Simmons, Beth A. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009: 1-17; 349-363.

Tuesday, April 27th

Human Security, Part I

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 11, pp. 401-417
- Hicks, Kathleen H. "Could the Pandemic Reshape World Order, American Security, and National Defense?" in *COVID-19 and World Order: The Future of Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation.*, ed. Hal Brands and Francis J. Gavin. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020: 348-365.

Thursday, April 29th

Human Security, Part II

- Mingst et al. 2018, Chapter 11, pp. 417-442
- Keohane, Robert O. "The Global Politics of Climate Change: Challenge for Political Science." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 48, no. 1 (2015): 19-26.
- **SKIM:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). "Global Warming of 1.5C.," Summary for Policymakers (2018): 3-24.

Tuesday, May 4th

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