

Political Science 150: International Relations

Spring 2011

Course Information

Instructor

Mark J.C. Crescenzi
Office: Hamilton 364
Phone: (919) 962-0401
Email: crescenzi@unc.edu

Meeting Times

Lecture: MW 11:00-11:50pm, Hamilton 100
Office Hours: Tu: 9:00-12:00

Course Description

This course is designed to achieve two objectives: (1) to introduce you to some of the most important topics and puzzles in the study of international relations, and (2) to provide you with some analytic concepts that can be used to study world politics. The course is designed to teach you how to think about politics in the global arena and to prepare you for more advanced courses in international relations. I do not presume any exposure to the field of international relations, and there are no prerequisites for the course. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course, so if you do not already have your favorite source of news or history, now is a good time to find one. I recommend the New York Times, Economist, BBC World News, and Foreign Policy (all available online), but any favorite new source (or two) will do.

Course Requirements

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two midterm exams and one final exam, a writing assignment requiring at least ten pages of writing, and participation in your recitation section. Each midterm exam is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade. The writing assignment is worth 15% of your course grade. The recitation section will count for the remaining 15% of the final grade. The recitation is a required component of this course.

Exams

The midterm and final exams are in-class, closed book & notes. They will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Please come early on exam days in order to use the entire class period for the exam. *Important:* You must turn in your exam to your own TA. Exams not handed directly to your TA will not be accepted. The final exam will be cumulative.

Policy on Unexcused Absences and Make Up Exams: You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented medical emergency. If you miss a scheduled exam, you may be allowed to take a make-up test, but there will be a substantial penalty.

Papers

Because this course fulfills a perspectives requirement, you are required by the University to write ten pages of non-exam material during the semester. Your TA will provide the specific writing assignment(s) for your recitation. Writing assignments are due in class on April 27th, unless otherwise specified by your TA.

Recitations

Your recitation section plays an important role in this course. It is your best opportunity for active learning and discussing the material critically. The recitation also allows you to explore topics in depth that we cannot adequately cover in class. Attendance is required, and regular active participation is expected. Students are allowed up to two unexcused absences from recitation sections. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 5% penalty in the recitation grade. The recitation grade will be evaluated based on attendance and participation. Students who attend regularly but do not participate in discussions should expect a low grade for this portion of the course.

Course Materials

The following required book is available in the UNC Bookstore. All other readings are available electronically via the [UNC library e-journals and e-resources databases](#) or on the course Blackboard website.

- Frieden, Jeffrey, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. W. W. Norton & Company: New York, London.

Important Dates

- Midterm Exam 1: February 23
- Midterm Exam 2: April 4
- Final Exam: Saturday, April 30, 12:00 PM.

Expectations

Please turn your mobile phones off or to silent mode before class. No calls, no IMs, no text messaging during class. On exam days your phones must be powered down and put away. Laptops are permitted for class purposes only. Please do not use your laptops for email, IM, games, web surfing, or any activity that is unrelated to the course. I know, it sounds horrible, but you can do it! Learning by lecture is hard enough, and you distract yourself and your neighbors when you use phones & laptops for anything non-course related.

Email: Please try to remember that there are almost 300 of you. Consequently, I cannot answer all email immediately, and it may take me some time to respond. If you need to notify me of something important (e.g., absence from an exam), come to my office hours before the exam. If you have an emergency and cant inform me in person, you may do so by email, but you will need to follow up with an office visit when you are able. If you have course related questions that require a detailed response from me (e.g., review questions the night before a test), email is not likely to work. Come see me during office hours.

Honor Code: The Honor Code is in effect in this class and all others at the University. I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <http://instrument.unc.edu>. If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask about the Codes application. All exams, written work, and other projects must be submitted with a statement that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.¹

¹From an August 21, 2003 Memo from Robert Shelton, Provost and Judith Wegner, Chair of the Faculty

Calendar and Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture Readings	Recitation Readings
January 10	Introduction	Frieden, Lake & Schultz (FLS): Introduction	Recitations Meet. No readings assigned this week.
January 12	What is International Relations? Defining The Actors	FLS Chapter 2: 44-62	
January 17	MLK Holiday	No Lecture	W,F Recitations Meet. China: Emerging Threat or Partner?
January 19	Power & Order	Fareed Zakaria, "The Future of American Power: How America Can Survive the Rise of the Rest" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 87: Feb 18, 2008 Richard Haas, "The Age of Non-polarity: What Will Follow US Dominance?" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Vol 87:3, 2008.	John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Vol 87:1, 2008. Zheng Bijian, "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great Power Status" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Vol 84:5, 2005.
January 24	Interactions and Institutions	FLS Chapter 2: 62-80	The War in Afghanistan Part I
January 26	The Puzzle of International War	FLS Chapter 3	Biddle, et al 2010, "Defining Success in Afghanistan" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> July/Aug 2010.
January 31	The Classic Tragedy of the World Wars	FLS Chapter 3	The War in Afghanistan Part II
February 2	Alliances & Collective Security	FLS Chapter 5: 170-188	Robert Blackwell, "Plan B in Afghanistan" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Vol 90:1 Jan/Feb 2011 White House Overview of the 2010 Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Report
February 7	Institutions and the Cold War	FLS Chapter 1: 23-30	Is Nuclear Proliferation A Major Threat to Stability?

