

# POLI 180: International Relations

## (Fall 2017)

**Professor:** Mert Kartal

**Email:** mkartal@uwsp.edu

**Office:** CCC 480

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:55-11:45AM, and by appointment

### **Class Meeting:**

Section 1: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-10:50AM (CCC 213) and Friday 10:00-10:50AM (CCC 213)

Section 2: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-10:50AM (CCC 213) and Friday 11:00-11:50AM (CCC 114)

**Course Website:** <https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/d2l/home/3847623>

## Overview and Goals

International politics is the study of the causes and effects of the major events that occur among and across states. This includes conflict and war, international trade and investment, foreign policy decision-making, economic development, human rights, global environmental concerns, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, globalization, and international organizations and institutions.

This course will introduce the topics, concepts, and theories of international politics, providing a greater understanding of the facts of international relations as well as analytical and conceptual tools with which to understand them. It will ask how and why states, politicians, corporations, non-governmental organizations, individuals, and other international actors make the choices they do, and how they interact (e.g., when they cooperate and when they come into conflict). It will explore how these dynamics create the forces and factors which shape the major events in the international world. It will develop the tools to answer questions about why these events occur, why they take the shape they do, and how they are similar to or different from each other.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to ...

- ... describe the basic facts (e.g., anarchy) and patterns (e.g., interstate cooperation and conflict) of international politics.
- ... explain the three major paradigms (i.e., realism, liberalism, and constructivism) as well as several methods (e.g., quantitative, qualitative) developed by scholars of international relations to explain these patterns.
- ... analyze the conditions under which states (fail to) make political decisions with implications for the international community.
- ... communicate their interpretation of international political developments to their peer students clearly, concisely, and convincingly.

## Assignments and Grading

Grades for the course will be assigned according to completion of the following course assignments:

- Quizzes: 10%
- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 10%
- Online Discussion Board: up to 5% (extra)
- First Midterm: 20%
- Second Midterm: 20%
- Final Exam: 35%

Your final point total for the semester will translate into letter grades as shown below: (The scale may be revised if needed.)

- 92.5 and above: A
- 92.4-89.5: A-
- 89.4-86.5: B+
- 86.4-82.5: B
- 82.4-79.5: B-
- 79.4-76.5: C+
- 76.4-72.5: C
- 72.4-69.5: C-
- 69.4-64.5: D+
- 64.4-59.5: D
- 59.4 and below: F

*Quizzes:* In order to provide steady feedback on your progress, we will have seven online quizzes during the course of the semester. Each quiz will consist of 10 (or fewer) multiple choice questions on the reading material assigned for the week the quiz takes place. Questions will aim to reward the students who do the assigned readings IN A TIMELY MANNER. The quizzes will become available on Saturday 12:01AM and must be completed by 11:59PM. *You will have 15 minutes to do the quiz once you begin; you will be allowed to have only one attempt and will not be able to pause the allocated time.* The quizzes will be given on a RANDOM basis—that is, you will not know beforehand which Saturday exactly they will take place. At the end of the semester, each student’s two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

*Attendance:* The course is divided into lecture and discussion sections, and attendance at both is required. That being said, there are NO penalties for the first THREE unexcused absences, but these will be counted when calculating the penalties that start after you have had three unexcused absences. If you have four unexcused absences, you lose one attendance point; if you have six unexcused absences, you lose three attendance points; etc. Excused absences do not count against these limits, but you must provide official documentation (e.g., doctor’s note) to have absences count as excused.

*Participation:* Starting with the second week of the semester, we will have in-class discussions almost every Friday. For each discussion, we will have a brief case study focusing on some aspect of the material covered in class. The week’s case study and a number of questions intended to kick off discussion will be posted on D2L (under the “Content” tab) at least one week in advance. Active participation in our discussions is an important and required element of the course, and it will be critical to successfully learning the material. Hence, you should be prepared to answer questions that are posed, ask questions about concepts that are not clear, challenge viewpoints expressed in the reading or class discussion, and be involved in the conversations. These discussions must always be conducted with an air of respect for differing viewpoints and the people who present them, and with an open mind (e.g., arguing for positions even if you are not yet certain of them, and being willing to consider new arguments or information). Participation grades will be based not just on attendance but on active involvement.

**For “honors” section only:** Twice during the course of the semester, each one of you will lead discussion (usually in tandem with another classmate). In preparation for this, student(s) leading discussion for that week will provide at least two good questions (per person) from the case study assigned for the week. (Please note that “good” means “cleverly designed to engage your fellow students in discussion.”) Discussion questions should be submitted to me (at mkartal@uwsp.edu) before Thursday noon (i.e., by 11:59AM). I will post the questions on the course’s D2L page as soon as possible in an effort to give all of you enough time to arrange your thoughts/comments and prepare for discussion. Discussion leaders will be expected to “kick off” discussion with some motivating questions AND to steer the discussion along.

