

INTS 1700 International Relations
Instructor Joel Day
Spring 2013 M/W 8:00 - 9:50

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Course Overview: The central question in the study of International Relations is how states and international entities interact in the absence of a formal authority. Much of our everyday life is unwittingly organized by the fact that there is a working national government that uses law and, if necessary, force to create order and security. In the global arena, however, there is no superior authority. In this condition of “anarchy,” is cooperation, order, and even *peace* still possible? What does “anarchy” bring with it? Historically it has meant that, in the absence of a legal authority with sufficient force to resolve disputes, violence (or war) is the ordinary solution. Is that still true or is the world changing in important ways? We will be looking at issues of war and peace, trade, and technology, and asking how war can be minimized in the absence of a world government.

In the first part of this course, students will better understand theoretical issues in IR:

- How cooperation is possible without a uniform world government?
- The role of religion in IR
- How the international system of today evolved
- Different theories for explaining international relations
- The use of force and the changing rules on the use of force
- The entrance and role of new global actors (other than nation-states)
- International law and international organizations

In the second half of the course, students will also be exposed to practical questions in world politics, including:

- Terrorism and Insurgency
- Revolution, Revolt, and Resistance
- Nuclear politics, strategy, proliferation, and control
- Human Rights
- Ethnic Conflict and Civil War
- Nationalism and sovereignty

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this course, successful students should have: a fairly sophisticated understanding of international organizations, the international community, and theories of international relations; an advanced understanding of different dimensions of security ranging from classical security dilemmas, to nuclear challenges,

and to recent counterinsurgency and counterterrorism paradigms; a strong commitment to clear and effective writing; an understanding of basic conceptual differences like the offense defense distinction.

Reading: Aside from the textbook, all reading is available on blackboard. Students will normally read one journal article and/or book chapter per class session. Some reading outside the syllabus will be recommended for the paper. Students who do not take reading seriously or do not read on schedule should avoid this class.

Required Course Materials

- John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. (2011), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 5th ed. (Oxford University Press)

Attendance / QUIZ: Students must attend class consistently to succeed, especially as exams will cover lecture material. To reinforce this notion, students should be prepared for “pop” reading quizzes every class. Attendance, Participation, Discussion, and Quizzes together will count for 20% of your overall grade. In the case of overall borderline grades, attendance, quiz grades and participation will also be taken into extra consideration. Everyone is entitled to miss **two** class sessions. Beyond that, you will have your final grade deducted by 5% for every missed class. After four unexcused absences (in addition to your two freebies) your entire Quiz / Attendance portion will be null. Six unexcused absences is cause for failing the course.

PAPERS: Students will write one 6-7-page paper, which will count for 20% of the course grade. It will be due at the last class period. Your prompt is below:

This paper will be a 6-7-page policy paper examining one particular global issue and outlining the policy the US government should adopt. Include analysis on which theoretical school of thought you are approaching the problem from (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Marxism, etc.), a brief overview of the facts, what sort of policy options are available to the US, and which particular course of action you would recommend. Outside research is highly encouraged for A papers, though it is possible to earn a high B on this paper using only class material and lecture notes. 1-inch margins, 12-pt. Times New Roman. Double-Spaced.

EXAMS: Students will have a traditional mid-term and cumulative final. Each exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and identifications.

COURSE GRADING: The following is the breakdown of how the final grade will be determined:

25%	Mid Term Exam
30%	Final Exam
20%	Paper
10%	Attendance / Participation
15%	Quizzes

STATEMENT ON SENSITIVITY AND INCLUSION: The general premise of this class is this that *minds are like parachutes: it doesn't matter so much what shape or color it is, just so long as it opens*. Studying politics is tricky business, but it does not have to be a source of contention. We will all have different opinions about political matters and that is OK, but we are not here to learn how to be guest commentators for Fox News or MSNBC. While I encourage verbal class participation, everyone needs to understand that there is a difference between debate and disrespect.

There will be absolutely no tolerance of *ad hominem* attacks (look it up) in the classroom. Hateful language or purposeful exclusion on the basis of ideology, identification, race, class, sex, gender, religion or sexual orientation will not be tolerated. You are lucky enough to embark on this journey with 40 other people, each with different perspectives than you have – embrace each other's ideas. Try them on. Get comfortable with challenging one another and letting others change your mind on issues.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION: Any learning disabled student working with either the Learning Disabilities Program or the Academic Advancement program who might have problems with exams, time limits, or other academic requirements should consult with me in the first week of class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: This course adheres to the DU Student Honor Code. DU has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. I expect students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution, such as principles of academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism absolutely violate the ideals and mission of the university and are grounds for immediately failing the course and disciplinary action. All forms of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of **zero** for the assignment in question, and will thus almost certainly result in failing the course.

