

POLS 232 International Relations

Spring 2024

MWF 9–9:50 AM

Eddy 212

Instructor

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Course Description and Objectives

This is an introductory-level course that covers basic concepts and approaches to International Relations. It will examine how interest groups, voters, bureaucrats, policy-makers, ideas, and power politics interact to shape policy outcomes at the global level. We will examine theories and empirics of international relations, but also develop 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.

Readings

We will use the following textbooks, which are available **for free** (in PDF) from the [CSU Library Course Reserve](#):

- John Baylis, Patricia Owens, and Steve Smith. 2023. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 9th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Andrew Heywood and Ben Whitham. 2023. *Global Politics*. 3rd edition. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2020. *International Relations*. 12th edition. Boston: Pearson.

Assignments

Participation (10%) There will be up to 10 unannounced in-class group activities over the course of the semester. These activities will be marked as complete/incomplete and will count towards your participation grade. The 2 lowest scores will be dropped. Since the 2 lowest scores will be dropped, *there will be no make-up participation assignments*.

Quizzes (20%) Nearly every week, a short online multiple choice quiz will gauge your comprehension of the readings and class discussions. Quizzes open every Friday at 11:59 PM and close on the following Friday at 11:59 PM, covering the materials of all classes in between. Late quizzes will be accepted until **Friday, February 16**. Students who join the course late should go back and complete missed quizzes in order to receive credit. There will be a total of 12 quizzes and the 3 lowest scores will be dropped. Since the 3 lowest scores will be dropped, *there will be no make-up quizzes*.

Short Essays (10%) In two short essays, you will apply course topics and readings to something you encounter outside the classroom. Each of the essays will be 500–1,000 words long, will account for 5% of your grade, and should be uploaded on Canvas. They will be due at 11:59 PM on **Friday, February 16** and **Friday, March 22**. Detailed prompts will be provided over the course of the semester.

Op-Ed (10%) In a 750–1,500 word op-ed, you will explain why your elected representative in Congress should pursue a given policy on a topic of your choice: humanitarian intervention, environment, financial policy, etc. You can use the [Washington Post Op-Ed Guide](#) as a reference. The op-ed will be due at 11:59 PM on **Friday, April 19**. Please include an annex with the sources you used.

Midterm Exam (20%) An in-class exam on **Wednesday, March 6** will cover material from the readings, lectures, and class discussions in Parts 1 and 2 of the class. The exam will consist of a combination of providing definitions of terms and short essay questions. To help you prepare for the exam, there will be a review session on Monday, March 4.

Final Exam (30%) A final exam on **Thursday, May 9** from 11:50 AM to 1:50 PM will cover material from all the readings, lectures, and class discussions in Part 3 of the class. The exam will consist of 7–10 essay questions. To help you prepare for the exam, there will be a review session on Friday, May 3.

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.

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, etc). Please check your emails regularly, as we may share pertinent articles with the class every week. We also encourage you to share news with your colleagues using the Canvas discussion board.

Academic Honesty and Integrity This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found on the Students' Responsibilities page of the [CSU General Catalog](#) and in the [Student Conduct Code](#). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Student Resolution Center.

Accommodations Your experience in this class is important to us. If you require any accommodation, let us know ahead of time what would be helpful so that we can plan together for you to succeed. You do not need to share private information with us, but you must provide verifiable documentation to the [Office of Student Case Management](#) or [Student Disability Center](#). For religious accommodations, please complete the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#). Please provide verifiable documentation *to them* (not to us!) ahead of time and ensure that they forward us this information *at least one week* prior to the assignment for which accommodations are required. We cannot make adjustments after the fact.

Late Assignments We will accept no late assignments. Exceptions are granted only if the [Office of Student Case Management](#) is able to provide documentation of a health emergency or other life emergency. If you experience an emergency, please contact Student Case Management, which will then contact me.

Midterm and Final Exam We will not offer make-up exams. This is a firm policy. Students who miss any of the scheduled exams will not be able to take them at another date. Their exam grade will be zero. Exceptions are granted only if the [Office of Student Case Management](#) is able to provide documentation of a health emergency or other life emergency.

Grievances If you are unhappy with your grade on an assignment, please wait 48 hours after the assignment is returned before contacting the instructor. 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 us with a written explanation of why you feel your grade should be different. "I worked hard" is not a good explanation; we can only grade the quality of the work that you give to me! Based on this petition, we will decide whether to re-grade your assignment. However, be advised that your grade may move upwards or downwards.

Grading Policy

Grade	Range
A+	100% to 96.67%
A	<96.67% to 93.33%
A-	<93.33% to 90.0%
B+	<90.0% to 86.67%
B	<86.67% to 83.33%
B-	<83.33% to 80.0%
C+	<80.0% to 76.67%
C	<76.67% to 70.0%
D	<70.0% to 60.0%
F	<60.0% to 0.0%

Additional Resources and Policies

Check out this link or QR code for policies relevant to your courses and resources to help with various challenges you may encounter: <https://col.st/2FA2g> This includes information about technical support, universal design for learning/accommodation of needs, undocumented student support, etc.



GT Pathways Information

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved POLS 232 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-SS1 Category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C- grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to the [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#).

Content Criteria

- Demonstrate knowledge of economic or political systems.
- Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues.
- Explain diverse perspectives and groups.

