



PS 231: Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2013
Tuesdays, 18:00 - 20:45
0G109 Caldwell Hall

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 15:00 - 16:15 or by appt.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the key concepts and issues within the field of international relations in order to help students better understand how states and non-state actors interact with each other in the global community. The first half of the course will focus on foundational concepts and issues, such as the history of international relations, understanding levels of analysis in studying international relations, and finally theories of international relations. The second part of the course will focus on practical issues facing the world and how international relations helps understand and potentially solve these problems. Key issues include international institutions, human rights, the environment, and international political economy.

Textbooks:

There are three required books for this course. All books are available from the NC State bookstore or available online. The two textbooks may be bought together, as a package, at a discount from the bookstore.

Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, 2009. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions* (2nd edition). WN Norton.

Mingst and Arreguin-Toft, 2010. *Essentials of International Relations* (5th edition). WN Norton.

Drezner, 2011. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* (1st edition). Princeton University Press.

Statecraft Simulation. Available online at <http://www.statecraftsim.com>.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for introduction to international relations. However, having a keen interest in the world and how states interact with each other will make the class more fulfilling. If you are not already actively reading the news from reliable sources, now is a good time to start!

Grade Policy:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on Moodle unless otherwise specified. For every 24 hours an assignment is late, a third of a letter grade will be deducted from final grade of the assignment. If you cannot take an exam at the scheduled time, please let me know as soon as possible in order to schedule an appropriate makeup date and time.

Grading:

Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%
Statecraft Simulation	
— Completion of Statecraft Memos.....	10%
— Statecraft Analysis paper	10%
— Completion of Statecraft Objectives.....	5%
Participation	10%
Attendance	10%

Academic Honesty:

“The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants’ trust that others’ work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities.”

For more information, please see: NC State Academic Integrity

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

University Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class. However, unforeseen issues do arise. Therefore, students are given two free absences. However, after these two absences, a third of a letter grade is assessed for each additional absence that is not excused.

For more information, please see the NC State’s attendance policy.

Important Dates:

First Class Meeting	27 August
Add Deadline	4 September
Midterm	15 October
Drop Deadline	18 October
Statecraft Simulation Due	19 November
Last Class Meeting	3 December
Course Final	10 December, 18:00 - 21:00

Course Outline:

27 August - Introduction to the Course

No readings. General expectations, syllabus, initial discussions on the study of international relations.

3 September - Foundations of International Relations

Frieden, et al., chapter 1.

Mingst, et al., chapter 1.

10 September - Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

Frieden, et al., chapter 2.

Mingst, et al., chapter 3.

Drezner, The Realpolitik of the Undead.

Begin Statecraft Simulation

17 September - Why are there wars?

Frieden, et al., chapter 3.

Mingst, et al., chapter 4.

Drezner, The Social Construction of Zombies.

Statecraft Simulation Week 2

24 September - Domestic Politics and War

Frieden, et al., chapter 4.

Drezner, Are All Zombie Politics Local?

Statecraft Simulation Week 3

1 October - International Institutions and War

Frieden, et al., chapter 5.

Drezner, Regulating the Undead in a Liberal World Order.

Statecraft Simulation Week 4

8 October - The State and Foreign Policy

Mingst, et al., chapters 5 and 6.

Drezner, Neoconservatism and the Axis of the Evil Dead.

Drezner, The Pulling and Hauling of Zombies.

Drezner, We're only Human.

Statecraft Simulation Week 5

15 October - MIDTERM

22 October - Violence and Non-State Actors

Frieden, et al., chapter 6.

Supplemental reading

Statecraft Simulation Week 6

29 October - International Political Economy

Mingst, et al., chapter 9.

Frieden, et al., chapter 10.

Statecraft Simulation Week 7

5 November - International Law and Norms

Frieden, et al., chapter 11.

Mingst, et al., chapter 7.

Statecraft Simulation Week 8

12 November - Human Rights

Frieden, et al., chapter 12.

Mingst, et al., pp. 349 - 357.

Stephans B (2002) Translating Fil?rtiga: A Comparative and International Law Analysis of Domestic Remedies for International Human Rights Violations

19 November - The Global Environment

Statecraft analysis paper due

Frieden, et al., chapter 13.

Mingst, et al., pp. 327 - 348.

26 November - THANKSGIVING

3 - December - Looking Ahead

Frieden, et al., chapter 14.

Walt S (2013) Theory and Policy in International Relations: Some Personal Reflections, Yale Journal of International Affairs..

Class debate on the future of international relations