

Introduction to International Relations
POLI:1500:0A08 / A09 / A10

Location and Time:

A08 – 30 SH / 5:00P – 5:50P (T)
A09 – 131 SH / 5:00P – 5:50P (Th)
A10 – 3 SH / 5:30P – 6:20P (W)

Teaching Assistant:

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OBJECTIVE

The discussion section provides students with the opportunity to explore course content in a collaborative setting. The goal of the section is to stimulate critical thinking about concepts and theories of International Relations and to practice application of those theories to current issues and events in world politics. Sections will involve a variety of activities from discussion to group activities. Section requirements account for 15 % of the final grade in Introduction to International Relations.

EXPECTATIONS

- Students will be expected to complete each week's course readings before attending the section. In order to actively participate in the discussion, it is crucial to read and think about topics covered by course material.
- We are all expected to maintain a community based on mutual respect.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance in section is mandatory. You cannot participate if you are not in class.
- Each student has one unexcused absence that does not affect his/her participation grade. After that, each unexcused absence will count as 0 participation points for the day.
- Excused absence from a section is allowed only if it is to attend a university sanctioned event. The student must provide a memo from the official university sponsor indicating the student's presence at the event. In addition, a student will be excused for emergencies like severe illness, in which case the student is required to provide evidence in a manner consistent with university policy. The policy is in the College's Academic Handbook and is necessary to assure that those who are absent for medical reasons are excused. Finally, a student will be excused for grave family emergencies, with appropriate documentation.

PARTICIPATION

- Participation is crucial for achieving section objectives.

- Participation points are assigned based upon the quantity and quality of a student's contribution to the class. Quality is weighted significantly more heavily than quantity.
- We will hold ourselves and one another accountable to the highest standards relating to respect for all viewpoints and perspectives.

PRESENTATION

- At the beginning of every class, one (or two) of you will be responsible for presenting a current event that relates to that day's topic.
- The current event can have occurred within 3 months of your presentation, but more recent events are preferable. The goal isn't for you to go back and read historical newspapers, but to pay attention in the news starting now and connect what you are learning in this class with what is going on in the world. The presentation should be a couple minutes long (no more than 3) highlighting the event, any relevant context or history, and most importantly how this event demonstrates, relates to, or reminds you of the relevant topic. You have substantial latitude here, so feel free to talk about an event you find interesting or surprising in some way. You are welcome to run your idea by me in advance but are not required to.
- Please distribute a news article (or articles) that discusses the event to your classmates through the course site at least one day before their presentation date.

CLASS POLICIES

- Electronic devices, such as laptops, cellphones, tablets, and readers may not be used during class. This policy is aimed at providing the best possible learning environment for all students. Violations will result in loss of participation points.

SECTION SCHEDULE

- **Week 1: Introduction, How to Read an IR Article**
- **Week 2: Debating the ISMs**
– Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories"
- **Week 3: Order & Power**
– Mearsheimer & Walt, "The Case for Offshore Balancing: A Superior U.S. Grand Strategy"
– Mazarr, "The Once and Future Order: What Comes After Hegemony?"
– Lecture reading relevant to discussion: Finnemore, "Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity" pp. 58-85
- **Week 4: Game Theory in IR**
– Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma"
- **Week 5: How to Write a Good Paper**
– Check ICON for rubrics, prompts, and other resources.
– Come to section with questions!

- **Week 6: Sovereignty**
 - Krasner, “Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing States”
 - Naim, “The Five Wars of Globalization”
- **Week 7: Alliances**
 - NPR, “A Primer On The Complicated Battle For The South China Sea” pp. 1-6
 - Kahl, “The United States and Turkey are on a Collision Course in Syria” pp. 1-15
- **Week 8: Nuclear Proliferation**
 - See ICON. Readings updated to reflect constant changes in Iran and NK
- **Week 9: Humanitarian Intervention**
 - Momani & Hakak “Syria” in The Oxford Handbook of the Responsibility to Protect
 - Valentino, “The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention: The Hard Truth about a Noble Nation”
- **Week 10: Mediation Simulation**
 - See Instructions on ICON
- **Week 11: No Sections: Midterm**
- **Week 12: Trade Simulation**
 - Pay attention for instructions from your TA
- **Week 13: Brexit**
 - Pay attention for instructions from your TA
- **Week 14: No Sections: Thanksgiving Break**
- **Week 15: Foreign Aid Debate**
 - Easterly, “Foreign Aid for Scoundrels” pp. 1-8
 - Sachs, “The Case for Aid” pp. 1-7
- **Week 16: Wrap Up & Review**

CLAS Teaching Policies & Resources

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#), k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/> for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the [IOWA Challenge](#). I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. ([Wenfang Tang, 335-2358](#)) Complaints must be made within six months of the incident ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the [UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the [Department of Public Safety website](#).