*Online Discussion Board (extra credit):* In addition to in-class participation, there are discussion topics under the “Discussions” menu tab on the course’s D2L page for each week grouped into forums by the overall part of the course. If, for example, you have a question about a concept that you did not have a chance to raise during a class meeting, I would strongly encourage you to post your question to the relevant topic as well as respond to the other students’ questions IN A TIMELY MANNER (i.e., within the same week). More often than not, we will not have enough time to cover every question you might have about the assigned material, or sometimes you might feel like you did not have a chance to voice your opinion sufficiently during our in-class discussions. If so, you might consider using the online discussion board to continue discussion outside of the classroom. Feel free to post your opinions/comments, respond to questions/comments from other students, and participate in the general conversation. Please be civil and respectful in your discussions; it is the right thing to do, and, unlike on the web more generally, you are not anonymous in the context of this course. While you should NOT consider this online activity a substitute for in-class discussions, it is a great “extra credit” opportunity for you to improve your overall course grade. To maximize your “online discussion board” grade, it is imperative you use the discussion board often and regularly during the course of the semester.

*Exams:* There will be three exams during the term: two midterms and a final. Each midterm will be composed of a number of multiple choice questions and short-answer questions. The first midterm, on Friday, October 13 in class, will cover material from Section I (Foundations and Analytical Methods). The second midterm, on Friday, November 17 in class, will cover material from Section II (International Security) and Section III (International Organizations). The final exam will take place on Wednesday, December 20 at 12:30PM. The final will contain a number of multiple choice questions and/or short-answer questions covering the material from Section IV (International Political Economy) and one comprehensive essay question covering all the material. A few 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.

**Missed Exams:** Please take note of all exam dates and make plans around them. Except in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, makeup exams will NOT be offered. Any requests for accommodations must be made at least one week in advance to be considered. I understand that emergencies happen. In a genuine emergency, I am very willing to work with you. I will, however, require documentation of emergencies (e.g., notes from doctors, emergency room personnel, etc.) in all instances.

**Re-grading Policy:** If you feel that any assignment has been graded incorrectly, you may request that it be regraded. However, you must wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. Following such “cooling-off” period, you must provide a 1-2 page double-spaced memo indicating the reason for your concern and why you deserve a better grade. Please note that this memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work (i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students). Upon receiving your memo, I will regrade the ENTIRE assignment in question within 72 hours. This means that the revised grade may be higher or lower than what you originally received. So please be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking us to make any changes; this is not a risk-free process!

## Special Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>.

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, and then contact me as early as possible (within the first two weeks of the semester, or as soon as those needs arise) to discuss how they can be met within the structure of the course. I will make every effort not only to maintain the confidentiality of personal information but also to enable full participation in this course by all students.

For more information, visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center. More information is also available at <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability>.

**Section Switching:** Because one of the two sections is designated for "honors" students by the university, section switching will NOT be possible, and there will be no exceptions to this policy.

## Communications and Technology

**Contacting me:** I strongly encourage you drop in to my office hours (no need to set up an appointment) or set up a meeting if there is anything you would like to discuss about the course. My office hours are the time for you to get individual help. You can come see me during office hours to clear your mind about issues/terms that you feel you do not quite understand and/or to talk about any course-related issue that you would rather not bring up in front of your fellow classmates, etc.

I generally answer emails very quickly from Monday 8:30AM to Friday 4:30PM (Feel free to email me again if you do not hear within 24 hours during these times). However, please do consult the syllabus or other course materials first to see if the answer to your question is there, and recognize that broader substantive questions will probably be best addressed at in-person meetings.

**D2L:** There is a D2L page set up for this class: <https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/d2l/home/3847623>. I strongly encourage you to access this webpage regularly and get accustomed to using it. There you will find the syllabus and other materials that you will need as they become available. The D2L page contains also a news box that I will use to post announcements and reminders.

## Academic Integrity and the Honor Code

UW-Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. For more information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>.

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is a very serious offense that will get you in great trouble. There are now thoroughly reliable software programs to check if plagiarism has occurred. In all your classes, please use proper citation form for all materials obtained from primary and secondary sources.

The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. Generally the matter will then be referred to the Dean of Students for a formal hearing at the Student-Faculty Committee on Student Conduct. Depending on the circumstances, the committee may suspend or expel a student that behaves dishonestly. This will make it extremely difficult for you to gain entrance

to graduate schools and will jeopardize your opportunities with a large number of employers in the future.

For further information, please come talk to me and/or see the university's rules and procedures for student academic misconduct available here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx> as well as the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the Rights and Responsibilities document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

## Classroom Etiquette

Please remember to turn off your cell phones before coming to class and refrain from eating. Drinks, on the other hand, are permissible.

