

POLITICAL SCIENCE
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

※ Designed for a large (over 40+ students) in-person course ※

Instructor: Sujeong Shim
Office hours: By appointment

Course overview

This class covers major issues in international relations since the end of World War II. We will discuss a variety of topics from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, including the causes of war; civil wars and ethnic conflict; weapons of mass destruction; terrorism; international trade; exchange rates and the international monetary system; international finance and financial crises; economic development; the UN, the IMF, World Bank, WTO, and other international organizations; international law and human rights; the environment; and public health. Although this is by no means a history or economics class, we will cover a fair bit of history, and some international economics, to provide background and context for current debates in international relations. We will spend relatively little time discussing particular countries and their internal politics and problems, although we will talk extensively about the links between domestic politics and IR; our focus will be on states' relations with each other and the factors determining the nature and outcomes of these international interactions.

Course Learning Outcomes

The goal for this course is to further your understanding of key topics, issues, and debates about international relations, but also to help you develop analytical tools for thinking about important questions in world politics regardless of the countries or issues involved. The political science approach to analyzing and understanding international politics is a mix of ideas and data, that is, conceptual tools that help us understand particular sets of facts about a wide range of topics. It is hoped that students will leave the course with a better understanding of world politics and how to think about world politics. Level of knowledge will be assessed through exams and participation in activities in discussion sections.

Course readings

- Textbook: Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations* (Indicated by "GP" below for the print textbook or REVEL for the eText.).
- Online readings – (Indicated with direct web links). These are equally important and provide critical background and application/detail to accompany lectures and the textbook.

- I also expect you this semester to regularly read a major newspaper/magazine with coverage of international affairs. The *Washington Post* and *New York Times* have heavily discounted online rates for students, and the *New York Times* is available for campus delivery or online subscription at substantially discounted student rates. Other excellent sources of international news are the *Financial Times*, the *Economist*, the *Guardian*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *BBC*, among others.

Assignments and grading

Grade breakdown (% of total):

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| • Participation | 10% |
| • News article analysis 1 | 5% |
| • Midterm 1 | 20% |
| • News article analysis 2 | 5% |
| • Midterm 2 | 20% |
| • Weekly quizzes | 10% |
| • Final exam | 30% |

Weekly poll (NOT GRADED): Each week there will be a poll with a few questions relating to the week's content. Please fill out the poll before you start the readings. The polls relate to important and interesting questions/problems in IR. Please complete the weekly polls by Monday 11:59pm. The results will be shared later in each week. This is also a place to ask anonymously any questions you may have about course content/structure.

Participation (10%) : Securing a good participation grade means consistent attendance and a high level of engagement in the class; actively participating in the in-class discussions and activities; and keeping up with the assigned readings.

News article analyses (10% of total grade): During the course you will complete **two response paper assignments** (Week 3 and 7). The core of these assignments is to apply course concepts to current events. For each assignment you will find a current (no older than 1 month) newspaper article (New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, BBC etc.) and apply a concept discussed in the week's readings/lectures. The paper should be 1 page, single spaced, and in 12 point Times New Roman font. The main goal of these assignments is for you to explore current events in international affairs and develop a better connection of how course content relates to the "real world." The application assignments are due each week they are assigned on Saturday at 11:59pm. Each response paper will be 5% of your total grade.

Three exams (First midterm 20%, second midterm 20%, and Final 30% of total grade): Each midterm will be composed of a number of multiple-choice questions and 4-5 short answer (identification) questions. The final will have the same format, covering the material since the second midterm. In addition, the final will contain one comprehensive essay question covering all the material. Five days before the final exam, I will distribute a review sheet that will contain the

possible essay questions that will appear on the exam. On the exam itself, you will have no choice of which essay question to answer.

Weekly quizzes (10%): There will be 10 weekly quizzes that cover course content for that week. In each quiz, there will be 10 questions that are either multiple choice or true/false. For every module there is also a Q/A forum where we will answer any questions you may have about the key concepts/ideas. Quizzes are due each Saturday at 11:59pm. Each quiz will account for 1% of your final grade.

Ground rules for class discussion

“A university is a place where the universality of the human experience manifests itself” – Albert Einstein.

