

Lafayette College
Government and Law

GOVT 102: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

SPRING 2020

MWF 2:10 - 3:00 pm (Kirby 104)

Professor Juheon Lee

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Course Description

International Relations (IR) is a subfield of political science that studies the interactions among various actors that participate in international politics. It studies the behaviors of the actors as they participate individually and together in international political processes. This course is designed to introduce students to key concepts and major theoretical and methodological components of international relations. The overriding theme of this course is to address some key questions of IR: How can we study the multifaceted phenomenon of international relations? How can we think theoretically about what appear to be disconnected events? What are the characteristics of human nature and the state? What is the relationship between the individual and society?

We will cover several widely used theories that help to explain recurring patterns in international relations, including realism, liberalism, Marxism, and constructivism. Along with these theories, we will explore basic concepts used by IR scholars, such as the state, the nation, anarchy, and power. Then we will move on to studying the different ways we can analyze conflict or cooperation among countries by studying the international system, the inner workings of the state, or the inner workings of the human mind. Classes will include discussions, debates, and student presentations, which will help students stay up to date on current issues and gain better understanding of the variety and the evolution of political arrangements around the world.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- identify and distinguish between the different types of explanations of international politics
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of theoretical arguments through the logical examination of evidence
- think critically about world events and develop clearly articulated arguments
- apply theoretical knowledge to various policy issues in international relations.

Course Requirements

Completing ALL the readings and regular attendance will be required of all students. Active participation in class discussions is critical for students to succeed in this course. Students should make special efforts to arrive on time. They should inform the instructor ahead of time if they need to be late or leave before the class ends.

Course Grading Criteria:

Assignment	Weight	Notes
Final exam	25%	In-class exam
Midterm exam	25%	In-class exam
Reading responses	15%	5 response papers (>500 words, 3% each)
Current issue presentation	20%	Case studies + discussion leading
Class participation and Attendance	15%	

- 1. Exams (Midterm 25% / Final 25%):** East exam will consist of 2-3 long essays. They will test your understanding of the key concepts of international relations and the main arguments of the assigned articles. The exams will also ask you to apply a theoretical framework to the real-world examples.
- 2. Reading Response (15%):** You will choose 5 class periods (at least 2 before midterm exam) and respond to one of the assigned readings. Your response must be critical and go beyond a summary or a description of the readings. A good response paper will compare or critique the readings using some analytical tools covered in previous classes. All papers should be submitted electronically to me (leeju@lafayette.edu) before the class for which the reading is assigned starts.
- 3. Current Issue Presentation (20%):** Students will work in groups for a slide presentation (45-50 minutes). The presentation should include an in-depth case study on a topical issue and some discussion questions. Each group will decide their own presentation topic by the end of the first week. Effective and interactive presentations will earn extra credit.
- 4. Attendance:** Attendance is vital to learning the material presented in this course. If you miss more than 2 of this semester's classes (without Dean's Excuses), you will not be eligible for a final grade of A, regardless of your other assignment grades. If you miss more than 5 of this semester's classes, you will not be eligible for a final grade above a B-, regardless of your other assignment grades. Missing more than 8 of the classes will result in a failing grade for the course. If an extraordinary circumstance arises, please discuss it with me immediately.
- 5. Participation:** Class participation will play an important role in exploring and understanding the material presented. Please come to class prepared to engage thoughtfully, listen attentively, and interact with your peers respectfully. If you find participating in class difficult for any reason, please speak with me so that we can discuss strategies for increasing your participation.

At the end of each class, I may give a short, open-ended question to the class and collect your written responses. The purpose of this activity is for me to better understand and communicate with students. Interesting thoughts and perspectives will be introduced and appreciated at the beginning of the next class. Answers will not be graded but may earn extra credits.

Final grade will be based on the quality of assignments listed above. Make-up exams will be granted only in case of dire and documented personal emergencies. Final grades will be determined using the following percentage scale:

A = 100 – 93	A- = 92 – 90	B ⁺ = 89 – 87	B = 86 – 83	B- = 82 – 80
C ⁺ = 79 – 77	C = 76 – 73	C- = 72 – 70	D ⁺ = 69 – 67	D = 66 – 63
D- = 62 – 60	F ≤ 60			

On Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work. For specific examples of and College policies on academic dishonesty, both intentional and inadvertent, please consult the *Student Handbook*, available online at <http://studentlife.lafayette.edu/student-handbook/>.

Student Disability Services

Lafayette is committed to assisting students with disabilities fully participate in all programs and activities at the college. In compliance with Lafayette College policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students must register with the Office of the Dean of the College for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. Students with disabilities may contact Disability Services through ATTIC. You can find more information online at <http://attic.lafayette.edu/disability-services/>.

