Political Science 103: Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2013
Tuesday / Thursday 2:30-3:45
Bascom 272

Instructor: Lisa Martin
Office: North Hall 417
Office hours: Thursday 12:00-2:00
Phone: 263-2035
Email: llmartin3@wisc.edu
http://learnuw.wisc.edu

Syllabus

This course introduces students to the study of international politics. Students will acquire analytical tools for understanding various events and patterns in international relations. Topics covered include war, terrorism, international economic relations, international environmental politics, and human rights.

Readings

The primary reading for the course is: World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions, 2d edition by Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (New York: W.W. Norton, 2013). This book is indicated as FLS in the reading list below. You should make sure that you purchase the second edition of this textbook.

FLS is accompanied by an online text, Introduction to International Relations by Lisa Martin. You can purchase an access card for this text at the University Bookstore, or by contacting Great River Technologies directly. This text is indicated by IIR in the reading list.

Grades

Grades will be calculated using the following formula:
Exam 1 25%
Exam 2 25%
Exam 3 25%
Online quizzes 15%
Section participation 10%

The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short identification questions.
Online text

The online text (IIR) provides an introduction to the major topics in the course; brief quizzes; supplemental readings; and interactive activities. There are ten online lessons for you to complete over the course of the semester. The syllabus indicates the recommended timing for you to work with the online text. During the semester, there are three days set aside for you to focus on the online materials instead of the usual lecture. The quizzes will be due and graded at the end of that day.

Lectures

Powerpoint (and pdf) slides for each lecture will be available online. You may want to download the slides before lecture so that you can take notes on them. However, you should not consider the slides a substitute for lecture.

Please be considerate of other students in lectures and avoid activities that they might find distracting. This includes, of course, talking. The students sitting around you may also find your use of facebook, email, etc. during lectures to be a distraction. You are welcome to bring your computer to class, but please use it to view class materials.

Discussion Sections and TA information

Participation in discussion sections is required and will count for 10% of your overall grade.

Head TA: Mark Toukan  mtoukan@wisc.edu
Taylor Price  tprice2@wisc.edu
Rick Loeza  loeza@wisc.edu
Mert Kartal  kartal@wisc.edu
Peter Nasuti  nasuti@wisc.edu
Derek Pankratz  dmpankratz@wisc.edu

Course Schedule:

January 22  Introduction

January 24 and 29  Historical overview

FLS Introduction and ch. 1
January 31 and February 5  Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

FLS ch. 2
IIR Lesson 1

February 7 and 12  Why Wars Occur

FLS ch. 3
IIR Lesson 2

February 14  War and Domestic Politics

FLS ch. 4
IIR Lesson 3

February 19  International Institutions and War

FLS ch. 5
IIR Lesson 4

February 21  Work with online materials

Quizzes from Lessons 1-3 due

February 26  Exam 1

February 28 and March 5  Civil War and Terrorism

FLS ch. 6

March 7 and 12  International Trade

FLS ch. 7
IIR Lesson 5
March 14 and 19  International Finance
FLS ch. 8
IIR Lesson 6

March 21  Work with online materials
Quizzes from Lessons 4-6 due

April 2  Review Session

April 4  Exam 2

April 9 and 11  International Monetary Relations
FLS ch. 9
IIR Lesson 7

April 16  Development
FLS ch. 10
IIR Lesson 8

April 18 and 23  International Law and Norms
FLS ch. 11

April 25  Human Rights
FLS ch. 12
IIR Lesson 9
April 30  The Global Environment

FLS ch. 13
IIR Lesson 10

May 2  Work with online materials

Quizzes due from Lessons 7-10

May 7  The Future of International Politics

FLS ch. 14

May 9  Exam 3