In keeping with the spirit of Einstein’s viewpoint, I intend that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by my course, that students’ learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Dialogue in this course thus is expected to always be respectful. We all reserve the right to respectfully disagree with one another.

It is also my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race and culture. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that I can make arrangements for you.

Class policies and important notes

- **Academic integrity: Cheating and plagiarism** are serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the course. You will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript. It can constitute grounds for suspension or dismissal from the university.
- **Grading:** My policy for re-evaluating grades is the following:
 - You have to wait for 24 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any requests for a re-grade.
 - If, after 24 hours, you still wish to appeal your grade, the procedure is as follows. You have to draft a 1-2 page double-spaced memo outlining why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work, i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students.
 - Your grade will then be fully re-evaluated. This means that I may revise the grade downward as well as upward. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes.

Course schedule

Introduction

- **Lecture 1: Introduction and Overview**
 - Dan Hopkins, “So, You Are Starting Your First Year At a Research University...,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (<https://themonkeycage.org/2013/08/so-you-are-starting-your-first-year-at-a-research-university/>).

Historical Context and Classic tools: Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism

- **Lecture 2: Key Tools/Concepts in IR**
 - GP: Chapter 1, pp. 1-19 (REVEL 1.1-1.3)
 - J.P. Singh. “Race, Racism, and International Relations,” *Duck of Minerva*, June 25, 2020: <https://duckofminerva.com/2020/06/race-racism-and-international-relations.html>.
 - Mohammad Kareem. “Prospects for an Independent Kurdistan”, London School of Economics blog, August 28, 2020: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/08/28/sevres-centennial-prospects-for-an-independent-kurdistan/>.
- **Lecture 3: Historical Overview, 1914-2014**
 - GP: pp. 19-35 (REVEL 1.4.1-1.4.3).
 - John Lukacs. 1989. "The Coming of the Second World War." *Foreign Affairs* 68(4): 165-174.
 - James Palmer, 2020. “Oh God, Not the Peloponnesian War Again, *Foreign Policy*, July 28.
 - Daniel Drezner, 2020. “Oh God, Not the Bashing of the Peloponnesian War Again, *Washington Post*, August 5: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/08/05/oh-god-not-bashing-peloponnesian-war-again/>.
 - Paul Poast: Twitter thread on race, Woodrow Wilson, and the League of Nations: <https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1274678767978524672?s=20>

- Paul Poast: Twitter thread on the civil rights movement, legitimacy, and the Cold War: <https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1284835256529551361?s=20>

- **Lecture 4: IR Theories: Realism**

- GP: 37-66 (REVEL 2.1-2.5)
- Hans Morgenthau. 1967. *Politics Among Nations*, pp. 3-14.
- Nathan A. Sears, “Trump Can Learn from Morgenthau’s 6 Principles of Political Realism,” *The National Interest*, February 20, 2017 (<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/trump-can-learn-morgenthau-6-principles-political-realism-19481>)
- Stephen Walt, “No, @realdonaldtrump is Not a Realist,” *Foreign Policy*, April 1, 2016 (<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/04/01/no-realdonaldtrump-is-not-a-realist/>).
- Michael Singh. 2020. “Conflict With Small Powers Derails US Foreign Policy: The Case for Strategic Discipline.” *Foreign Affairs*, August 12.

- **Lecture 5: IR Theories: Liberal Theories**

- GP: pp. 72-81; 87-92; 107-124 (REVEL 3.1-3.2 + 3.4-3.5 + 4.1-4.2)

- **Lecture 6: IR Theories: Social Theories (Constructivism & Norms, Gender and Race in IR)**

- GP: pp. 81-97; 92-101 (REVEL 3.3 + 3.6)
- Stephen Walt. 1998. "One World, Many Theories" *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring): 29-44.
- Joslyn Barnhart et. al. 2020. “Women’s Suffrage and the Democratic Peace: Female Voters Slow the March to War.” *Foreign Affairs*, August 18.
- Melanne Verbeke and Anjali Dayal. 2018. “Women Are The Key To Peace,” *Foreign Policy*, November 8).
- Kelebogile Zvobgo and Meredith Loken. 2020. “Race is Critical to the Study of International Relations,” *Foreign Policy*, June 19, 2020.
- Yolanda Bouke, 2018. “Wakanda, Afrofuturism, and Decolonizing International Relations Scholarship,” *Political Violence at a Glance*, February 6:

