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Political Science 130: Introduction to International Relations Course Description and Syllabus

Welcome to Political Science 130, Introduction to International Relations. This course is designed to familiarize you with a number of significant global issues and to teach you how to analyze these issues. The course has no prerequisites. It is open to all Purdue undergraduates.

There is one (1) required book (available at Follett's and University Bookstores). It is:

James M. Scott, Ralph G. Carter and A. Cooper Drury. 2014. IR. Wadsworth/Cengage.

Questions, Office Hours, and Outside Help

Please ask questions at any time during class regarding material you find unclear, interesting, or requiring more explanation. If you are confused or intrigued so are your classmates! If you are unable to ask your question during class, my office hours (and by appointment) provide additional opportunities to discuss lecture material, readings, and/or class assignments. You can also seek help from either Jose Kaire (jkairede@purdue.edu) or Will Ferrall (wferrall@purdue.edu), the teaching assistants for this course.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades are computed based on each student's performance on three take-home assignments and three exams. (I use a plus/minus grading scale for the course. Details of the scale appear on Blackboard.) *Each assignment is worth 10% of the final grade. Examinations 1 and 2 are each worth 25% of the final grade and exam 3 is worth 20%.* Examinations will be based on material from lectures and assigned readings. *Make-up exams will be provided only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., hospital stay).* Examination dates are listed among the reading assignments below. The last exam will be administered on Friday April 24.

Note that in the event of a major campus emergency or severe weather event, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by either a revised semester calendar or other unforeseen circumstances. Changes to the course caused by such events will be described on the Blackboard Learn page for this class. I can also be contacted at the e-mail address and telephone number listed on the first page of this syllabus.

Policy on Issues of Academic Integrity

You are expected to adhere to University standards concerning academic integrity. Students caught cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero for the test. A second infraction will result in an F for the course and the matter will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Course schedule

January 12-16: Introduction

January 19-23: World politics

- Scott et al. IR chapter 1.

January 26-30: The players and the playing field

- Scott et al. IR chapter 2

February 2-6: Powerful ideas

- Scott et al. IR chapter 3

February 9-13: Alternative perspectives.

- Scott et al. IR chapter 4

February 16: Exam review

February 18: Exam 1

February 20: Class cancelled

February 23-27: Understanding conflict

- Scott et al. IR chapter 5

March 2-6: Seeking security

- Scott et al. IR chapter 6

March 9: Building peace

- Scott et al. IR chapter 7

March 11: Exam review

March 13: Exam 2

March 16-20: Spring Break

March 23-27: The pursuit of money

- Scott et al. IR chapter 8.

March 30-April 3: Economic statecraft

- Scott et al. IR chapter 9

April 6-10: Transnational advocacy networks

- Scott et al. IR chapter 13

April 13-17: Human Rights.

- Scott et al. IR chapter 11

April 20: Managing the environment.

- Scott et al. IR chapter 12

April 22: Exam Review

April 24: Exam 3

April 27-May 2: Class cancelled.