

World Politics | International Politics

Dual Bachelor in International Studies and Law
Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Spring 2021

Iasmin Goes

Email: igoesara@clio.uc3m.es

Office: 18.2.E.10

Office hours: Thursdays 1:15–4:00 pm (online)

Fernando Nuño

Email: fnuno@clio.uc3m.es

Office: 18.2.D.11

Office hours: by appointment (online)

Meeting Times

Lectures: Tuesdays 6:00–7:30 pm (online)

Seminars:

- Thursdays 4:15–5:45 pm (ED, Group 118, Aula 4.1.08)
- Thursdays 6:00–7:30 pm (PPE, Group 55, Aula 15.0.15)
- Thursdays 7:45–9:15 pm (PPE, Group 53, Aula 15.0.16)
- Thursdays 7:45–9:15 pm (ED, Group 18, Aula 9.2.4)

Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine how interest groups, voters, bureaucrats, policy-makers, ideas, and power politics interact to shape policy outcomes at the global level. During the lectures, we will examine theories and empirics of international relations. During the seminars, we will add more nuance to these theories and empirics, developing analytical tools to help you think like a social scientist. Still, there is no single correct answer to the questions we will discuss. The objective of the course is to help you evaluate the validity of competing answers and discuss what evidence you would need to see in order to gain confidence in one answer and reject others. You are welcome – even encouraged – to disagree with the answers proposed by the assigned readings. If this is the case, you should be able to formulate an evidence-based counter-argument that convinces your colleagues to reject alternative explanations. This analytical exercise will help you prepare for a career in settings where there are no clear-cut answers, such as consulting, research, finance, public policy, or law.

Assignments

Seminar participation (15%) Preparing for the seminars and engaging in discussion is a requirement for this course. We will not take attendance; if you miss class, we trust that you have legitimate reasons to do so. However, frequent absences might reduce your ability to engage in class discussion, which in turn will affect your participation grade.

Group project (50%) Teams of 4–5 students will be formed at the beginning of the semester. You will work together on the three following assignments, which represent major documents that are part of the research or policymaking process.

- **Dissenting opinion (20%)** Pick one of the three big paradigms (realism, liberalism, or constructivism) that you disagree with. Now suppose you are a scholar writing for an academic audience that is familiar with the literature you are engaging with. In 3–5 pages, develop an argument *against* this paradigm and present evidence in support of

your argument. You can use the readings from Part 1 of this course, but you are also free to add additional references from the international relations literature. **Due Tuesday, March 9.**

- **Press release (15%)** Suppose you work for an international organization that is releasing the results of an in-depth study addressing one of the issues discussed in Part 2 of this course (international organizations, international conflict, human rights and peacekeeping, or environmental politics). How would you summarize the findings to the press in 800 words or less? You can use press releases from the [OECD](#) or the [World Bank](#) as a reference. **Due Tuesday, April 13.**
- **Policy brief (15%):** Suppose you work for a Member of Congress who must be briefed on one of the issues discussed in Part 3 (globalization and trade, money and finance, sovereign debt, or foreign direct investment). The Member of Congress is a busy person who is looking for background information and policy recommendations, but has time to read 1–2 pages at most. How would you summarize the findings to a policymaker, and what course of action would you advise them to take? [Here](#) are some guidelines to write an actionable policy brief, courtesy of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). **Due Tuesday, May 11.**

All team members are expected to deliver equal contributions and will receive the same grade.

Final exam (35%): As scheduled by the university, the final exam will take place on **Saturday, May 22** noon–3pm.

Course Policies

Communication: The most reliable way to get in touch with us is via email. You should expect a response within 48 business hours.

Readings: Our main references will be the following textbooks:

- Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2014. *International Relations*. 10th edition. Boston: Pearson.
- John Baylis, Patricia Owens, and Steve Smith. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 6th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will consist of articles in scientific journals or book chapters, all available on Aula Global. Readings can also be downloaded from the [library website](#).

Beyond class: While not required, we encourage you to keep up with current events in economics and politics by reading reputable newspapers and magazines (e.g. New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, The Economist, The Guardian, El País, etc). Please check your emails regularly, as we may share pertinent articles with the class every week.

Course Outline

Feb 4 (Seminar): Introduction

No readings

Part 1: Theoretical Foundations

Feb 9 (Lecture): The Three Big Paradigms in International Relations

- Stephen M. Walt. 1998. "One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy*.

Feb 11 (Seminar): The Problem With the Three Big Paradigms

- Kelebogile Zvobgo and Meredith Loken. 2020. "[Race Is Critical to the Field of International Relations.](#)" *Foreign Policy*.

Feb 16 (Lecture): Realism and the Nation State

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 42–81, “Chapter 2 – Realist Theories”]

Feb 18: (Seminar): Black Panther and the Failure of (Wakandan) Realism

- Zack Beauchamp. 2018. “[What Black Panther Can Teach Us About International Relations.](#)” *Vox*.