On Electronics and Courtesy

All electronic messaging devices must be turned off and stowed away by the time class begins: no e-mail/Facebook/text message checking, net surfing, etc. during class time. The use of laptops and tablets is prohibited in class except when explicitly permitted by the instructor. Out of courtesy to your classmates and your instructor, please come to class on time and do not leave until the class ends, unless you obtained prior permission, and do not engage in private conversations in class.

Textbooks

1. Karen A. Mingst, Heather Elko McKibben, and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. (2019). *Essentials of International Relations* (8th Edition). ISBN: 978-0-393-64327-5. W. W. Norton & Company. Referred to as “the text”
2. Karen A. Mingst, Jack L. Snyder, and Heather Elko McKibben. (2019). *Essential Readings in World Politics* (7th Edition). ISBN: 978-0-393-66461-4. W. W. Norton & Company. Referred to as the “the reader”

Course Schedule

Week 1: Approaches to International Relations

Why do we study international politics? What are the major components of studying international relations? How can the study of international relations be made more scientific? What are the problems with doing so?

Monday, January 27

- Introduction (No reading)

Wednesday, January 29

- Chapter 1 (Text, pp. 3-18)
- Thucydides, *Melian Dialogue* (Reader, pp. 16-20)
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Reader, pp. 21-23)

Friday, January 31

- Chapter 1 (Text, pp. 3-18)
- Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace* (Reader, pp. 24-26)

Week 2: The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations

How have historical circumstances shaped core concepts of international politics? Why are the Treaties of Westphalia often viewed as the beginning of modern international relation? Has colonization by the great powers of Europe ended? Was the Cold War really cold?

Monday, February 3

- Chapter 2 (Text, pp. 19-42)
- Woodrow Wilson, *The Fourteen Points* (Reader, pp. 48-50)
- X, *The Sources of Soviet conduct* (posted online)

Wednesday, February 5

- Chapter 2 (Text, pp. 42-65)
- Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History* (Reader, pp. 51-62)

Friday, February 7

- Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilization* (Reader, pp. 63-69)
- John Ikenberry, *The End of Liberal Int'l Order* (Reader, pp. 70-83)

Week 3: International Relations Theories I

What are the central tenets of the mainstream international relations theories? Why the explanations differ widely when the facts are the same? Can several be right?

Monday, February 10

- Chapter 3 (Text, pp. 66-92)
- Jack Snyder, *One World, Rival Theories* (Reader, pp. 3-15)

Wednesday, February 12

- Hans Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations* (Reader, pp. 86-90)
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Reader, pp. 91-108)

Friday, February 14

- Student Presentation 1

Week 4: International Relations Theories II

Are domestic politics driving the interstate relations? Has an identity crisis influenced state behavior? How about norms and ideas? Among some critiques of international relations theory, which do you find the most convincing?

Monday, February 17

- Chapter 3 (Text, pp. 92-105)
- Michael Doyle, *Liberalism and World Politics* (Reader, pp. 109-123)
- Alexander Wendt, *Anarchy Is What States Make of It* (Reader, pp. 124-145)

Wednesday, February 19

- V. I. Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (Reader, pp. 146-153)

Friday, February 21

- Student Presentation 2

Week 5: Levels of Analysis

How can we explain the drastic change in the relationship between countries? Is it the distribution of power between the states in the system? Is it the relationship between the state themselves? Or is it the individuals that matter most?

Monday, February 24

- Chapter 4 (Text, pp. 106-123)
- Hans Morgenthau, *The Balance of Power* (Reader, pp. 156-162)

Wednesday, February 26

- Chapter 4 (Text, pp. 124-147)
- Thomas Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (Reader, pp. 196-211)
- Saunders, "Is Trump a normal foreign-policy president?" (posted online)

Friday, February 28

- Student Presentation 3

Week 6: The State and the Challenges of the State

What is the difference between the state and the nation? How do they interact? What are the challenges to the power of the state?

Monday, March 2

- Chapter 5 (Text, pp. 148-156)
- Jeffrey Herbst, War and the state in Africa (posted online)

Wednesday, March 4

- Chapter 5 (Text, pp. 173-185)
- Cohen, E. S. (2001). Globalization and the boundaries of the state: A framework for analyzing the changing practice of sovereignty. *Governance*, 14(1), 75-97. (posted online)

Friday, March 6

- Student Presentation 4

Week 7: The State and the Tools of Statecraft

States do not always take the same actions as the states they are interacting with. How can we explain the different actions and strategies states use? When will they use force? When will they instead use economic sanctions? And when will they choose diplomatic actions as the strategy of choice? Which factors have affected a state's foreign policy?

