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


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:
Exams 1 25%
Exams 2 25%
Exams 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
Glyn Phillips   grphilips@wisc.edu
Peter Nasuti    nasuti@wisc.edu
Derek Pankratz  dmpankratz@wisc.edu

Course Schedule:

January 21  Introduction

January 23 and 28  Historical overview

    FLS Introduction and ch. 1
January 30 and Feb. 4  Interests, Interactions, and Institutions
   FLS ch. 2
   IIR Lesson 1

February 6 and 11  Why Wars Occur
   FLS ch. 3
   IIR Lesson 2

February 13  War and Domestic Politics
   FLS ch. 4
   IIR Lesson 3

February 18  International Institutions and War
   FLS ch. 5
   IIR Lesson 4

February 20  Work with online materials
   Quizzes from Lessons 1-4 due

February 25  Exam 1

February 27 and March 4  Civil War and Terrorism
   FLS ch. 6

March 6 and 11  International Trade
   FLS ch. 7
   IIR Lesson 5
March 13 and 25  International Finance
   FLS ch. 8
   IIR Lesson 6

March 27  Work with online materials
   Quizzes from Lessons 5-6 due

April 1  Exam 2

April 3 and 8  International Monetary Relations
   FLS ch. 9
   IIR Lesson 7

April 10  Development
   FLS ch. 10
   IIR Lesson 8

April 15 and 17  International Law and Norms
   FLS ch. 11

April 22  Human Rights
   FLS ch. 12
   IIR Lesson 9

April 24 and 29  The Global Environment
   FLS ch. 13
IIR Lesson 10

May 1  Work with online materials
        Quizzes from Lessons 7-10 due

May 6  The Future of International Politics
        FLS ch. 14

May 8  Exam 3