- <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2018/02/06/wakanda-afrofuturism-and-decolonizing-international-relations-scholarship/>
- Zack Beauchamp, 2018. “What *Black Panther* Can Teach Us About International Relations,” Vox: <https://www.vox.com/culture/2018/2/27/17029730/black-panther-marvel-killmonger-ir>
 - **Movie: *Black Panther* (2018)**

****** NOTE: Midterm 1 is Scheduled After Lecture 6 ******

International Security

- **Lecture 7: Introduction to Security/International Conflict**
 - GP: pp. 129-134; 188-192 (REVEL 5.1 + 6.1 + 6.4)
 - Nikita Lalwani and Sam Winter-Levy, 2020. “Is The World Getting Safer?” *Foreign Policy*, January 12.
 - Michael Horowitz, 2017. “The Future of War Is Fast Approaching in the Pacific: Are the US Military Services Ready?” *War on the Rocks*: <https://warontherocks.com/2017/06/the-future-of-war-is-fast-approaching-in-the-pacific-are-the-u-s-military-services-ready/>
 - Texas National Security Review, 2019. “Policy Roundtable: Competing Visions for the Global Order”: <https://tnsr.org/roundtable/policy-roundtable-competing-visions-for-the-global-order/>
- **Lecture 8: Causes of War I (General Theories & Material Conflicts)**
 - GP: pp. 150-161 (REVEL 5.3)
 - Erik Voeten, “Why The South China Sea Ruling Matters,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/07/12/why-the-south-china-sea-ruling-matters/?utm_term=.a30bb1cbfb7f)
 - Stacie Goddard, “Why Denmark Won’t Sell Off Greenland,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/08/17/why-denmark-wont-sell-off-greenland/>)

- Taylor Favrel, “Why are China and India Skirmishing at their Border? Here’s 4 Things to Know.” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post*, June 2, 2020: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/06/02/why-are-china-india-skirmishing-their-border-heres-4-things-know/>.

- **Lecture 9: Causes of War II (Ideological Conflicts & Civil Wars)**
 - GP: pp. 134-149 (REVEL 5.2)
 - George Willcoxon, “Why Do Countries Relapse Into War? Here Are Three Good Predictors,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/03/29/why-do-countries-relapse-into-war-here-are-three-good-predictors/?utm_term=.28d0599b1dac)
 - Video: “Syria, Seven Years of War Explained,” BBC News, March 9, 2018: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoL0L_DbuQQ
 - Video: “Why Turkey is Invading Syria,” Vox, October 31, 2019: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUeXaPaKF50>
 - Laura Seay, “How Rape is Weaponized in Civil Wars,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/06/29/how-rape-is-weaponized-in-civil-wars/>)

- **Lecture 10: Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction**
 - GP: pp. 173-188 (REVEL 6.2-6.3)
 - Nina Tannenwald, “The UN Just Passed a Treaty Outlawing Nuclear Weapons. That Actually Matters.” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/07/17/the-u-n-just-passed-a-treaty-outlawing-nuclear-weapons-that-actually-matters/?utm_term=.552019b57811)
 - Nicholas L. Miller and Vipin Narang, “How North Korea Shocked the Nuclear Experts,” Politico, August 26, 2017 (<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/08/26/north-korea-nuclear-tests-shock-experts-215533>)
 - Nicholas L. Miller, “Trump is Still Pushing for a New Nuclear Deal with Iran. How Likely is That?” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/01/15/trump-is-still-pushing-new-nuclear-deal-with-iran-how-likely-is-that/>

- **Movie: *The Battle of Algiers (1966)***

International Organizations

- **Lecture 11: International Organizations I (Theories & the United Nations)**

- GP: pp. 198-216 (REVEL 7.1-7.2)
- Page Fortna, “Enough With the Pessimism About Peacekeeping,” *Political Violence at a Glance*, (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2015/09/24/enough-with-the-pessimism-about-peacekeeping/>)
- Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon, “Trump says the U.S. will pull out of the World Health Organization. China will happily fill the void,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post*, May 29, 2020.
- Stephanie C. Hofmann and Christian Kreuder-Sonnen “How International Organizations Are Stepping Up to Respond to the Pandemic” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/05/04/how-international-organizations-are-stepping-up-respond-pandemic/> *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post*, May 4, 2020.
- Paul Poast: Twitter thread, “COVID-19 is bad for international cooperation: <https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1277573670848925697?s=...>