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February 9	Limitations of Institutions: Origins of US–Iraq War	Stephen Van Evera, “Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War” in <i>International Security</i> 22:4 1998.	Barry Posen, “A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult But Not Impossible Policy Problem” (on Blackboard) Josef Joffe, “Less Than Zero” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol. 90:1 Jan/Feb 2011.
February 14	Domestic Politics and War	FLS Chapter 5: 126–154	Review Week
February 16	Democracy and Conflict	FLS Chapter 5: 154–169	No Readings
February 21	UNC Research on Peace & Conflict	Crescenzi, et. al. “Reliability, Reputation, and Alliance Formation. <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> (forthcoming. on Blackboard) Navin Bapat, “A Game–Theoretic Analysis of the Afghan Surge” in <i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i> Vol 6, 2010.	No Recitations This Week
February 23	Midterm Exam 1		
February 28	The United Nations	Charter of the United Nations	Does the UN Still Need Reform?
March 2	The United Nations and Collective Security	FLS Chapter 5: 189–213	Paul Kennedy & Bruce Russett, “Reforming the United Nations.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> : Vol 74:5 1995. Shashi Tharoor, “Why the United States Still Needs the United Nations.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol 82(5), 2003.
March 7 & 9	Spring Break		
March 14	The Modern Wave of Civil Wars	Paul Collier & Anke Hoeffler, “On the Incidence of Civil War in Africa.” in <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 2002.	No Readings: Focus on Paper Writing

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March 16	What Drives Ethnic Conflict?	David Lake & Donald Rothchild, "Ethnic Fears and Global Engagement: The International Spread and Management of Ethnic Conflict." (Blackboard) David Shinn, "China and the Conflict in Darfur," <i>Brown Journal of World Affairs</i> 2009 Vol 16:1	
March 21	Terrorism in World Politics	FLS Chapter 10: p 381–401	Debate: Are Human Rights Universal?
March 23	Global Collective Action Problems: Environment	FLS Chapter 12	Larry Cox & John Yoo, "Are Human Rights Universal?" <i>Brown Journal of World Affairs</i> 2009 Vol 16:1
March 28	Global Collective Action Problems: Human Rights	FLS Chapter 11	Review Week
March 30	UNC Research on Terrorism and Intervention	Navin Bapat, "Transnational Terrorism, U.S. Military Aid, and the Incentive to Misrepresent." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> (forthcoming, on Blackboard). Stephen Gent. "Strange Bedfellows: The Strategic Dynamics of Major Power Military Interventions." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 69 (4), 2007	No Readings
April 4	Midterm Exam 2		Debate: Globalization
April 6	International Political Economy	FLS Chapter 6	Pankaj Ghemawat, "Why the World Isn't Flat." <i>Foreign Policy</i> 2007. Mickelthwait and Wooldridge, "The Globalization Backlash." <i>Foreign Policy</i> 2001.

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Date	Topic	Lecture Readings	Recitation Readings
April 11	International Trade	FLS Chapter 6	Focus on Paper Writing (Papers due April 27)
April 13	International Investment	FLS: Chapter 7	
April 18	International Monetary Cooperation	FLS: Chapter 8	The Global Financial Crisis
April 20	Economic Development & Foreign Aid	FLS: Chapter 9	<p>"Europe on the Brink: As Ireland Flails, Europe Lurches Across the Rubicon" <i>Wall Street Journal</i> Dec. 27, 2010.</p> <p>Rose, "The International Order in the Aftermath of the Great Recession," <i>Brown Journal of World Affairs</i> 2010, pp. 169-78.</p>
April 25	Global Collective Action Problems: Poverty	FLS: Chapter 9	Review Week, No Readings
April 27	UNC Research in International Political Economy	<p>Layna Mosely & David Singer, "The Global Financial Crisis: Lessons and Opportunities for International Political Economy" <i>International Interactions</i> 35:4 2009.</p> <p>Thomas Oatley, "The Reductionist Gamble: Open Economy Politics in the Global Economy" <i>International Organization</i> (forthcoming, on Blackboard)</p>	Turn papers in at the beginning of lecture.
April 30	FINAL EXAM	12:00-3:00	Hamilton 100