POLI 65: Introduction to International Relations
Summer Session I 2020
Last updated: June 29

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Course Description: This course introduces students to the study of International Relations (IR) as a discipline and as a way of thinking and knowing about the world. In this class, we will survey major theories of international relations including realism, liberal institutionalism, constructivism, and newer approaches such as postmodernism and feminism. We will thematically engage with key concepts that are relevant to the study of international relations today, looking at issues such as economy, security, conflict, international institutions, and the environment. In doing so, we will apply new perspectives and insights to think critically about historical developments and contemporary international politics.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify major international actors, such as states, nations, international organizations and institutions, multinational corporations, and nongovernmental organizations.
2. Recognize, analyze, and critique major theories of International Relations.
3. Apply IR theories to international politics and get a better understanding of the global political landscape.
4. Understand the key debates in modern theoretical developments in the field of IR and learn to apply these theories to hypothetical and real-world scenarios.
5. Cultivate the capacity to identify and assess the worldview inherent to a given text describing an IR event, and the IR theory under which the text can be categorized.
6. Articulate the standards behind a given worldview and apply those standards rhetorically to evaluate the adequacy and rigor of an argument’s premise, and its conclusions.

Course Requirements: The final grade for this class will consist of the following parts

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<thead>
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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Module exercises</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Reading responses</td>
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<td>Final essay</td>
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**Class organization:** This class will be offered on Canvas asynchronously, meaning that there will be no set meeting times. Part 1 of each module will become available to you at 6:00AM PST every Monday, and Part 2 becomes available at 6:00AM PST every Wednesday. You will have until the end of the week (Sunday 11:59pm) to complete each module (2 parts). Please keep in mind that exercises in the modules account for 15% of your final grade.

Each module must be completed in order (i.e. – you will not be able to progress to the next component until you have finished the previous one). Also, each component is listed in each module in the order in which you should complete them. For example, readings should be completed before watching the lectures and completing the other module components.

**Weekly discussions:** Each week, I will hold an optional 30-minute discussion session on Zoom. In those sessions, we will talk about different theories of international relations, clarify concepts and assumptions, discuss current international events, answer questions, and address any pressing issues. To make the timing of such sessions work for most time zones, I have set them up at 10am-10:30am PST on Fridays. You will be able to access them through the Zoom section on Canvas or through a direct link: [https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/93679025794](https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/93679025794)

**Reading responses:** In this course, you will be asked to submit 2 reading responses, each worth 15% of your final grade (30% in total). You will be asked to compare different IR theories and engage with the course readings. Specific instructions will be announced later.

**Late Policy:** All assignments are expected to be uploaded to Canvas before the final deadline (see below). A full letter grade will be subtracted for each day that the assignment is late. If you have extenuating circumstances and need an extension, please let me know via email as soon as possible.

**Course dates:**
Duration – 5 weeks (June 22 – July 24)
Reading response #1 due – July 5
Midterm due – July 12
Reading response #2 due – July 19
Final essay due – July 28

**Grading Guidelines for Written Work:** We take seriously the responsibility of grading your work, and we will always strive to be fair and accurate in our evaluations. We will use the following standards for evaluating written work in this course:

*A: Excellent work,* with clear, challenging, original ideas supported by sufficient, appropriate, logically interpreted evidence. The essay should engage the reader in the inquiry, convincingly answer opposing views, be well organized, and free of
significant flaws. An ‘A’ paper should be not just good but outstanding in presenting original ideas.

B: Good to very good work, with a clear thesis supported by sufficient, appropriate evidence, organized and interpreted logically. The ‘B’ paper may have some outstanding qualities but be marked by significant flaws which keep it from being an ‘A’; or it may be all-around good work, free of major problems but lacking the deeper insight necessary for excellence.

C: Satisfactory work, but not yet good. The ‘C’ paper meets the basic requirements of a thesis supported by interpretation of specific evidence, but it needs work in thinking and/or presentation. There may be a lack of clarity, the evidence may not always be sufficient and appropriate, or the interpretation may have logical flaws. The essay may have organizational or mechanical problems that keep it from being good. The ‘C’ paper may be good in some respects but poor in others, or it may simply be adequate but not noteworthy overall.

D: Barely passing work that shows effort but is so marred by serious problems that it cannot be considered a satisfactory paper.

F: Failing work—for example, a hasty, sloppy paper that shows little or no thought, effort, or familiarity with the text.