- **Lecture 12: International Organizations II (the European Union)**

- GP: pp. 303-318 (REVEL 10.1-10.3)
- Robin Emmott and Philip Blenkinsop, “Europe Seeks to Set Global Trade Rules After Trump Steps Back,” Reuters, July 27, 2017 (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-trade-idUSKBN1AC0KK>)
- James McBride, “What Brexit Means: Background,” Council on Foreign Relations, July 22, 2019 (<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-brexit-means>)
- The Brexit Trilemma and the Irish Backstop: <https://twitter.com/rdanielkelemen/status/1156535664902643713?s=20>

- *Video lecture:* Kathleen McNamara, “Everything You Need to Know About the EU in 38 Minutes,” Georgetown University, August 21, 2020:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dbQkFJvrPdEHZVRhSB_O6ENxoO_673fH

International Law and Human Rights

- **Lecture 13 International Law and Human Rights**

- GP: pp. 216-235 (REVEL 7.3-7.5)
- Courtenay Conrad and Emily Ritter, “A Trump Moratorium on International Treaties Could Roll Back Human Rights Here at Home,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post* (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/03/01/a-trump-moratorium-on-international-treaties-could-roll-back-human-rights-here-at-home/?utm_term=.76a06c3fe476)
- Kirby, Jen. “‘Black Lives Matter’ has become a global rallying cry against racism and police brutality.” *Vox*, June 12, 2020.
<https://www.vox.com/2020/6/12/21285244/black-lives-matter-global-protests-george-floyd-uk-belgium>
- Alice Evans, podcast, *Rocking Our Priors*, “Evidence for Hope: Kathryn Sikkink”:
<https://soundcloud.com/user-845572280/evidence-for-hope-professor-kathryn-sikkink>

****** NOTE: Midterm 2 is Scheduled After Lecture 13 ******

International Political Economy

- **Lecture 14: International Political Economy & International Trade I**

- GP: pp. 241-250; 262-267 (REVEL 8.1 + 8.3)
- Layna Mosley, “What An ‘America First’ Trade Strategy Gets Wrong,” *Duck of Minerva* (<http://duckofminerva.com/2017/01/wptpn-what-an-america-first-trade-strategy-gets-wrong.html>).
- Alexandra Guisinger, “Americans’ Views of Trade Aren’t Just About Economics. They’re Also About Race.” (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey->

- [cage/wp/2017/08/16/americans-views-of-trade-arent-just-about-economics-theyre-also-about-race/?utm_term=.9a38ab539d5f](https://www.brookings.edu/wp/2017/08/16/americans-views-of-trade-arent-just-about-economics-theyre-also-about-race/?utm_term=.9a38ab539d5f)
- Alice Evans, podcast, *Rocking Our Priors*, “Trading Barriers: Maggie Peters”: <https://soundcloud.com/user-845572280/trading-barriers-maggie-peters>
 - **Lecture 15: International Trade II: Trade Politics and International Institutions**
 - GP: pp. 250-262 (REVEL 8.2)
 - Chad Bown, “November 21, 2016, “The Truth About Trade Agreements – and Why We Need Them,” PBS Newshour, (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/making-sense/column-truth-trade-agreements-need/>).
 - Chad Bown and Douglas Irwin, 2019. “Trump’s Assault on the Global Trading System: And Why Decoupling From China Will Change Everything,” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.
 - Video: Jeff Frieden, “The Backlash Against Globalization and the Future of the International Economic Order, Munich Politics Network 2019: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSmXyt_odCE&feature=youtu.be
 - **Lecture 16: International Monetary Relations**
 - GP: pp. 273-283 (REVEL 9.1-9.2)
 - Jeff Frieden, 2015. *Currency Politics*, “Introduction”: (http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/jfrieden/files/frieden_currencypolitics_tocprefaceintro_pageproofs_0.pdf?m=1424185377)
 - Mark Copelovitch, Jeffry Frieden, and Stefanie Walter. “Four Lessons from the Euro Crisis – and Why the Future of the Euro Remains Uncertain.” London School of Economics EUROPP blog, October 7, 2016 (<http://bit.ly/2dVrTK3>).
 - **Lecture 17: International Finance I: Financial Crises and the IMF**
 - GP: pp. 284-289 (REVEL 9.3)
 - Manuel Funke et. al., 2015, “The Political Aftermath of Financial Crises: Going to Extremes” (<http://voxeu.org/article/political-aftermath-financial-crises-going-extremes>).
 - Daniel McDowell, 2019. “Lagarde Leaves the IMF Better Off But New Troubles Loom For Her Successor,” August 16

