

World Politics

POL3-221-01 | Spring 2022

Instructor: Chengzhi Yin

Class Hours: T/F 12:45-2:00pm

Class Room: Founders 120 Lecture Hall

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Office Hours: T 10:00am-12:00pm

or by appointment

Office: Pendleton East, 244

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of International Relations. It covers basic concepts and key issues of the subject. By examining the theoretical literature and empirical research, this course will lay the theoretical groundwork for explaining the principle sources of behavior of states in international relations and their consequences for international conflict and cooperation. It considers various theoretical approaches to key policy areas, including why and how states use force, why states cooperate, the politics of international conflicts, and challenges for the contemporary world order.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define key terms, events, and concepts used in international relations.
2. Identify and evaluate the explanatory and predictive power of different theories of international relations.
3. Apply theories and concepts of international relations to practical issues and problems in the world.
4. Formulate their own ideas about how to address contemporary world order problems such as U.S.-China competition, nuclear proliferation, and climate change.

Reading Assignments

The following book contains much of the required readings:

- Art, Robert J., and Robert Jervis eds. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. New York: Pearson, 2017 [A&J].

Other required readings for the course are available on Canvas, in the “Module” section.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course consists of four graded components:

- An in-class midterm (25%)

- A final exam (40%)
- Book review essay (25%)
- Participation (10%)

The midterm exam will be comprised of short-answer questions and one essay question, which will be drawn from the readings and lectures. It will be held in **Week 8, in class**. The final exam will be comprised of short-answer questions and two essay questions. The final exam will be held at **a university-scheduled time**. The final exam will be cumulative but will emphasize on the material covered since the midterm. Make-up exams for both the midterm and the final exams will be offered only with a written request from the Dean's Office or Wellesley Medical Services.

For the book review essay, each student must choose *one, and only one*, of the following three books. Students should select the book they find most interesting and write an analytical book review. Books are available at the Library or for purchase at the Wellesley bookstore. You may want to skim a few review essays from H-Diplo Book Reviews (<https://issforum.org/h-diplo-book-reviews>) to get a sense of this style of essay, in case you have not encountered it before.

- Beckley, Michael. *Unrivaled: Why America Will Remain the World's Sole Superpower*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018.
- Lupton, Danielle L. *Reputation for Resolve: How Leaders Signal Determination in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020.
- Snowden, Frank M. *Epidemics and Society: From the Black Death to the Present*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.

The book review essay will be due on the **last day of class**. The maximum length of the essay is 6 double-spaced pages, with standard margins (one-inch) and standard font size (size 12). References to readings must be cited in a consistent style. Late essays will be graded down by one grade for every day later (e.g. from an A- to a B+).

Attendance and Participation

Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. This means that you should arrive punctually, reading in hand and prepared in advance, be attentive to lectures, and participate actively in discussions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor **before** the class meets. If you miss more than **two** class sessions (except when excused in reasonable cases of documented medical or family emergencies), your participation grade will be negatively affected.

Office Hours

Office hours are for you. You are strongly encouraged to come to them to discuss the readings and when you have questions. A good deal of learning occurs during one-on-one conversation with the instructor. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours, please contact me to schedule an appointment.

Disability Services

If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Jim Wice (781-283-2434 or jwice@wellesley.edu) in the Office of Accessibility and Disability Resources (accessibility@wellesley.edu). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is essential to the academic community. Students are required to abide by Wellesley College's Honor Code. Please familiarize yourself with Wellesley College's policies and procedures and be aware of your obligations: <https://www.wellesley.edu/studentlife/aboutus/honor>. Any student found violating this policy will be reported to the class dean. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism or any other topic related to academic integrity, please consult with me.

Course Outline

Part I: Theories of International Relations

Week 1 (January 24-28): Introduction and Concepts in International Relations

Tuesday: Introduction

Friday: Concepts in International Relations

- Singer, J. David. "International Conflict: Three Levels of Analysis." *World Politics* 12, no. 3 (1960): 453-61.
- Walt, Stephen M. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy*, no. 110 (1998): 29-46.
- Waltz, Kenneth. "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics." In *A&J*, 48-69.

Questions:

- What distinguishes the levels of analysis from each other?
- What does anarchy mean? Why is it important?

Week 2 (January 31-February 4): Realism

Tuesday: Classical Realism

- Morgenthau, Hans. "Six Principles of Political Realism." In *A&J*, 19-27.

Friday: Neorealism & Neoclassical Realism

- Mearsheimer, John. "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power." In *A&J*, 70-77.
- Gilpin, Robert. "The Theory of Hegemonic War." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18, no. 4 (1988): 591-613.

- Kirshner, Jonathan. "The Economic Sins of Modern IR Theory and the Classical Realist Alternative." *World Politics* 67, no. 1 (2015): 155-83.

