

## **POL\*K103: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course: POL\*K103 Introduction to International Relations

Course Schedule: MWF 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Location: D102

Instructor: Prof. Steven Neufeld

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Office Hours: Mon and Wed 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and by appointment (always check with me first!)

### **I. Course Description and Outcomes**

International relations is the study of cooperation, competition, and conflict between countries, or nation-states, as we refer to them in the social sciences. This course will examine international relations from a political-economy perspective. This means that we will look at both political and economic relationships between nation-states and how political and economic relationships between nation-states influence each other. We will also consider how international political and economic factors influence domestic political and economic situations within countries and vice versa.

The first part of the course will begin by discussing key institutions and actors in international relations. We begin with the nation-state, which is the main actor in international relations, and different theories of international relations. We then discuss the United Nations (the UN), the main international organization attempting to manage political relations between nation-states, and its efforts to address problems of ethnic conflict and genocide through the International Criminal Court (ICC). Finally, we discuss globalization and its effects on nation-states, and we examine the main global institutions promoting globalization and managing the global economy: the International Monetary Fund (the IMF), the World Bank (the WB), and the World Trade Organization (the WTO). In addition to examining the functions and activities of each global institution, we will also discuss who has power and control over these institutions and the consequences of their activities. A key theme in this part of the course will be differences in the political and economic strength of nation-states, the control that developed countries (especially the U.S) have over global institutions, and the relationships of competition and conflict between developed countries (often referred to as “the North”) and developing countries (often referred to as “the South”) in the world today.

The second part of the course will examine U.S. foreign policy and major issues potentially affecting the position of the United States as the dominant political and economic power internationally. This includes the rapid economic development of China, the Arab-Israeli conflict, terrorism, current democracy movements in the Middle East, and the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons in N. Korea and Iran. We will

examine the underlying causes giving rise to these issues, and discuss and debate how the U.S. should respond to them.

## **II. Learning Outcomes**

Learning outcomes refer to knowledge, skills, and abilities you should develop from this course. The learning outcomes for the course include:

- 1) Global Awareness: To understand international events and trends and the connections between nations and individuals around the world.
  - Explain major theoretical perspectives on international relations, including realism, liberalism, and world systems theory
  - Explain factors that contribute to the power of countries in international affairs
  - Understand globalization and neo-liberalism and explain some of their political and economic consequences
  - Understand the composition and role of major international institutions such as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization
  - Identify and interpret political and economic conflicts between developed and developing countries in the world today
  - Understand various contemporary political issues, including the rise of China, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the War on Terrorism, and nuclear proliferation
- 2) Critical Thinking: To analyze and evaluate argumentation and persuasion in order to improve, refine, and refute it.
  - Understand and apply major theoretical perspectives on international relations, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and world systems theory
  - Analyze and synthesize from original writings
  - Analyze and synthesize evidence from classroom debates on current events
- 3) Information Literacy: To assess what information is needed to answer questions and solve problems and to retrieve, evaluate, and use that information effectively.
- 4) Communication: To understand and convey ideas using reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

## **III. Course Readings**

The required text for the class is:

- John T. Rourke, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics, Expanded 16<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Dubuque, IA: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2013.

Most of the required weekly readings are available on-line as listed in the Course Schedule in Section VI. If you are unable to access the website by clicking on the link in the syllabus, you should copy and paste the website address into your browser. Assigned weekly readings should be done by the beginning of the week.

#### IV. Grading and Assignments

Course evaluation will be based on the following:

- There will be two take-home exams, one at the end of each section of the course. The last take home exam will be the final exam, which will not be cumulative. Each exam will count for 25% of the final grade.
- There will be several student team debates throughout the course. Students will be expected to participate in two debates, one for each half of the course. For the weeks that you are not a debate participants, you will write an evaluation of the debate. The two debates you participate in will count for 25% of your final grade, and your written evaluations of the other debates will count for 50% of your final grade.

All assignments and exams involve written work, and poor quality writing, including poor spelling and grammar, will negatively affect your grade. **You should proof read all work before it is submitted and use the Spell Check and Thesaurus functions that are available in Word or other software programs.** If you need assistance with your writing skills, I strongly urge you to visit The Writing Center in room C117.

