POLS 103: Introduction to International Relations  
*Fall 2014*

Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:45  165 Bascom Hall

Professor  
Professor Jon Pevehouse  
313 North Hall  
*pevehouse@polisci.wisc.edu*  
Phone: 262-4839  
Office Hours: W 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM and TH 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM; By appt. T-R

Teaching Assistants

Barry Driscoll (Head TA) – *driscoll2@wisc.edu*  
Office hours Thu 1:30-2:30, 2nd hour TBD, Location TBD  

Ben Power – *bpower@wisc.edu*  
Office hours Mon 1-3, 121 North Hall TA Office  

Alex Straka – *ajstraka@wisc.edu*  
Office hours Mon 10-12, 121 North Hall TA Office  

Diana Oprinescu – *oprinescu@wisc.edu*  
Office hours Mon 9:30-10:30, Wed 12:30-1:30, 121 North Hall TA Office  

Taylor Price – *tprice2@wisc.edu*  
Office hours Tue 1-2, 2nd hour TBD, 121 North Hall TA Office  

Olivia Butler – *obutler@wisc.edu*  
Office hours Mon 9:30-11:30, Memorial Union Rathskeller

Class Description

This class will cover the major issues in international relations since the end of World War II. We will discuss a variety of topics from both a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Some of the topics we will cover include: the causes of interstate war; ethnic conflict; foreign policy decision-making; economic development; the North-South gap; international trade, globalization; economic interdependence; the environment; population; the UN and other international organizations; and international law.

More than centering on US foreign policy or US history, the class will discuss these topics from a broad international perspective. Although this is by no means a history class, I will go over a fair bit of history to provide context for our current debates in international relations. Also, we will spend relatively little time discussing particular countries and their internal politics and problems, rather focusing on their relations with each other.

The goal for this course is to further your understanding of facts about international relations, but also to help you develop analytical tools for thinking about important questions in world politics regardless of the countries or issues involved. The political science approach to international politics is a mix of ideas and data, that is, conceptual tools that help us understand particular sets of facts about a wide range of
topics. It is hoped that students will leave the course with a better understanding of world politics and how to think about world politics.

Book Required:


E-Reserve readings – (Indicated by "LearnUW" below.)

I also urge you to read the *New York Times* – one of the best sources of material on international relations. I will announce information on how to obtain a student subscription during the course. You may also choose to read the NYT online, although it is now behind a pay wall. Other sources of good international news are the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, the *Economist*, and the *BBC* ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news)).

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

This class will be primarily lecture with some recitation sections. **I expect you to have done the readings by the date on the syllabus.** There is a moderate amount of reading, but none of it is particularly dense.

There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. Each midterm will be composed of a number of multiple-choice questions and 4-5 short answer (identification) questions. The final will have the same format, covering the material since the second midterm. In addition, the final will contain one comprehensive essay question covering all the material. Five days before the final exam, I will distribute a review sheet that will contain the possible essay questions that will appear on the exam. On the exam itself, you will have no choice of which essay question to answer.

**There will be no make-up exams.** If you have a conflict over the exam, see the professor in advance. I understand that emergencies happen. In a genuine emergency, I am very willing to work with you. I will, however, require documentation of emergencies - notes from doctors, emergency room personnel, etc. in all instances.

Your class performance will be based on the following:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDTERM 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>FINAL</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDTERM 2</td>
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Recitation Sections

Recitation (or discussion) sections will work a bit differently than in other large courses you may have taken. First, no sections at all this first week. Then, for the two weeks before each exam ONLY, discussion sections will be held in their regular times and regular rooms. Because exams are on Thursdays (and all Thursday sections are prior to the lecture slot), this means normal sections will begin the Monday two weeks before the exam and run until the afternoon of the exam.
For all other weeks, we will hold optional “drop-in” sections rather than regularly schedule sections. Each TA has chosen one of their discussion sections to hold each week. If your assigned TA’s choice does not work for you because of your class schedule or work, simply choose a different drop-in section to attend. TAs and the professor will also have regularly scheduled office hours throughout the semester. The purpose of these drop-in sections is to clarify material that is unclear from the readings or lecture as well as discussing class concepts with your fellow students. Again, “drop-in” sections are optional: you are encouraged to attend to clarify material, but you are not required to do so, and attendance will not be noted.

Sept. 9-Sept. 19: Drop-in Sections  
Sept. 22-Oct. 2: Normal Sections  
Oct. 6-Oct. 24: Drop-in Sections  
Oct. 27-Nov. 6: Normal Sections  
Nov. 10-Nov. 28: Drop-in Sections  
Dec. 1-Dec. 11: Normal Sections

TA Drop-in sections:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Straka</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:55</td>
<td>Van Hise 209</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Price</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>Humanities 2611</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Oprinescu</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:55</td>
<td>Agricultural Hall 38</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Driscoll</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:50</td>
<td>Chamberlin 2135</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Power</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12:05</td>
<td>Noland 579</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Butler</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:55</td>
<td>Van Hise 207</td>
<td>317</td>
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Accommodation for Disabilities and Emergencies

For anyone who needs accommodations for a documented disability, please let the professor know immediately. I am happy to work through the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 905 University Avenue, 263-2741. Please contact them regarding this class and we can work out the nature of the accommodations that will be needed.

Course Outline

9/2: Introduction + Levels of Analysis

GP: Chapter 1, pp. 2-19.

9/4: Actors, Principals, and World War I


9/11: History: The Cold War & Introduction to Realism

GP: pp. 29-38.


9/16: IR Theories: Realism

GP: pp. 43-60; 73-76.

9/18: IR Theories: Finish Realism & Introduction to Liberal Theories

GP: pp. 63-72; 76-79.

9/23: IR Theories: Liberal Theories


9/25: IR Theories: Finish Liberal Theories & Introduction to Social Theories

GP: pp. 96-106.

9/30: IR Theories: Social Theories


10/2: **FIRST MIDTERM** (in class)

10/7: Introduction to Security/International Conflict


10/9: Causes of War I (General Theories & Material Conflicts)

GP: pp. 177-188.

10/14: Causes of War II (Ideological Conflicts)

10/16: International Organizations I (Theories & the UN)

10/21: Terrorism & WMD
GP: pp. 204-222.


10/23: International Organizations II (the European Union)

10/28: International Law & Human Rights


10/30: The Power of Information
GP: pp. 370-381.

11/4: Domestic Politics & International Relations
GP: pp. 136-147.


11/6: SECOND MIDTERM (in class)

11/11: International Trade

11/13: International Trade Institutions
GP: pp. 294-309.

11/18: International Finance

11/20: The Environment

11/25: Global Health
GP: pp. 409-418.


12/2: North-South Gap (State of the South)


12/4: Development (North-South Business)
GP: pp. 461-476.


12/9: Development (Debt & Foreign Assistance)

12/11: Finish Up and Review.

**12/18: FINAL EXAM!! 10:05 AM - 12:05 PM. ROOMS: TBA**