

Political Science 150H: International Relations & Global Politics

Spring Semester, 2023

Course Information

Instructor

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Meeting Times

Lecture: TuTh 3:30-4:45
Murphy 115
Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:30pm
Thurs 1:00-2:30, or by appointment

Course Website: <https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/poli150hspring23>

Course Description

This course is designed to achieve three objectives: (1) to introduce you to some of the most important topics and puzzles in the study of international relations, (2) to provide you with some analytic concepts that can be used to study world politics, and (3) introduce you to current UNC research on world politics. Why do we continue to see so much war and violence in the world? Why is international trade and investment so important, and so hotly contested? What are the challenges of development, and why is it so difficult to make progress on problems like global warming?

In this course we will endeavor to learn abstract models and theories of how things work in world politics. These theories are designed to help us understand the world at a very high level. The challenge is to appreciate these abstract tools for what they can and cannot do, and to view the world as it is instead of as it should be. In addition, we will examine the research that is being produced in International Relations here at UNC.

I do not presume any exposure to the field of international relations, and there are no prerequisites for the course. We will, however, frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course, so if you do not already have your favorite source of news or history, now is a good time to find one. I recommend sources like the New York Times, Economist, BBC World News, and Foreign Policy (all available online), but many combinations of news sources will do. Don't just rely on one source (that's also just general life advice).

Course Requirements

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on one midterm exam and one final exam, a set of writing assignments producing at least ten pages of writing, and participation in class. The midterm exam is worth 30% of your grade. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade. The writing assignments are worth 30% of your course grade. Participation will count for the remaining 10% of the final grade. Given the unique circumstances of this time, I will provide multiple ways to earn your participation grade both in and out of the classroom.

Exams

The midterm and final exams are in-class, closed book & notes. You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency or illness. If you miss a scheduled exam without cause, you may be allowed to take a make-up test at my discretion,

with a substantial penalty. If you think you will have to miss an exam, please contact me as soon as possible.

There will be one midterm and one final exam, each worth 30% of your overall course grade. They are currently scheduled to be in-class (March 2 and May 8). We will discuss the format and expectations of each exam as we approach the exam dates.

Assignments

You are required by the University to write ten pages of non-exam material during the semester to satisfy the gen-ed requirements of the course. I will provide thirteen prompts for you to respond to in 1-2 pages, with built-in flexibility. These assignments are each worth 3% of your course grade, and I will use your ten best grades to contribute to your overall course grade. All students are required to complete the first and last assignment (Due January 9 and April 26), and may select any eight of the remaining eleven topics.

Participation

Your participation plays an important role in this course. It is your best opportunity for active learning and discussing the material critically. Students who attend regularly but do not participate in discussions should expect a lower grade for this portion of the course. We will frequently refer to important historical and current events as examples and applications of the theories and concepts taught in this course. Please complete the assigned reading in advance of each class and apply the content to a slice of history or current events that resonates with you. Bringing good questions to class, listening to and actively engaging with your peers, and leading our discussions are important contributions as well.

We will engage in lectures, discussions, and small group activities when possible, depending on the health guidance coming from UNC. While I am truly looking forward to seeing you all in the classroom, there will be no penalties for missing class resulting from the self-checks requested by our campus. If you don't feel well, please stay home.

Research Requirement

Students enrolled in POLI 100, POLI 130, or POLI 150 are required to participate in the Department of Political Science research activities as part of their course requirement. A principal goal of the requirement is for students to gain an appreciation of how political science research works, while simultaneously acquiring new knowledge about areas of the discipline that they may not encounter in their POLI courses.

The research requirement is administered by the Political Science Subject Pool (PSSP) Administrators. To satisfy the research requirement, students must complete eight (8) credits of research by participating in actual political science research studies. Research studies are typically research experiments or surveys. Typically, each study's completion satisfies one (1) credit towards the requirement; occasionally, a study will count for more than one credit. The research requirement is fulfilled when eight (8) credits are earned. Students can participate in research studies and track their requirement fulfillment status by logging into their [PSSP Portal](https://tarheels.live/psspparticipants/) (<https://tarheels.live/psspparticipants/>) using their UNC Onyen and password.

Students who object or fail to total eight credits through participation in research studies will be given the opportunity to fulfill the research requirement by writing a 900-word research-oriented reaction paper to one of The Monkey Cage articles listed on their PSSP Portal.

The total time commitment to complete the research requirement should not exceed 3 hours. The research requirement does not substitute for other course requirements, nor does it generate extra credit.

Failure to satisfy the research requirement will result in an incomplete grade (IN) that will be removed only upon satisfaction of the requirement. For additional information and contacts, please email pssp@unc.edu.

IRB Contact Information: CB 7097 720 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Bldg 385, Second Floor Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7097 Ph: 919-966-3113 Fax: 919-966-7879

Important Resources

Please take a moment to read through these important resources. They will also be available on our Sakai website.

Accessibility Resources and Services

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in barriers to fully accessing University courses, programs and activities.

Accommodations are determined through the Office of Accessibility Resources and Service (ARS) for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. See the [ARS Website](#) for contact information, or email ars@unc.edu.