All assignments and exams are due at specified times. Work received up to one day late will receive up to a partial letter grade deduction. Work received more than one day late will receive a full letter grade deduction. Once I have graded and returned assignments and exams, late work will no longer be accepted without my permission. **Failure to complete assignments and/or exams will hurt your final grade more than submitted work that receives an F but reflects appropriate effort.** Class participation will help boost your final GPA for the course.

Students are expected to follow to standards of academic honesty. If there is a question about cheating or plagiarism, the college's **Academic Integrity Policy** (revised 8 January 2003) will be followed.

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

<b>TRCC Disabilities Service Providers</b> Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
<b>Matt Liscum</b> (860) 383-5240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Disabilities</li> <li>• Sensory Disabilities</li> <li>• Medical Disabilities</li> <li>• Mental Health Disabilities</li> </ul>
<b>Chris Scarborough</b> (860) 892-5751	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Disabilities</li> <li>• ADD/ADHD</li> <li>• Autism Spectrum</li> </ul>

## V. Cell Phone Policy

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.

## VI. Weekly Outline and Readings

### Part I. Perspectives and Major Actors

Week 1: Introduction  
 Fri, 1/24: Introduction

Readings: Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Introduction

Week 2: The State  
 Mon, 1/27: The State  
 Wed, 1/29: Nation-States and Ethnic Nationalism  
 Fri, 1/31: Failed States

Readings:

- James V. DeLong, “America’s Crisis of Political Legitimacy”, at <http://www.american.com/archive/2012/august/americas-crisis-of-political-legitimacy>
- *The Economist*, “Where Life is Cheap and Talk is Loose”, at <http://www.economist.com/node/18396240>
- Interview, “Friedman: Chinese Believe Tibetans, Other Ethnic Groups, Should be Incorporated into China”, <http://www.cfr.org/china/friedman-chinese-believe-tibetans-other-ethnic-groups-should-incorporated-into-one-china/p16052>

Week 3: Theoretical Perspectives

Mon, 2/3: Realism

Wed, 2/5: Liberalism and Constructivism

Fri, 2/7: World Systems Theory

Readings:

- *University of Chicago Magazine*, “Liberal talk, realist thinking”, at <http://magazine.uchicago.edu/0202/features/index.htm>
- Jack Snyder, *Foreign Policy*, “One World, Rival Theories”, at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2004/11/01/one\\_world\\_rival\\_theories?print=yes](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2004/11/01/one_world_rival_theories?print=yes) (you will have to open a free account to access this article)
- Carlos Martinez-Vela, “World Systems Theory”, at <http://web.mit.edu/esd.83/www/notebook/WorldSystem.pdf>
- “World Systems Theory”, at <http://www.faculty.rsu.edu/users/f/felwell/www/Theorists/Wallerstein/Presentation/Wallerstein.pdf>

Week 4: The United Nations

Mon, 2/10: The United Nations

Wed, 2/12: UN Debate

Fri, 2/14: Debate Wrap-Up

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 14: “Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?”
- Zachary Laub, “The UN Security Council”, Council of Foreign Relations, December 6, 2013, at <http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations-and-alliances/un-security-council/p31649>
- “UN, Criticisms and Controversies”, Sustainable Community Action, at [http://sca21.wikia.com/wiki/UN,\\_Criticism\\_and\\_Controversies](http://sca21.wikia.com/wiki/UN,_Criticism_and_Controversies)
- James Dobbins, Rand Review, “Nation-Building: UN Surpasses U.S. on Learning Curve”, at <http://www.rand.org/publications/randreview/issues/spring2005/nation.html>