Core Student Learning Outcomes

Core Student Learning Outcomes are transferable skills that students garner in a variety of educational settings and that have wide applicability across fields and in life.

Civic Engagement

- 1) Civic Knowledge:
 - a. Connect disciplinary knowledge to civic engagement through one's own participation in civic life, politics, and/or government.

Critical Thinking

- 2) Explain an Issue:
 - a. Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.
- 3) Utilize Context:
 - a. Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position.
 - b. Identify assumptions.
 - c. Analyze one's own and others' assumptions.
- 4) Understand Implications and Make Conclusions:
 - a. Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented.
 - b. Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

Diversity & Global Learning

- 5) Build Self-Awareness:
 - a. Demonstrate how their own attitudes, behaviors, or beliefs compare or relate to those of other individuals, groups, communities, or cultures.
- 6) Examine Perspectives:
 - a. Examine diverse perspectives when investigating social and behavioral topics within natural or human systems.
- 7) Address Diversity:
 - a. Make connections between the worldviews, power structures, and experiences of individuals, groups, communities, or cultures, in historical or contemporary contexts

Written/Oral Communication

- 8) Develop Content and Message
 - a. Create and develop ideas within the context of the situation and the assigned task(s).

- 9) Use Sources and Evidence
 - a. Critically read, evaluate, apply, and synthesize evidence and/or sources in support of a claim.
 - 10) Use language appropriate to the audience.
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Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to the Big Paradigms in IR

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

Part 1: Theoretical Foundations

Week 2: Realism and Liberalism

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 7 – Liberal Internationalism (pp. 103–115).
- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 9 – Realism (pp. 132–146).
- **Optional:** Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 3 – Traditional Theories of Global Politics (pp. 65–96).

Friday, January 26: Quiz 1 due

Week 3: Constructivism and Critical Theories

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 13 – Social Constructivism (pp. 194–208).
- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 4 – Critical Theories of Global Politics (focus on “Marxist, Neo-Marxist, and Post-Marxist Theories,” pp. 111–116, and “Constructivist Theories,” pp. 120–128).

Friday, February 2: Quiz 2 due

Part 2: Institutions, Norms, and Conflict

Week 4: International Organization and International Law

- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 15 – International Law (pp. 431–455).
- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 20 – International Organizations in World Politics (pp. 308–322).

Friday, February 9: Quiz 3 due

Week 5: War and Conflict

- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 11 – War and Peace (pp. 323–350).
- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 19 – International Law (pp. 302–303, only “The Laws of War”).
- **Optional:** Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 14 – War and World Politics (pp. 213–227).

Friday, February 16: Quiz 4 due

Friday, February 16: Short essay 1 due

Last day to catch up on quizzes

Week 6: Weapons of Mass Destruction

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 30 – Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (pp. 473–487).
- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 12 – The Global Politics of Weapons of Mass Destruction (pp. 351–375).

Friday, February 23: Quiz 5 due

Week 7: Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 32 – Human Rights (pp. 505–520).
- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 33 – Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics (pp. 521–536).
- **Optional:** Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 14 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention (pp. 399–428).

Friday, March 1: Quiz 6 due

Week 8: Review Session and Midterm Exam

Monday, March 4: Review session

Wednesday, March 6: In-class midterm exam

Friday, March 8: No class

Week 9: Spring Break

Part 3: Economy, Development, and Society

Week 10: Development – Poverty, Inequality, and Hunger

- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 16 – Poverty, Development, and Inequality (pp. 457–475, until “Development and the Politics of Aid”).
- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 27 – Poverty, Hunger, and Development (pp. 425–440).

Friday, March 22: Quiz 7 due

Friday, March 22: Short essay 2 due

Week 11: Development – Investment, Debt, and Aid

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 13 – International Development (pp. 416–451, from “North-South Capital Flows” until the end).
- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 16 – Poverty, Development, and Inequality (pp. 475–490, from “Development and the Politics of Aid” until the end).

Friday, March 29: Quiz 8 due

Week 12: Global Economic Governance

- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 20 – Global Governance (pp. 578–599).

Friday, April 5: Quiz 9 due

Week 13: Trade

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 8 – International Trade (pp. 254–285).
- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 28 – Global Trade and Global Finance (pp. 441–450, until the end of “The Regulation of Global Trade”).

Friday, April 12: Quiz 10 due

Week 14: Money and Finance

- Goldstein and Pevehouse, Chapter 9 – Global Finance and Business (pp. 286–317).
- **Optional:** Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 28 – Global Trade and Global Finance (pp. 450–455, from “The Regulation of Global Finance” until the end).

Friday, April 19: Quiz 11 due

Friday, April 19: Op-ed due

Week 15: Environmental Issues

- Baylis, Owens, and Smith, Chapter 24 – Environmental Issues (pp. 377–393).
- Heywood and Whitham, Chapter 17 – Global Environmental Issues (pp. 513–520, from “Why Is International Cooperation So Difficult To Achieve?” until the end).

Friday, April 26: Quiz 12 due

Week 16: Other Topics and Review Session

Based on student interest, we will cover topics related to migration, population, nationalism, regionalism, terrorism, gender, or health.

Friday, May 3: Review session

Week 17: Final Exam

Thursday, May 9: Final exam