

**030:060/POLI 1500: Introduction to International Relations
W290 CB, 3:30-4:20pm TTh, plus discussion sections**

INSTRUCTORS

Professor Sara Mitchell
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Email: sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu
Office hours: Tuesday, 10-11:30am; Wednesday, 1:30-3:00pm
Course website: icon.uiowa.edu

Teaching Assistants

Ms. Ruoxi Du
330 SH
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Office hours: Tuesday, 11:00am-12:00pm; Wednesday, 4:20-5:20pm; Thursday, 2:20-3:20pm

Ms. Kyu Young Lee
323 SH
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Mr. Spencer Willardson
357 SH
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Office hours: Monday, 4:00-5:30pm; Thursday, 9:30-11:00am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, you will learn about several contemporary issues in international politics and the analytical tools to analyze them. Major parts of the course cover such topics as the dynamics of conflict and cooperation, the processes of foreign policy decision-making, major international economic issues, and basic future trends in global politics. The course also provides an overview of the primary perspectives and analytical approaches for studying world politics. The overall objective is to give students sufficient awareness of the interaction of political, technological, economic, and social factors to permit a critical appreciation of the contemporary international environment and ways of thinking about the future.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your final course grade is based on discussion section attendance, section exercises/simulations, and three exams. The final grades are calculated as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Discussion Section Attendance | 10% |
| Section Exercises/Simulations | 30% |
| Exams (3 exams, 20% each) | 60% |

Class/Discussion Section Attendance (10%)

The main lecture meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-4:20 p.m. in W290 CB. You are expected to attend class and take notes. Although we will not take attendance in the main lecture, much of the material for the exams is taken from lecture notes. We will use material for lecture that is not covered in the readings. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes from a classmate.

Each student is also assigned to one of the discussion sections listed below:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| Section A02 (Du) | Thursday | 8:30-9:20am | 131 SH |
| Section A03 (Lee) | Tuesday | 11:00-11:50am | 51 SH |
| Section A04 (Willardson) | Thursday | 11:00-11:50am | 31 SH |
| Section A06 (Lee) | Monday | 12:30-1:20pm | 131 SH |
| Section SCA (Willardson) | Monday | 5:30-6:20pm | 151 SH |
| Section SCB (Du) | Wednesday | 5:30-6:20pm | 151 SH |
| Section SCC (Lee) | Tuesday | 5:00-5:50pm | 3 SH |
| Section SCD (Du) | Thursday | 5:00-5:50pm | 131 SH |

These sections are designed to facilitate discussion about the course material in a smaller class environment. You are **required** to attend your discussion section each week. Attendance in the discussion section will account for 10% of your final course grade. The teaching assistants for the course will determine your attendance grade. You will be allowed to miss *one* discussion section class throughout the semester that will not count against your final attendance grade. Check the detailed class schedule below to determine which weeks your discussion section will be cancelled due to university holidays or other reasons.

Section Exercises/Simulations (30%)

You will be randomly assigned to five topics in your discussion sections throughout the semester. On these days, you must submit a two page paper summarizing the issue being discussed in the readings. These assignments will be submitted electronically on ICON and they must be posted at least **two hours before** the start of your section or you will receive zero credit. You will also write a one page reaction paper about what you learned in *three* of the five simulations you participated in during the class. These will also be posted electronically on ICON and they are due **two hours prior** to the start of discussion section the week after the simulations have taken place. You can drop your lowest grade for the issue and simulation papers. If you miss an assignment, it will count as the dropped one.

Examinations (60%)

There are a total of three multiple choice exams in this course. The first two exams are scheduled on Thursday, February 28th and Thursday, April 4th. The last exam will be scheduled during finals week, with the day and time yet to be determined by the university. The final exam is NOT comprehensive. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies (e.g. death in the family). If an emergency arises, you will need to contact the instructor **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

Grading Scale: The grading scale (in percentages) for the course is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------|---|-------|----|
| 99-100 | A+ | 93-98 | A | 90-92 | A- |
| 87-89 | B+ | 83-86 | B | 80-82 | B- |
| 77-79 | C+ | 73-76 | C | 70-72 | C- |
| 67-69 | D+ | 63-66 | D | 60-62 | D- |
| 59 or below | F | | | | |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (Available at University Bookstore or Iowa Book)

1) Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, 2nd Edition. New York: WW Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-91238-8.

2) *Issues in International Relations: Custom Edition*. CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-4522-2840-2. The CQ Press reader is only available in electronic format. The main textbook can be purchased in hardback or ebook formats. See the additional document on ICON for ordering information.

DISCUSSION AND READING SCHEDULE

Readings listed for each day should be completed *before* the class meeting.