Week 5: Genocide and International Law

Mon, 2/17: President’s Day Holiday—No Class

Wed, 2/19: Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing

Fri, 2/21: The ICC

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 15: “Is U.S. Refusal to Join the International Criminal Court Wise?”
- BBC News, “Q&A: International Criminal Court”, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-11809908>
- *The Economist*, “Courting Disaster?”, at <http://www.economist.com/node/16219717>
- Diva Subrahmanyam, “Whiting Offers Views on the International Criminal Court’s Impact”, Harvard Law School at [http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2012/10/15\\_whiting-on-international-criminal-courts-impact.html](http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2012/10/15_whiting-on-international-criminal-courts-impact.html)
- Birju Kotecha, “The ICC: What Counts as Success”, Justice in Conflict at <http://justiceinconflict.org/2013/09/13/the-icc-what-counts-as-a-success/>

Week 6: Globalization and the Nation-State

Mon, 2/24: ICC Debate

Wed, 2/26: ICC Debate Wrap-Up

Fri, 2/28: Globalization

Readings:

- Readings: Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 8: “Is Economic Globalization Good for Both Rich and Poor?”
- Paige Rushbrook, “Globalization’s Eclipse of the Nation-State: How Globalization is Overriding the Autonomy of the Nation-State”, at <http://geography.about.com/od/economic-geography/a/Globalisations-Eclipse-Of-The-Nation-State.htm>
- Jayantha Dhanapala, *Global Policy Forum*, “Globalization and the Nation-State”, at <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/172/29952.html>

Week 7: Free Trade and the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Mon, 3/3: Perspectives on Trade

Wed, 3/5: The WTO

Fri, 3/7: WTO Debate

Readings:

- Deborah White, “Pros and Cons of Free Trade Agreements”, at <http://usliberals.about.com/od/theeconomyjobs/i/FreeTradeAgmts.htm>
- Anup Shah, “The WTO and World Trade”, at <http://www.globalissues.org/article/42/the-wto-and-frehttp://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/172/29952.html> trade
- Julian Ensby, “Obama Should Fight American Protectionism and Ditch Farm Subsidies”, The Comment Factory at

<http://www.thecommentfactory.com/obama-should-fight-american-protectionism-and-ditch-farming-subsidies-1632/>

- Paige McClanahan, “Why the WTO Agreement in Bali has Finally Helped Developing Countries”, *The Guardian*, December 6, 2013, at <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/dec/06/wto-agreement-bali-helped-developing-countries-india>

Week 8: The IMF and the World Bank

Mon, 3/10: The Debt Crisis

Wed, 3/12: The IMF and the World Bank

Fri, 3/14: Debt Crisis Debate

Readings:

- “Why Africa Cannot Spend On Its Citizens”, TradeMark Southern Africa at <http://trademarksa.org/news/why-africa-cannot-spend-its-citizens>
- The International Monetary Fund, “Debt Relief Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative”, at <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/hipc.htm>
- Rick Rowden, “A World of Debt: Why Debt Relief Has Failed to Liberate Poor Countries”, at [http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Reforming\\_System/World\\_of\\_Debt.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Reforming_System/World_of_Debt.html)
- William Easterly, “Think Again: Debt Relief”, *Foreign Policy*, November 1, 2001, at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2001/11/01/think\\_again\\_debt\\_relief](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2001/11/01/think_again_debt_relief)

First Exam handed out; Due Friday 3/28

Week 10: Spring Break

## **Part II. Issues and Challenges for the U.S.**

Week 11: US Hegemony and US Foreign Policy

Mon, 3/24: The Cold War and US Hegemony

Wed, 3/26: U.S. Foreign Policy and Neo-Conservatism

Fri, 3/28: Hard Power vs. Soft Power

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 4, pp. 48-69
- Joseph Nye, Jr., *Foreign Policy*, “The War on Soft Power”, at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/12/the\\_war\\_on\\_soft\\_power](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/12/the_war_on_soft_power)
- Joseph Nye, Jr. *Foreign Policy*, “Think Again: Soft Power”, reprinted in Yale Global on-line at <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/think-again-soft-power>
- Shane Smith, “Sanctions: Diplomatic Tool, or Warfare by Other Means?”, at <http://www.beyondintractability.org/bi-essay/sanctions>

Week 12: U.S. Relations with China

Mon, 3/31: The Rise of China  
Wed, 4/2: China Debate  
Fri, 4/4: China Debate Wrap-Up