Feb 23 (Lecture): Liberalism and the Emergence of International Regimes

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 102–112, “Chapter 6 – Liberalism”]

Feb 25 (Seminar): Liberalism and Colonialism

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 185–194, “Chapter 12 – Post-colonialism”]
- Jacob Mchangama. 2019. *Clear and Present Danger: A History of Free Speech*. Podcast. “[Episode 35 – White Man’s Burden: Empire, Liberalism and Censorship.](#)” [focus on minutes 0:00–6:15 and 38:40–54:00]

Mar 2 (Lecture): Constructivism

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 150–165, “Chapter 9 – Social Constructivism”]

Mar 4 (Seminar): Marxism

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 142–153, “Chapter 9 – Marxist Theories of International Relations”]
-

Part 2: Institutions, Norms, and Conflict

Mar 9 (Lecture): International Organizations and Global Governance

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 232–254, “Chapter 7 – International Organization, Law, and Human Rights,” until “International Law”]

Mar 11 (Seminar): Can We Trust What We Know About the World?

- Sally Engle Merry. 2011. “Measuring the World: Indicators, Human Rights, and Global Governance.” *Current Anthropology* 52(3):83–95.

Mar 16 (Lecture): International Conflict

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 152–189, “Chapter 5 – International Conflict”]

Mar 18 (Seminar): Conflict and Gender

- Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember (eds.). 2003. *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World’s Cultures*. New York: Kluwer Academic Publishers. [pp. 107–116, “War and Gender”]

Mar 23 (Lecture): Human Rights and Peacekeeping

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 254–278, “Chapter 7 – International Organization, Law, and Human Rights,” beginning with “International Law”]

Mar 25 (Seminar): Humanitarian Intervention – Yes or No?

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 515–528, “Chapter 32 – Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics”]

Apr 6 (Lecture): Environmental Politics

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 386–420, “Chapter 11 – Environment and Population”]

Apr 8 (Seminar): Both Sides Bias

- Maxwell T. Boykoff and Jules M. Boykoff. 2004. “Balance as Bias: Global Warming and the US Prestige Press.” *Global Environmental Change* 14(2):125–136.
-

Part 3: International Political Economy

Apr 13 (Lecture): Globalization and Trade

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 282–316, “Chapter 8 – International Trade”]

Apr 15 (Seminar): Import Substitution Industrialization in Latin America

- Thomas Oatley. 2019. *International Political Economy*. 6th edition. New York and London: Routledge. [pp. 161–191, “Chapter 6 – Trade and Development I: Import Substitution Industrialization”]

Apr 20 (Lecture): Money and Finance

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 320–341, “Chapter 9 – Global Finance and Business,” until “Multinational Business”]
- Jeffrey A. Frieden and David A. Lake (eds). 2003. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. 4th edition. London and New York: Routledge. [pp. 245–256, “Chapter 15 – The Triad and the Unholy Trinity: Problems of International Monetary Cooperation”]

Apr 22 (Seminar): James Bond, Goldfinger, and the Gold Standard

- *Medium*. 2019. “[Goldfinger as a Critique of Bretton Woods – How a Bond Villain Exposed Two Fundamental Flaws of the Gold Standard.](#)”

Apr 27 (Lecture): Sovereign Debt

- Jonas B. Bunte. 2019. *Raise the Debt: How Developing Countries Choose Their Creditors*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [pp. 1–29, “Chapter 1: Explaining Variation in Borrowing Portfolios”]
- Jerome Roos. 2019. *Why Not Default?: The Political Economy of Sovereign Debt*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [pp. 21–39, “Chapter 1: Why Do Countries Repay Their Debts?”]

Apr 29 (Seminar): Growth in a Time of Debt?

- *The Economist*. 2016. “[Daily Chart – Excel Errors and Science Papers.](#)”
- Ruth Alexander. 2013. “[Reinhart, Rogoff... and Herndon: The Student Who Caught Out the Profs.](#)” *BBC News*.

May 4 (Lecture): Foreign Direct Investment

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 341–350, “Chapter 9 – Global Finance and Business,” beginning with “Multinational Business”]

May 6 (Seminar): Multinational Corporations and Developing Countries

- Jeffrey A. Frieden and David A. Lake (eds). 2003. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. 4th edition. London and New York: Routledge. [pp. 156–166, “Chapter 10 – Third World Governments and Multinational Corporations: Dynamics of Host’s Bargaining Power”]
-

Conclusions

May 11 (Lecture): Counterfactuals and “What-If” Scenarios

- Joseph S. Nye. 2007 [1993]. *Understanding International Conflict: An Introduction to Theory and History*. 6th edition. New York: Pearson. [pp. 51–54, “Counterfactuals”]
- Philip E. Tetlock, Richard Ned Lebow and Geoffrey Parker. 2006. *Unmaking the West. “What-if?” Scenarios That Rewrite World History*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. [pp. 1–13, “Preface: Unmaking the Middle Kingdom”]

May 18 (Lecture): So You Want to Work in International Politics

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. xviii–xx, from “Jobs in Government and Diplomacy” to “Jobs in Education and Research”]