Questions:

- What assumptions are shared by most realist theories?
- What are the different versions of realism? How do they differ from one another?
- What causes change in international politics?
- What means can states use to balance each other?

Week 3 (February 7-11): Liberalism

Tuesday: Domestic Politics and Commercial Liberalism

- Doyle, Michael W. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." In *A&J*, 139-52.
- Rosecrance, Richard. *The Rise of the Trading State: Commerce and Conquest in the Modern World*. Basic Books: New York, 1986, chapter 2: 22-43.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. "The New Liberalism." In *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, 234-51. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Friday: Institutional Liberalism and Democratic Peace

- Keohane, Robert O. "International institutions: Can Interdependence Work?." *Foreign policy*, no. 110 (1998): 82-194.
- Owen, John M. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19, no. 2 (1994): 87-125.

Questions:

- What assumptions are shared by most liberal theories?
- By what logics do free-trade and economic interdependence promote peace?
- How does neoliberalism differ from neorealism?
- What is the scope of the "democratic peace?"

Week 4 (February 14-18): Constructivism, Feminism, and Marxism

Tuesday: Constructivism

- Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." In *A&J*, 78-86.
- Checkel, Jeffrey T. "Norms, Institutions, and National Identity in Contemporary Europe." *International Studies Quarterly* 43, no.1 (1999): 83-114.
- Hurd, Ian. "Legitimacy in International Politics." In *A&J*, 16-19.

Friday: Feminism and Marxism

- Sjoberg, Laura. "Gender, Structure, and War: What Waltz Couldn't See." *International Theory* 4, no. 1 (2012): 1-38.
- Arrighi, Giovanni and Beverly. "Capitalism and World (Dis)order." *Review of International Studies* 27, no. 5 (2001): 257-279.

Questions:

- What does constructivism emphasize as causes of conflict and cooperation in international politics?
- How are Wendt's and Waltz's understandings of anarchy different from each other?
- What role does legitimacy play in international politics?
- For feminism, what is the key variable to explain states' behavior?
- For Marxism, what are the primary actors in international politics?

Part II: Theories of International Relations

Week 5 (February 21-25): The Role of Force in International Politics

Tuesday: NO CLASS-Wellesley's Substitute Monday Class

Friday: Fungibility of Force, Use of Force, War, and Politics

- Art, Robert. "The Fungibility of Force." In *A&J*, 229-46.
- Art, Robert. "The Four Functions of Force." In *A&J*, 195-203.
- Schelling, Thomas. "The Diplomacy of Violence." In *A&J*, 203-17.
- Fearon, James. "Rationalist Explanations for War." In *A&J*, 95-103.
- Von Clausewitz, Carl. *On War*, Michael Howard and Peter Paret, eds. and trans. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976, 75-92.

Questions:

- Why is force central to international politics?
- What are functions of force in international politics? How do they differ from one another?
- What causes war?
- How do we evaluate outcomes of wars?

Week 6 (February 28-March 4): Causes of World Wars

Tuesday: Explaining World War I

- Keylor, William R. "Germany's Bid for European Dominance (1914-1918)." In *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, 39-64.

- Jervis, Robert. "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma." In *A&J*, 104-24.
- Gordon, Michael R. "Domestic conflict and the origins of the First World War: The British and the German cases." *The Journal of Modern History* 46, no. 2 (1974): 191-226.
- Sagan, Scott D. "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability." *International Security* 11, no. 2 (1986): 151-75.

Friday: Explaining World War II

- Walt, Stephen. "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning." In *A&J*, 153-60.

Questions:

- What factors affect the severity of the security dilemma?
- What caused WWI?
- How might perceptions of military advantage have helped to cause WWI and WWII?

Week 7 (March 7-11): The Origins of the Cold War

Tuesday: The Origins and Course of the Cold War

- Gaddis, John Lewis. *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1947*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000, 353-62.
- Sheng, Michael M. "Mao and China's Relations with the Superpowers in the 1950s: A New Look at the Taiwan Strait Crises and the Sino-Soviet Split." *Modern China* 34, no. 4 (2008): 477-507.
- Allison, Graham T. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63, no. 3 (1969): 689-718.

Friday: Explaining the Cold War

- Kennan, George F. "The Sources of Soviet Conduct." *Foreign Affairs* 25, no. 4 (1947): 566-82.
- Jervis, Robert. "Was the Cold War A Security Dilemma?." *Journal of Cold War Studies* 3, no. 1 (2001): 36-60.

Questions:

- What were the causes of the Cold War?
- What causes international crises?