Counseling and Psychological Services

[CAPS](#) is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu/> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

Policy on Non-Discrimination

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Consistent with this principle and applicable laws, the University's [Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination](#) offers access to its educational programs and activities as well as employment terms and conditions without respect to race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, genetic information, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied.

If you are experiencing harassment or discrimination, you can seek assistance and file a report through the Report and Response Coordinators (see contact info at safe.unc.edu) or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#), or [report an incident](#) online .

Title IX Resources

Any student who is impacted by discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or stalking is encouraged to seek resources on campus or in the community. Reports can be made online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>. Please contact the University's Title IX Coordinator, [Elizabeth Hall](#), the [Report and Response Coordinators in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#), Counseling and Psychological Services (confidential), or the

[Gender Violence Services Coordinators](#) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at <https://safe.unc.edu>.

Grade Appeals

If you feel you have been awarded an incorrect grade, please discuss with me. If we cannot resolve the issue, you may talk to our departmental director of undergraduate studies or appeal the grade through a formal university process based on arithmetic or clerical error, arbitrariness, discrimination, harassment, or personal malice. To learn more, go to the [Academic Advising Program](#) website.

Everyone is welcome to see me during office hours. If my office hours are incompatible with your schedule, we will try to find another time that works. Sometimes I will need to move my office hours around for the week due to meetings, but I will let you know when that happens. You can email me too, especially if the subject is pressing and can't wait for office hours. If you are experiencing an issue that will interfere with your attendance, especially on an exam day, let me know as soon as possible. The key to navigating crises is early communication.

Honor Code

Students are bound by the [Honor Code](#) in taking exams and in written work. The Honor Code of the University is in effect at all times, and the submission of work signifies understanding and acceptance of those requirements. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please consult with me if you have any questions about the Honor Code.

Grading Scale

A	93.00–100.00	B	83.00–86.99	C	73.00–76.99	D	60.00–66.99
A–	90.00–92.99	B–	80.00–82.99	C–	70.00–72.99	F	0–59.99
B+	87.00–89.99	C+	77.00–79.99	D+	67.00–69.99		

Course Materials

The following required book is available in the [UNC Bookstore](#), and for rent at several outlets such as Amazon and Clegg. All other readings are available electronically via the [UNC library e-journals and e-resources databases](#) or on the course Sakai website.

- Frieden, Jeffrey, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, 2022. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Third Edition, W. W. Norton & Company: New York, London (5th edition).

Important Dates

- Midterm Exam: March 2
- Final Exam: May 8

Calendar and Schedule

Date	Topic of the Day	Things to Read Before Class
January 10	Introductions, Course Structure, Discussion of pre-course essay	no readings
January 12	ZOOM: UNC Research on Global Political Knowledge	Crescenzi, et. al., "Global Political Knowledge in Survey Responses" (skim)
January 17, 19	Understanding World Politics	Frieden, Lake & Schultz (FLS): Introduction through Chapter 2
January 24, 26	Why do countries fight wars? UNC Research: Who Wins?	FLS 3 Patricia Sullivan, "War Aims and War Outcomes: Why Powerful States Lose Limited Wars."
Jan 31, Feb 2	What causes civil wars? UNC Research: How civil wars spread UNC Research: Terrorism	FLS 6 (civil war section), Chenoweth, "Terrorism and Democracy" Reid, Kadera, Myrick and Crescenzi, "Conflict Environments and Civil War Onset" Bapat and Zeigler, "Terrorism, Dynamic Commitment Problems, and Military Conflict"
February 7, 9	What is collective security, and can it work? UNC Research: Why is collective security so difficult?	FLS 5 Gent, "Strange Bedfellows: The Strategic Dynamics of Major Power Military Interventions."
February 14	Well-being Day	
February 16	Feminist International Relations Theory	Leprince and Steer, "Bringing Feminist Perspectives to the Forefront of International Security Studies"
February 21	Race as structure in world politics	Zvobgo and Loken, " Why Race Matters in International Relations "

Calendar and Schedule

Date	Topic of the Day	Things to Read Before Class
Feb 21 (cont)		Merze Tate, "The War Aims of World War I and World War II and Their Relation to the Darker Peoples of the World"
February 28	Review: What have we learned about the way the world works?	no readings
March 2	Midterm Exam	
March 7, 9	What drives trade?	FLS 7
	UNC Research: Trade matters at home	Ballard-Rosa, Carnegie, and Gaikwad, "Economic Crises and Trade Policy Competition"
March 14, 16	Spring Break	
March 21	Why is global poverty so persistent?	FLS 10
March 23	UNC Research: Politics and Power in International Development	Tyler Pratt, "Angling for Influence: Institutional Proliferation in Development Banking"
March 28, 30	International Financial Relations	FLS 8
April 4, 11	Does International Law Matter?	FLS 11
April 6	Well-being Day	
April 13	UNC Research: Market Power Politics	Gent & Crescenzi, Market Power Politics, Ch 1
April 18	Where do human rights come from, and who enjoys them?	FLS 12
April 25	Why can't we save the environment?	FLS 13
April 27	Last Class: What have we learned?	no readings
May 8	Final Exam	4:00-7:00pm