

POLI 12: Introduction to International Relations

University of California, San Diego — Summer Session 1 2024

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 - 4:50 PM — Solis 110

Course page: <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/57768>

Updated 6/28/24

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Department of Political Science

Office: Social Science Building (SSB) 324

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 5:00 - 6:00 PM or by appointment

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Course Description

This course is designed to *broadly* acquaint you with the field of international politics. The instructor of record and students will examine the complex interdependencies of governments, groups, and citizens. To understand why wars happen, why environmental cooperation often fails, why human rights abuses are often perpetuated, and why international trade cooperation stagnates, you will need to internalize the core tenets of international politics under the framework of *interests, interactions, and institutions*. There will be a lot of information being condensed into a five-week course. My hope is that you will come to class prepared (i.e., read or at least skim the text) and with a *growth mindset*. My role as the instructor is to demystify complex concepts and ease your entrance into international relations.

Course Text

All students enrolled in the course have been automatically assigned the electronic version of the text-book through UCSD Inclusive Access Program. This means that your required course materials are being provided to you automatically, and at a discounted price. A charge for this material will be added to your student account and will appear as “Course Materials Central Charge.”

You can access the text book through Canvas’ BryteWave Course Material tab on the left. You have the option to opt-out by July 8th, 2024 using this [Opt-Out Link](#). The total charge for the course material is \$48.00. Please contact the bookstore if you have any difficulty using the material or opting out: textbooks@ucsd.edu.

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake & Kenneth A. Schultz. 2021. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 5th Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (hereafter “**FLS**”).

Requirements

- Exam 1 [July 11] ($\frac{1}{3}$ of total grade): War and Peace Module
- Exam 2 [July 23] ($\frac{1}{3}$ of total grade): International Political Economy
- Exam 3 [August 1] ($\frac{1}{3}$ of total grade): Transnational Politics

Exams

The exam will be closed book, but you will be permitted to bring one 8.5x11" page of notes, double-sided, but otherwise no materials may be accessed. You will be tested not just on basic comprehension, but also your ability to apply critical thinking and integrate class concepts. Each exam will follow the same format:

- 25 multiple choice questions \times 2 points each = 50 points
- 5 short answers \times 10 points each = 50 points

Grade Scale

Grade Range	Letter Grade
98-100	A+
93-97.9	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
84-86.9	B
80-83.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
74-76.9	C
70-73.9	C-
60-69.9	D
0-59.9	F
70-100	Pass (if taking Pass/Fail)

Schedule

War and Peace

- July 2, 2024: FLS Chapter 2, 3 & 4
- July 4, 2024 (no class)
- July 9, 2024: FLS Chapter 5 & 6
- July 11, 2024: **Exam 1**

International Political Economy

- July 16, 2024: FLS Chapter 7 & 8
- July 18, 2024: FLS Chapter 9 & 10
- July 23, 2024: **Exam 2**

Transnational Politics

- July 25, 2024: FLS Chapter 11 & 12
- July 30, 2024: FLS Chapter 13 & 14
- August 1, 2024: **Exam 3**

Classroom Policies

Please refrain from having side conversations in class. Cell phones are prohibited from being used during class. We'll have intermittent breaks in between lecture modules. Laptops are permitted but should only be used for taking notes and pulling up readings. I strongly recommend taking notes by hand as studies have found that hand-writing notes leads to better comprehension and material absorption.

This class will involve frequent discussions both in large and small groups. Respect for your fellow classmates is required. Disagreement is natural and debate is encouraged, but students must be respectful to one another.

Inclusive Classroom

I am committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspective, experience, and identity. I urge all of you to contribute your unique perspective to discussions so we can all learn from each other. If you ever feel excluded or unable to fully participate in class, please let me know. I also ask that everyone abide by [UCSD's Principles of Community](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Participation

Evidence-based research on teaching and learning has documented a strong causal relationship between active participation/discussion and student learning. I design my lectures to have intermittent active engagement and discussions to allow students time to engage with lecture materials. I strongly encourage you to come to class prepared to contribute to these discussions

Email Policy

Please direct any and all questions to ethai@ucsd.edu and *not* through the Canvas message function. Allow me 24 business hours to respond (excluding the weekends). If it is urgent, please include "[URGENT]" in your subject line.

Academic Integrity

As per UCSD's Academic Integrity Policy, any form of [cheating](#) is not tolerated. This includes, but not limited to, looking up answer during exam and copying the work or answers of others.

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (<https://osd.ucsd.edu/>). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department well in advance of any exams or assignments. Please contact the Department of Political Science OSD Liaison if you have any disability needs; please connect with staff via the [Virtual Advising Center](#) as soon as possible.

Additional Sources:

Recent events highlight a variety of biases in how we all obtain information about the world. Even the textbook may be lying to you (it is not). Consider carefully where you get your news. The ubiquity of information on the internet paradoxically highlights the value of old-fashioned "brand name" news

outlets. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with major periodicals covering international relations/foreign policy. Here are a few prominent outlets:

- Financial Times (<http://news.ft.com/world>)
- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html>)
- Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/world>)
- Foreign Affairs (<http://www.foreignaffairs.org>)
- Foreign Policy in Focus (<http://www.fpif.org/>)
- The National Interest (<http://www.nationalinterest.org>)
- Foreign Policy Association (<http://www.fpa.org/>)
- Council on Foreign Relations (<http://www.cfr.org/>)