Week 8 (March 14-March 18):

Tuesday: In-class Midterm

Friday: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (March 21-25): NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (March 28-April 1): Nuclear Weapons and the End of the Cold War

Tuesday: Nuclear Weapons

- Sagan, Scott D. and Kenneth N. Waltz. "Is Nuclear Zero the Best Option?" *The National Interest*, no. 109 (September-October, 2010): 88-96.
- Tannenwald, Nina. 2007. "Introduction: The Tradition of Nuclear Non-Use." *The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons since 1945*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007, chapter 1: 1-28.

Friday: Explaining the End of the Cold War

- Keylor, William R. 2006. "Moscow, Washington, and the End of the Soviet Empire." In *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond*, 407-22.
- Wohlforth, William C. "Realism and the End of the Cold War." *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994): 91-129.
- Koslowski, Rey, and Friedrich V. Kratochwil. "Understanding Change in International Politics: the Soviet Empire's Demise and the International System." *International Organization* 48, no. 2 (1994): 215-47.
- Re-read Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." In *A&J*, 78-86.

Questions:

- How do nuclear weapons impact international politics?
- What were the causes of the end of the Cold War? How do realist and constructivist explanations differ from one another?

Part III: International Political Economy

Week 11 (April 4-8): Cooperation and International Institutions

Tuesday: Games and Theories of Cooperation

- Jervis, Robert. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." In *A&J*, 125-39.

Friday: International Institutions

- Keohane, Robert O. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984, 31-46.
- Ikenberry, G. John. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001, 50-79.
- Mearsheimer, John J. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994): 5-49.

Questions:

- How can states escape from the security dilemma?
- By what logic do international institutions promote cooperation?
- What makes cooperation harder (easier) to achieve?

Week 12 (April 11-15): International Trade and Monetary System

Tuesday: Trade and Investment

- Gilpin, Robert. "The Nature of Political Economy." In *A&J*, 282-99.
- Rodrik, Dani. "Why Doesn't Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade?" In *A&J*, 307-13.

Friday: The International Monetary System and Politics

- Kirshner, Jonathan. "Dollar Diminution and U.S. Power." In *A&J*, 550-60.
- Blyth, Mark. "The Political Power of Financial Ideas: Transparency, Risk, and Distribution in Global Finance." In *Monetary Orders: Ambiguous Economics, Ubiquitous Politics*, edited by Jonathan Kirshner. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003, 239-59.

Questions:

- What is the nature of political economy?
- Who can benefit from free trade?
- How is the international monetary system related with power politics?

Week 13 (April 18-22): Globalization and Financial Crisis

Tuesday: Economic Globalization

- Frankel, Jeffrey. "Globalization of the Economy." In *A&J*, 314-30.
- Andreas, Peter. "Illicit Globalization: Myths, Misconceptions, and Historical Lessons." *Political Science Quarterly* 126, no. 3 (2011): 403-25.

Friday: Financial Crisis

- Kindleberger, Charles P. *Anatomy of a Typical Crisis: Manias, Panics, and Crashes*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, 38-52.
- Eichengreen, Barry. "The Last Temptation of Risk." *The National Interest* 101 (May/June 2009): 8-14.
- Hellenier, Eric. "The Status Quo Crisis." In *A&J*, 343-55.

Questions:

- What is globalization? What drives it?
- What causes financial crises?

Part IV: New Challenges

Week 14 (April 25-29): Humanitarian Intervention, Cyber Security, and Climate Change

Tuesday: NO CLASS

Wednesday (Wellesley's Substitute Tuesday Class): International Interventions

- Goldstein, Joshua, and Jon Western. “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age.” In *A&J*, 427-34.
- Gottlieb, Stuart. “Syria and the Demise of the Responsibility to Protect.” *The National Interest* (November 5, 2013).

Friday: Cyber Security and Environment

- Lin, Herbert. “Cyber Conflict and National Security.” In *A&J*, 461-74.
- Hardin, Garrett. “The Tragedy of the Commons.” In *A&J*, 480-85.
- Dupont, “The Strategic Implications of Climate Change.” In *A&J*, 541-549.

Questions:

- Why do states intervene?
- What is the tragedy of the commons? What drives it?
- How does cyber conflict differ from traditional kinetic conflict?
- Can international cooperation slow down climate change?

Week 15 (May 2-6): The Future of World Order

Tuesday: Rise of China

- Art, Robert. “The United States and the Rise of China.” In *A&J*, 393-401.
- Posen, Barry. “Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?” In *A&J*, 532-41.
- Cox, Michael. “Power Shifts, Economic Change, and the Decline of the West?” In *A&J*, 560-71.

Friday: U.S. Foreign Policy

Book review due—in class

- Ikenberry, John. “The Future of the Liberal World Order.” In *A&J*, 522-31.
- Brands, Hal, and John Lewis Gaddis. “The New Cold War.” *Foreign Affairs* 100, no.6 (2021): 10-20.

Questions:

- What are likely implications of the rise of China for international politics?
- How would the United States respond to the rise of China?