FLS: Frieden, Lake, and Schultz book; CQ: Issues in International Relations book

Week 1:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Jan. 22 | Introduction and Overview of Course FLS, Introduction, pp. xix-xxxiii |
| Thursday, Jan. 24 | What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction FLS, Chapter 1 |
| Discussion Sections | No sections in week #1 |

Week 2:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Jan. 29 | Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions FLS, Chapter 2 |
| Thursday, Jan. 31 | Why are There Wars? FLS, Chapter 3, pp. 80-105 “War Really is Going Out of Style”, by Joshua Goldstein and Steven Pinker, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/18/opinion/sunday/war-really-is-going-out-of-style.html?_r=1&src=rechp |
| Discussion Sections | Special topic, “A Primer on Game Theory”, FLS pp. 75-79 <i>Simulation</i> , “Win as much as you can” |

Week 3:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Feb. 5 | Why are There Wars? FLS, Chapter 3, pp. 105-123 |
| Thursday, Feb. 7 | Domestic Politics and War FLS, Chapter 4, pp. 124-146 |
| Discussion Sections | CQ, “Nuclear Proliferation” |

Week 4:

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Domestic Politics and War
FLS, Chapter 4, pp. 147-167

Thursday, Feb. 14

International Institutions and War
FLS, Chapter 5, pp. 168-188
CQ, "Future of NATO"

Discussion Sections

Week 5:

Tuesday, Feb. 19

International Institutions and War
FLS, Chapter 5, pp. 188-213

Thursday, Feb. 21

Violence by Non-State Actors: Civil War and Terrorism
FLS, Chapter 6, pp. 214-242
CQ, "Remembering 9/11"
Simulation, "Terrorism"

Discussion Sections

Week 6:

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Violence by Non-State Actors: Civil War and Terrorism
FLS, Chapter 6, pp. 242-263

Thursday, Feb. 28

Exam I

Discussion Sections

CQ, "Turmoil in the Arab World"

Week 7:

Tuesday, Mar. 5

International Trade
FLS, Chapter 7, pp. 264-287
Special topic, "Comparative Advantage", FLS pp. 306-311

Thursday, Mar. 7

International Trade
FLS, Chapter 7, pp. 287-305

Discussion Sections

CQ, "China in Latin America"
*Simulation, "Cartel game"***Week 8:**

Tuesday, Mar. 12

The Wealth and Poverty of Nations
FLS, Chapter 10, pp. 386-406

Thursday, Mar. 14

The Wealth and Poverty of Nations
FLS, Chapter 10, pp. 406-419

Discussion Sections

CQ, "Millennium Development Goals"
*Simulation, "Hunger games"***Week 9:****Week 10:**

Tuesday, Mar. 26

International Monetary Relations
FLS, Chapter 9, pp. 350-367

Thursday, Mar. 28

International Monetary Relations
FLS, Chapter 9, pp. 367-385

Discussion Section

CQ, "Euro Crisis"

Week 11:

Tuesday, Apr. 2

International Financial Relations
FLS, Chapter 8Thursday, Apr. 4
Discussion Sections**Exam II**
CQ, "US-China Relations"**Week 12:**

Tuesday, Apr. 9

IGOs, NGOs, and Peacekeeping
Fortna, Virginia Page. 2003. "Inside and Out: Peacekeeping and
the Duration of Peace after Civil and Interstate Wars." (ICON)

Thursday, Apr. 11

International Law and Norms
FLS, Chapter 11, pp. 420-434
CQ, "World Peacekeeping"

Discussion Sections

Week 13:

Tuesday, Apr. 16

International Law and Norms
FLS, Chapter 11, pp. 434-451

Thursday, Apr. 18

Human Rights
FLS, Chapter 12, pp. 452-473

Discussion Sections

CQ, "Human Rights: How Much Progress after 50 Years?"

Week 14:

Tuesday, Apr. 23

Human Rights
FLS, Chapter 12, pp. 473-491

Thursday, Apr. 25

Women's Security as State's Security
Hudson, Valerie M., Mary Caprioli, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Rose
McDermott, and Chad F. Emmett. 2008/09. "The Heart of the
Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States." (ICON)

Discussion Sections

CQ, "Women's Rights: Are Violence and Discrimination Against
Women Declining?"**Week 15:**

Tuesday, Apr. 30

The Global Environment
FLS, Chapter 13, pp. 492-517

Thursday, May 2

The Global Environment
FLS, Chapter 13, pp. 517-533

Discussion Sections

CQ, "Climate Change"
*Simulation, "Lifeboat-Spaceship"***Week 16:**

Tuesday, May 7

The Future of International Politics
FLS, Chapter 14, pp. 534-557

Thursday, May 9

The Future of International Politics
FLS, Chapter 14, pp. 557-579

Discussion Sections

Review for final exam

Teaching Policies & Procedures

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (*Operations Manual*, [III.15.2](#), k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the [IOWA Challenge](#). I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced around the fifth week of the semester by the Registrar. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. **No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes.** All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the dates and times of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO (Political Science: Professor Cameron Thies; cameron-thies@uiowa.edu). Complaints must be made within six months of the incident ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the [Department of Public Safety website](#).

Student Resources: The Writing Center www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/ and the Campus Information Center's Tutor Referral Services <http://imu.uiowa.edu/cic/> at the IMU.

*These CLAS policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) and The University of Iowa [Operations Manual](#).