

# International Politics

Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Spring 2022

**Dr. Iasmin Goes**

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**Office hours:** by appointment (online)

## Meeting Times

**Lectures:** Wednesdays 10:45 am–12:15 pm, Aula 9.2.6

**Seminars – Group 11:** Fridays 9:00 am–10:30 am, Aula 7.1.02

**Seminars – Group 10:** Fridays 10:45 am–12:15 pm, Aula 15.1.41

## 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. 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 (10%)** Preparing for the seminars and engaging in discussion is a requirement for this course, which is why this grade evaluates the *frequency* and *quality* of contributions in class. I will not take attendance; if you miss class, I 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.

**Weekly quizzes (20%)** Each week, an online multiple choice quiz will gauge your comprehension of the readings. The quizzes are due on Wednesdays (the day of the lecture) at 10:45 am, beginning on Wednesday, February 9. At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest two scores of the twelve quizzes. Since I am dropping the two lowest scores, **there will be no make-up quizzes.**

**Group project (35%)** 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 (15%)** 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 Wednesday, March 2, followed by a presentation on Friday, March 4.**
- **Press release (10%)** 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 Wednesday, March 30, followed by a presentation on Friday, April 1.**
- **Policy brief (10%)**: 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 Wednesday, May 4, followed by a presentation on Friday, May 6.**

For each assignment, please include an annex with the sources you used. 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 **Monday, May 30** 3pm–6pm. The exam will consist of 10 questions and you are expected to provide short essay answers. In order to pass the class, you must pass the exam (that is, you must score at least 5 points out of 10).

## Course Policies

**Communication:** The most reliable way to get in touch with me 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.
- Robert Jackson and Georg Sørensen. 2018. *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*. 7th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will consist of articles in scientific journals or book chapters, all available on Aula Global.

**Beyond class:** While not required, I 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 I may share pertinent articles with the class every week. I also encourage you to share news with your colleagues using the Aula Global discussion board.

**Access and accommodations:** Your experience in this class is important to me. If you experience any physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, systemic, or other type of condition that requires any accommodation, let me know what accommodations would be helpful so that we can plan together for you to succeed. You **do not** need to share private information about your condition with me. If you require any

accommodation, please contact me prior to the date of the assignment. I cannot make grade adjustments after the fact.

**Grievances:** If you are unhappy with your grade on an assignment, please wait 48 hours after the assignment is returned before contacting me. This provides the opportunity to let the initial emotions subside and think more clearly about the issue at hand. After 48 hours, you can contact me with a one-page written explanation of why you feel your grade should be different. “I worked hard” is not a good explanation; I can only grade the quality of the work that you give to me! Based on this petition, I will decide whether to re-grade your assignment. However, be advised that your grade may move upwards or downwards.

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## Course Outline

### Part 1: Theoretical Foundations

#### Feb 2 (Lecture): Introduction to the Three Big Paradigms in International Relations

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

#### Feb 4 (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*.
- Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2007. “Why Is There No Non-Western IR Theory? An Introduction.” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 7(3):287–312.

#### Feb 9 (Lecture): Realism and the Nation State

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 42–81, “Chapter 2 – Realist Theories”]
- Hans Morgenthau. 2005. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 7th edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill Education [pp. 3–18, “A Realist Theory of International Politics”]

#### Feb 11: (Seminar): Black Panther and the Failure of (Wakandan) Realism

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

#### Feb 16 (Lecture): Liberalism and the Emergence of International Regimes

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 102–112, “Chapter 6 – Liberalism”]
- Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry. 1999. “The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order.” *Review of International Studies* 25(2):179–196.

#### Feb 18 (Seminar): Liberalism and Colonialism

- W. E. B. Du Bois. 1917. “Of the Culture of White Folk.” *Journal of Race Development* 7(4):434–447.
- **Optional:** 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]

#### Feb 23 (Lecture): Constructivism

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

- Alice Ba and Matthew J. Hoffmann. 2003. “Making and Remaking the World for IR 101: A Resource for Teaching Social Constructivism in Introductory Classes.” *International Studies Perspectives* 4(1): 15–33.

## **Feb 25 (Seminar): Marxism**

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith [pp. 142–153, “Chapter 9 – Marxist Theories of International Relations”]
  - Robert W. Cox. 1981. “Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory.” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10(2):126–155.
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## **Part 2: Institutions, Norms, and Conflict**

### **Mar 2 (Lecture): International Organizations and Global Governance**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 232–254, “Chapter 7 – International Organization, Law, and Human Rights,” until “International Law”]
- Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 1999. “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.” *International Organization* 53(4):699–732.

*Dissenting opinion due*

### **Mar 4 (Seminar): Presentations**

No readings; teams present their dissenting opinions

### **Mar 9 (Lecture): Conflict**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 152–189, “Chapter 5 – International Conflict”]
- Seth Lazar. 2017. “Just War Theory: Revisionists Versus Traditionalists.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 20(1):37–54.

### **Mar 11 (Seminar): War and Gender**

- Joshua S. Goldstein. 2003. “War and Gender.” In Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember (eds.). *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Men and Women in the World’s Cultures*. New York: Kluwer Academic Publishers. [pp. 107–116]
- Sahana Dharmapuri. 2013. *Not Just a Numbers Game: Increasing Women’s Participation in UN Peacekeeping*. New York: International Peace Institute.

### **Mar 16 (Lecture): International Law and Human Rights**

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

### **Mar 18 (Seminar): The 2003 Iraq War**

- Kenneth Roth. 2006. “Was the Iraq War a Humanitarian Intervention?” *Journal of Military Ethics* 5(2):84–92.
- Richard B. Miller. 2008. “Justifications of the Iraq War Examined.” *Ethics & International Affairs* 22(1):43–67.

### **Mar 23 (Lecture): Environmental Politics**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 386–420, “Chapter 11 – Environment and Population”]
- Thomas Bernauer. 2013. “Climate Change Politics.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 16(1):421–448.

### **Mar 25 (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.
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## **Part 3: International Political Economy**

### **Mar 30 (Lecture): Globalization and Trade**

- Jackson and Sørensen [pp. 159–175, “Chapter 6 – International Political Economy: Classical Theories”]
- Helen V. Milner. 1999. “The Political Economy of International Trade.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 2(1):91–114.

*Press release due*

### **Apr 1 (Seminar): Presentations**

No readings; teams present their press releases

### **Apr 6 (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 8 (Seminar): Office Hours**

No class; I will be available online during class time to answer your questions

### **Apr 20 (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 22 (Seminar): Greece’s 2010 Debt Crisis**

- Ezra Klein. 2015. [“Greece’s Debt Crisis, Explained in Charts and Maps.”](#) *Vox*.

### **Apr 27 (Lecture): Foreign Direct Investment**

- Goldstein and Pevehouse [pp. 341–350, “Chapter 9 – Global Finance and Business,” beginning with “Multinational Business”]
- Nathan M. Jensen, Glen Biglaiser, Quan Li, Edmund Malesky, Pablo Pinto, Santiago Pinto and Joseph Staats. 2012. *Politics and Foreign Direct Investment*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. [“Chapter 1 - Introduction: Multinational Corporations and Governments,” pp. 1–26]

## **Apr 29 (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”]
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## **Conclusions**

### **May 4 (Lecture): 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.

*Policy brief due*

### **May 6 (Seminar): Presentations**

No readings; teams present their policy briefs

### **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”]