**Grading Scale:**
A (94-100); A- (90-93); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83)
C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D+ (67-69); D (64-66); D- (60-63); F <60

**Required Texts:**
All required readings will be available on Canvas. You don’t need to buy any books/readers for this course.

**Important Summer Session Remote 2020 Deadlines:**

Session 1:
Drop: Monday, June 29
Request for “W”: Friday, July 10

Session 2:
Drop: Monday, August 3
Request for “W”: Friday, August 14

8-Week:
Drop: Monday, July 6
Request for “W”: Friday, July 24

10-Week:
Drop: Monday, July 6
Request for “W”: Friday, July 24

Summer is unique. You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment. You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including ‘change of grade option’ (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

DRC Remote Accommodations:
The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

Small Group Tutoring:
Small Group Tutoring (SGT) supports students academically to advance educational equity by designing inclusive learning environments outside of the classroom. In SGT, you can expect the Tutor to facilitate cooperative group activities designed to have students work together on the course content and develop study skills for the course. SGT is offered at least three times each week for the entire quarter. The Tutor is an undergraduate student who took the class, did well, and is trained to facilitate group sessions to focus on students’ needs to succeed in the course. SGT is open to all students enrolled in the class and they must sign up on our online system: TutorTrac. When students sign up for SGT, they are committing to attend every week. For Summer 2020, students can begin signing up for tutoring on Monday, June 22nd and tutoring will begin Wednesday, June 24th. Students only have to sign up once for tutoring and their appointments will repeat weekly. Sign-ups will close on Friday, August 14th for all Summer Session Sign-Ups. This means that after August 14th, no new students can sign up for tutoring.

Want SGT to be successful for you? Bring your books, lecture notes, questions, and be open to working collaboratively with your peers. You can sign up using this link: https://ucsc.goredrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content

You can also find the link on our website: https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html

Academic Dishonesty:
Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student’s transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the Academic Integrity page at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**Title IX:**
The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information about the Title IX Office, the online reporting link, applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment, and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our online reporting link.

For more information please visit the Title IX Operations under Covid-19 page.
Course Schedule:
1. Intro to International Relations
2. Realism
3. Liberalism
4. Constructivism
5. Economic Structuralism/Marxism
6. Critical Theory
7. Feminism
8. Green Theory
9. Normative Theory
10. Course Recap and Reflections on International Relations

Week 1: Introductions: Defining International Relations

MODULE 1: June 22 – June 28
Part 1: Introduction to International Relations
Required readings:

Focus: Why do we need theories of International Relations?
Case Study: Human nature

Part 2: Mainstream Theories – Realism
Required readings:

Focus: What does Realism tell us about war and conflict?
Case Study: Nuclear deterrence

MODULE 2: June 29 – July 5
Part 1: Mainstream Theories – Liberalism
Required readings:
Focus: Is cooperation a solution to all problems in international politics?
Case Study: Brexit

Part 2: Mainstream Theories – Constructivism
Required readings:

Focus: How is our understanding of international politics constructed?
Case Study: Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Reading response #1 due at 11:59pm on July 5, Sunday

MODULE 3: July 6 – July 12
Part 1: Economic Structuralism/Marxism
Required readings:

Focus: Why do some countries grow richer while other stay poor?
Case Study: BRICS

Part 2: Critical Theory
Required readings:

Focus: How do our own experiences and perceptions inform our understanding of IR?
Case Study: Role of media in forming political opinions
Midterm at the end of module 3

MODULE 4: July 13 – July 19
Part 1: Feminism
Required readings:

Focus: How can feminist perspectives change international politics?
Case Study: Feminist foreign policy

Part 2: Green Theory
Required readings:

Focus: What should the international community do about climate change?
Case Study: 2015 Paris Climate Agreement

Reading response #2 due at 11:59pm on July 19, Sunday

MODULE 5: July 20 – July 26
Part 1: Normative Theory
Required readings:

Focus: What role do ethics and morality play in international relations?
Case Study: Human rights

Part 2: Course Recap and Reflections on International Relations
Required readings:
• Paul Arthur Berkman, “Could Science Diplomacy Be the Key to Stabilizing International Relations?” *The Conversation*, June 2018.

*Focus:* How do we understand new political trends that have not yet been classified in IR?
*Case Study:* Cyber warfare

**Final Essay due at 11:59pm on July 28, Tuesday**