Arriving late or leaving during class is usually disruptive both for me and for your classmates. Please make every effort to be on time. If you come to class, plan to stay for the whole session. If you know in advance that you have to leave early, let me know before class begins.

## Course Resources and Readings

Readings for each week are indicated on the syllabus and should be completed prior to the first class meeting of the week in which they are assigned. Additional readings covering case studies in current or recent international events will be distributed via D2L.

The main textbook for this course is Goldstein and Pevehouse's *International Relations* (Pearson, 2013-2014 Update, 10/E), which is available through Text Rental. Supplemental readings will be posted on the course's D2L website.

In addition, students are expected to read a major daily newspaper (online or print) with coverage of international events, such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Financial Times*. These and others are available at the library or online. Lectures will frequently reference relevant current international events, and being conversant with what is going on in the world will be important to contribute to discussions and do well on exams. Be prepared to talk about how these events fit into the substantive concepts we are learning, and how we can apply the analytic tools we are using to understand them more fully.

**Slides:** I will post lecture slides on the course's D2L page prior to each lecture. These slides are intended to allow you to anticipate the topics discussed and facilitate your note-taking. Please note, however, that the lecture slides should not be seen as a substitute for attending class, doing the readings, or taking notes.

## Schedule

### I. Foundations and Analytical Methods

#### Week 1: Introduction

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 2-19

September 5: Course Overview)

September 7: Key Concepts and Levels of Analysis

September 8: In-class Discussion of Levels of Analysis

### **Week 2: Alliterative Frames and History**

- *E-Reserve*: Frieden, J., D. Lake, and K. Schultz. 2009. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, W.W. Norton, pp. 40-74.
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 26-38

September 12: Interests, Interactions, Institutions

September 14: History of the World, 1648-2014

September 15: In-class Discussion of "Case Study 1" (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

### **Week 3: The -Isms: Realism**

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 43-60
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 75-79
- *E-Reserve*: Morgenthau, H. J. 1967. *Politics Among Nations*. NY: Knopf, pp. 3-14.

September 19 and 21: Realism

September 22: In-class Discussion of "Case Study 2" (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

### **Week 4: The -Isms: Liberalism**

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 85-96

September 26 and 28: Liberalism

September 29 : In-class Discussion of "Case Study 3" (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

### **Week 5: The -Isms: Constructivism**

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 96-102

October 3 and 5: Constructivism

October 6: In-class Discussion of "Case Study 4" (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

### **Week 6: Review and Exam**

- *No reading*

October 10: Wrap-up

October 12: Review Session

October 13: FIRST MIDTERM (in-class)

## **II. International Security**

### **Week 7: Causes of War**

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 153-156 and 160-186
- *E-Reserve*: Frieden, J., D. Lake, and K. Schultz. 2009. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, W.W. Norton, pp. 82-121.

October 17: Causes of War (Material Conflicts and Ideological Conflicts)

October 19: Bargaining and War

October 20: In-class Discussion of "Case Study 5" (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

### **Week 8: Terrorism and WMDs**

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 204-209
- *E-Reserve*: Kydd, A. H. and B. F. Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security* 31(1): 49-80.
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 209-222

October 24: History, Causes, and Strategies of Terrorism  
October 26: Weapons of Mass Destruction and Arms Control  
October 27: In-class Discussion of “Case Study 6” (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

### III. International Organizations

#### Week 9: International Integration I

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 233-252

October 31: Organizations, regimes, institutions  
November 2: The United Nations  
November 3: In-class Discussion of “Case Study 7” (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

#### Week 10: International Integration II

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 254-261 and 264-276
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 354-370

November 7: International Law and Human Rights  
November 9: The European Union  
November 10: In-class Discussion of “Case Study 8” (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

#### Week 11: Review and Exam

- *No reading*

November 14: Wrap-up  
November 16: Review Session  
November 17: SECOND MIDTERM (in-class)

### IV. International Political Economy

#### Week 12: International Trade

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 283-294
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 294-309

November 21: International Trade  
November 23: No class (Happy Turkey Day!)  
November 24: No class (Happy Turkey Day!)

#### Week 13: International Finance and Business

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 321-341

November 28: International Finance  
November 30: International Finance Institutions  
December 1: In-class Discussion of “Case Study 10” (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

#### Week 14: North-South Relations I

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 387-396
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 409-413

December 5: Environment  
December 7: Population  
December 8: In-class Discussion of “Case Study 11” (*Note: Short reading and questions posted on D2L*)

**Week 15: North-South Relations II**

- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 440-454
- *Goldstein and Pevehouse*, pp. 461-484

December 12: Development Issues

December 14: International Development

December 15: Wrap-up

**\*\*\* FINAL EXAM \*\*\***

Both sections: Wednesday, December 20 at 12:30PM in CCC 213