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28126/lagarde-leaves-the-imf-better-off-but-new-troubles-loom-for-her-successor>

- *Movie recommendations: The Big Short (2015); Too Big To Fail (2011)*

- **Lecture 18: International Finance II: Foreign Direct Investment**

- GP: pp. 290-296 (REVEL 9.4)
- Christopher Payne and Binyamin Applebaum, 2017, “A Look Inside Airbus’ Epic Assembly Line,” (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/03/magazine/a-look-inside-airbuss-epic-assembly-line.html?_r=0).
- Shai Oster, “Behind the Scenes at Apple’s Controversial China iPhone Factory,” *Chicago Tribune*, April 26, 2016 (<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-behind-the-scenes-apple-china-iphone-factory-20160426-story.html>).
- Andrew Chatzky and James McBride, 2019. “China’s Massive Belt and Road Initiative: Backgrounder,” (<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-massive-belt-and-road-initiative>)

- **Lecture 19: International Development I: Problems, Causes, Strategies**

- GP: pp. 363-374; 377-388 (REVEL 12.1 + 12.3)
- Jeffrey Sachs. “The Development Challenge.” *Foreign Affairs*. 2005.
- Hahm Chaibong, 2018. “China’s Future Is South Korea’s Present,” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

- **Lecture 20: Development II: Foreign Aid, China, Migration/remittances**

- GP: “International Development,” Ch. 13 (REVEL 13.1-13.4)
- Steven Radelet, “Once More Into the Breach: Does Foreign Aid Work?” (https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/05/08/once-more-into-the-breach-does-foreign-aid-work/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=global).
- Jessica Chen Weiss, 2019. “A World Safe for Autocracy? China’s Rise and the Future of World Politics,” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August (http://www.jessicachenweiss.com/uploads/3/0/6/3/30636001/weiss_2019_fa_a_world_safe_for_autocracy.pdf)

Population and Environment

- **Lecture 21: Population Growth and Climate Change**
 - GP: pp. 331-349 (REVEL 11.1-11.4)
 - Jack Goldstone. “The New Population Bomb.” *Foreign Affairs*. 2010.
 - John O’Loughlin and Cullen Hendrix, 2019. “Will Climate Change Lead to More Conflict,” *The Monkey Cage/Washington Post*, July 11 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/11/how-does-climate-change-impact-conflict-world/>).
 - Jeff D. Colgan. 2018. “The Market Is Valuing Climate Risk All Wrong.” *Global Policy*, July 6: <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/06/07/2018/market-valuing-climate-risk-all-wrong>.

- **Lecture 22: IR in the wake of COVID-19: What is (and is not) different now?**
 - **Video lecture:** Jeff Colgan, Brown University, “Politics of Coronavirus”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgt4CiJ87GU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0u5tmzfxXlXHx7WMqBF6jOIdWnFRq66xziPjiPy4LzLsNppi2_2DWqYKQ
 - **Video lecture:** Abraham Newman, Georgetown University, “Weaponized Interdependence”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=1DFAqN8UR2s>
 - Paul Poast: Twitter thread on whether COVID-19 marks a new era in IR: <https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1272498683041505280?s=20>
 - Video: Martin Wolf, Financial Times, “How Might the World be Different? After the Coronavirus Pandemic”: <https://www.ft.com/video/dafc3578-5c76-412a-8ba3-016495031bd1>

****** NOTE: Final Exam is Scheduled After Lecture 22 ******