Monday, March 9

- Chapter 5 (Text, pp.157-173)
- Robert Putnam, *Diplomacy and Domestic Politics* (Reader, pp. 253-270)

Wednesday, March 11

- Barry Posen, *The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict* (Reader, pp. 271-280)
- Midterm Review

Friday, March 13

- Midterm

Week 8: War and Security

Fall Break (March 16 – 20)

Week 9: War and Security

How can states protect their citizens? How has the nature of national security changed over time? What constitutes war and what does not? What are the appropriate types of responses to different types of threats to national security? What are the just causes of war? How might war and other threats to national security be prevented? Why does terrorism happen?

Monday, March 23

- Chapter 6 (Text, pp. 186-205)
- Kenneth Waltz, *Why Iran should get the bomb* (Reader, pp. 321-324)
- Virginia Page Fortana, *Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes* (Reader, pp. 340-359)

Wednesday, March 25

- Chapter 6 (Text, pp. 206-231)
- Thomas Schelling, *The Diplomacy of Violence* (Reader, pp. 288-296)
- Borghard and Lonergan, *The Logic of Coercion in Cyberspace* (Reader, pp. 360-381)

Friday, March 27

- Student Presentation 5

Week 10 International Cooperation and International Law

Wars might get the biggest headlines, but international cooperation is happening every day. Why do states choose to cooperate instead of escalating conflict? Why do states often agree to comply with international law?

Monday, March 30

- Chapter 7 (Text, pp. 232-245)
- Robert Jervis, *Cooperation under the Security Dilemma* (Reader, pp. 384-398)
- Axelrod and Keohane, *Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy* (Reader, pp. 399-417)

Wednesday, April 1

- Chapter 7 (Text, pp. 246-267)
- Guzman, *International Law: A Compliance-Based Theory* (Reader, pp. 418-445)
- Harold Koh, *How is International Human Rights Law Enforced?* (Reader, pp. 446-462)

Friday, April 3

- Student Presentation 6

Week 11: International Political Economy

How does the international economy work, and who does it work for? Why is economic globalization so controversial? Why in the last decade have we seen a reaction against globalization generally and economic liberalism specifically?

Monday, April 6

- Chapter 8 (Text, pp. 268-303)
- John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan* (posted online)

Wednesday, April 8

- Chapter 8 (Text, pp. 303-317)
- Edward Alden, *Failure to Adjust: How Americans Got Left Behind in the Global Economy* (Reader, pp. 472-489)
- Fareed Zakaria, *Populism on the March* (Reader, pp. 490-495)

Friday, April 10

- Student Presentation 7

Week 12: Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations

What are the possibilities and limitations of international governmental organizations, given that the members of these organizations are states? Who are these organizations for? What roles can international nongovernmental organizations play in addressing key world problems?

Monday, April 13

- Chapter 9 (Text, pp. 318-353)
- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Reader, pp. 538-553)

Wednesday, April 15

- Chapter 9 (Text, pp. 353-363)
- Keck and Sikkink, *Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Reader, pp. 564-574)

Friday, April 17

- Student Presentation 8

Week 13: IGOs and Human Rights

Why the international community has so often failed to respond to allegations of human rights violation?

Monday, April 20

- Samantha Power, *Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen* (Reader, pp. 517-537)
- Watch: Hotel Rwanda

Wednesday, April 22

- Watch: Hotel Rwanda

Friday, April 24

- Student Presentation 9

Week 14: Human Rights

If human rights are inalienable and universal, aren't they be applicable to all people, in all states, religions, and cultures, without exception? Can some rights be prioritized over others? Who has the responsibility and the right to respond to violations of human rights?

Monday, April 27

- Chapter 10 (Text, pp. 364-384)
- Jack Donnelly, *Human rights and Cultural Relativism* (Reader, pp. 627-640)

Wednesday, April 29

- Chapter 10 (Text, pp. 384-399)
- Kenneth Roth, *Defending Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Practical Issues Faced by an International Human Rights Organization* (Reader, pp. 669-675)

Friday, May 1

- Student Presentation 10

Week 15: Human Security: Migration, Global Health, and the Environment

What makes migration, health, and the environment transnational issues of human security? How can we think conceptually about such issues? How do these issues intersect with traditional conceptions of sovereignty, security, and economics? How would a realist, a liberal, and a constructivist address these issues?

Monday, May 4

- Chapter 11 (Text, pp. 400-442)
- Garrett Hardin, *The Tragedy of the Commons* (Reader, pp. 677-687)

Wednesday, May 6

- Hudson and Matfess, *In Plain Sight: The Neglected Linkage between Brideprice and Violent Conflict* (Reader, pp. 699-717)
- Kate Cronin-Furman, *Six Questions about the Rohingya* (Reader, pp. 718-724)

Friday, May 8

- Final Exam Review

Final Exam (May 11-18)