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 3: “Is China Becoming a Dangerous Superpower?”, Issue 9: “Does China’s Currency Manipulation Warrant International and National Action?”
- Gideon Rachman, *Foreign Policy*, “Thinking Again: American Decline” at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/01/02/think\\_again\\_american\\_decline](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/01/02/think_again_american_decline)
- Niall Ferguson, *Newsweek*, “‘Chimerica’ is Headed for Divorce” reprinted in *The Daily Beast* at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2009/08/14/chimerica-is-headed-for-divorce.html>
- Andrew Billo, CNN, “The Risk of America’s Asia Strategy”, at <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/01/06/opinion/billo-asia-us/index.html>

Week 12: The U.S. and the Middle East

Mon, 4/7: The Modern Middle East  
Wed, 4/9: Islamic Fundamentalism  
Fri, 4/11: The Arab Awakening

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 7: “Does the Islamist Movement Threaten the Democracy Gained in the “Arab Spring?””
- W. Millward, “ARCHIVED: Commentary No. 30: The Rising Tide of Islamic Fundamentalism (I)”, Canadian Security International Service, April 1993, at <https://www.csis-scrs.gc.ca/pblctns/cmmntr/cm30-eng.asp>.
- James Graham, HistoryOrb.com, “Samuel P. Huntington’s Clash of Civilizations”, at <http://www.historyorb.com/world/clashofcivilizations.shtml>
- Schneider, “Arab nations lag behind rest of world economically, despite oil and natural gas”, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/23/AR2011022303586.html?hpid=topnews>
- Robert Blackburn, “Arab Burden of Crony Capitalism” at <http://fw.ifslearning.ac.uk/Archive/2011/May/Features/arabburden.aspx>

Week 13: The Arab-Israeli conflict

Mon, 4/14: The Arab-Israeli Conflict  
Wed, 4/16: The Arab-Israeli Conflict  
Fri, 4/18: Palestinian State debate

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 4: “Are the Palestinians Blocking the Path to Peace in the Middle East?”



- Council on Foreign Relations, “Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” at <http://www.cfr.org/israel/crisis-guide-israeli-palestinian-conflict/p13850>
- NPR Staff, “Now What? The State of Palestinian Statehood”, at <http://www.npr.org/2012/12/01/166313016/the-state-of-palestinian-statehood>

Week 14: Terrorism

Mon, 4/21: Terrorism

Wed, 4/23: The War on Terrorism

Fri, 4/25: Terrorism Debate

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 12: “Does Using Drones to Attack Terrorists Globally Violate International Law?”
- Noam Chomsky, “Who are the Global Terrorists?”, at <http://www.chomsky.info/articles/200205--02.htm>
- Jason Wiseman, “Al-Qaeda’s New Structure and Frontier: The Operational Shift”, *The Toronto Standard*, January 21, 2014, at <http://torontostandard.com/the-sprawl/al-qaedas-new-structure-and-frontier-the-operational-shift/>
- Seth Jones and Martin Libicki, “How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering al Qa’ida”, at [http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG741-1.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG741-1.sum.pdf)

Week 15: TBA: The War in Afghanistan or The Syrian Civil War

Mon, 4/28:

Wed, 4/30:

Wed, 5/2: Debate

Readings:

Week 16: Nuclear Proliferation and WMD

Mon, 5/5: Nuclear Proliferation

Wed, 5/7: Iran

Fri, 5/9: Nuclear Weapons Debate

Readings:

- Rourke, *Taking Sides*, Issue 5: “Should Force Be Used if Necessary to Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons?”
- Council on Foreign Relations, “The Global Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime”, at <http://www.cfr.org/proliferation/global-nuclear-nonproliferation-regime/p18984>
- Max Fisher, “9 Questions about Iran’s Nuclear Program that You Were Too Embarrassed to ask”, *The Washington Post*, November 25, 2013, at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/11/25/9-questions-about-irans-nuclear-program-you-were-too-embarrassed-to-ask/>

- Leslie Gelb, The Daily Beast, “The Wrong Way on Iran”, at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2010/02/21/the-wrong-way-on-iran.html>

Final Exam handed out; Due Friday 5/16 by 9:00 a.m.