



PSC 2700: Principles of International Relations
Spring 2017
Tuesday and Thursday, 14:00 - 15:15
Snyder Memorial 3066

“Most people, in fact, will not take the trouble in finding out the truth, but are much more inclined to accept the first story they hear.” — Thucydides

Professor:

Prof. M. Joel Voss, PhD

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Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00 & 12:15 - 13:45, & by appointment.

Course Description:

An examination of such basic forces as nationalism, ideology and power that promote conflict and cooperation among states in the international community. This course is worth three (3) credit hours.

Course Overview:

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.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will gain a practical and theoretical understanding of the field of International Relations.
- Students will be able to synthesize readings and apply concepts to multiple contexts, including day to day examples.
- Students will increase competence and confidence in both oral and written communication through practice.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbooks:

Both books are required. Any additional readings are available on Blackboard. Please also follow the news on a daily basis.

1. Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions* (3rd edition). WN Norton.
2. Read the news daily

University Policies

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read *The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of the Americans with Disability Act Compliance*.

Academic Accommodations The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the *Student Disability Services Office*.

Grade Policy:

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

Grading Scale:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Performance
93 - 100	A	Achievement of Exceptional or Outstanding quality.
90 - 92	A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
87 - 89	B+	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
83 - 86	B	Achievement of high quality.
80 - 82	B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
77 - 79	C+	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
73 - 76	C	Work of acceptable quality.
70 - 72	C-	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
67 - 69	D+	Work slightly below the quality expected.
63 - 66	D	Below the quality expected.
60 - 62	D-	Barely above failing.
59 or less	F	Failure

Grading:

- Test I 30%
- This in-class exam will consist short answer and essay questions.
Please email me to show that you have read this syllabus. If you do, you will receive extra credit.
- Test II 30%
- This in-class exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.
This exam is not cumulative. You must email me for extra credit related to reading this syllabus before the 3rd class.
- Test III 30%
- This in-class exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.
This exam is not cumulative. Students who have an A going into the final may skip the final exam.
- Attendance 10%
- Students are expected to attend class. Each student will receive two unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences, student's will be penalized with 1/3 letter grade deduction for attendance.

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."

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

Extra Help and Office Hours:

Please feel free to come by my office hours if you need help understanding assignments or readings. It is best to come see me as soon as possible if you need any additional help.

Important Dates:

- Test I 23 february 2017
Test II 21 March 2017
Test III 12:30 - 14:30, 5 May 2017

Course Schedule:

10 January: Introductions

1. Course overview, general expectations, etc.

12 January: What Shaped Our World

1. FLS, chapter 1

17 January: Constructing and Evaluating Theories

1. Van Evera, Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science, chapter 1 (available on Blackboard).

19 January: Contending Perspectives in IR, Part I: Realism

1. Thucydides, The Melian Dialogue (available on Blackboard).
2. Waltz, The Anarchic Structure of World Politics (available on Blackboard).

24 January: Contending Perspectives in IR, Part II: Liberalism and NeoLiberalism

1. Doyle, Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs (available on Blackboard)
2. Keohane, International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work? (available on Blackboard)

26 January: Contending Perspectives in IR, Part III: Constructivism

1. Wendt, Anarchy is What States Make of It (available on Blackboard)

31 January: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

1. FLS, pp. 42-67

2 February: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions, Part II

1. FLS, pp. 67-88

7 February: Why Are There Wars, Part I

1. FLS, pp. 88-117

9 February: Why Are There Wars, Part II

1. FLS, pp. 118-132

14 February: Domestic Politics and War

1. FLS, chapter 4

16 February: International Institutions and War

1. FLS, chapter 5

21 February: In class Exercise

23 February: Test I

28 February: International Trade

1. FLS, chapter 7

2 March: International Financial Regulations

1. FLS, chapter 8

7 March: Spring Break

9 March: Spring Break

14 March: International Monetary Regulations

1. FLS, chapter 9

16 March: International Development

1. FLS, chapter 10

21 March: Test II

23 March: Foreign Policy

1. One World, Rival Theories
2. Obama Was Not a Realist President
3. What is Donald Trump's Foreign Policy?

28 March: Understanding Coups

1. Understanding the Backdrop to Turkey's Failed Military Coup
2. Statistical Assessment of Coup Risk for 2015
3. Statistical Assessment of Coup Risk for 2015

30 March: Violence by Non-State Actors

1. FLS, chapter 6

4 April: Ethnic Conflict

1. James Fearon and David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," (available on Blackboard)

6 April: International Law and Norms

1. FLS, chapter 11

11 April: Human Rights

1. FLS, chapter 12

13 April: Humanitarian Intervention

1. Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age..." (available on Blackboard)
2. Moises Naim, "Why Libya and Not Syria?" (available on blackboard)

18 April: Human Trafficking and Criminal Enterprises

1. Louise Shelley, Human Trafficking, chapter 1

20 April: Global Environment

1. FLS, chapter 13

25 April: Global Health

1. Richard Payne, Global Issues, chapter 13 (available on Blackboard)

27 April: The Future of International Politics

1. FLS, chapter 14