
**POLS 232 Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2012**

MWF 10:00-10:50am
Clark A 103

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a general introduction to international relations (IR). Major parts of the course cover topics such as foreign policy decision making, the dynamics of conflict and cooperation, and international economic issues. In addition, the course provides an overview of the main theoretical approaches in the study of international relations. Since developments in international relations are driven by the occurrence of international events, it is expected that students keep informed on current events in the world for the duration of the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to distinguish among major theoretical explanations of the patterns of relations in the international system, to identify key elements in the relations among countries, and to analyze the patterns of those relations. Students will be able to read, understand, analyze, and discuss articles of varying complexity on international topics. Students will have sufficient knowledge on the interplay of political, economic, technological and social factors in order to develop written assessments of debates on international political and economic issues.

COURSE MATERIAL

The following items are available for purchase at the book store:

- Goldstein, Joshua and Jon Pevehouse. 2012. *International Relations, Brief Edition*. New York, NY: Pearson Longman. 6th edition 2012-2013 update. ISBN: 9780205875238. (REQUIRED)
- iClicker remote (REQUIRED)

Additional readings are available on RamCT. You are strongly encouraged to read a newspaper with international coverage such as the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, or the *Washington Post*, or outlet such as cnn.com or bbc.co.uk to receive up-to-date news on international affairs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Debate Sessions = 10%

We will have seven debate sessions over the course of the semester. In these sessions, students will discuss the materials covered in debate readings in small groups. Debates will allow students to discuss pressing questions in world politics with their peers. In addition, debate readings will form the basis for the controversy paper, and these sessions should thus be helpful in learning how to develop an argument

and consider possible counterarguments. Your grade for debate sessions will be determined on the basis of group summary papers, debate session quizzes, or individual assignments (assignments will change from session to session). Debate sessions will be graded on a four-point scale (ranging from 0-3 points) and a 2 point average over the course of the semester will qualify students for full credit.

In-class Exams = 60% (20% each)

There will be an exam at the end of each of the three themes covered in this class. Each exam counts toward 20% of your grade. These exams will be held on the following dates: **Sep 21, Oct 22, Dec 10**. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Exams are NOT cumulative. Materials for the exams will be drawn from *both* class lectures and assigned readings. Students should not expect to be able to perform well on exams by merely attending class *or* doing the reading alone. To reiterate: the multiple choice questions on the three exams will draw on: 1) material covered exclusively in the book and debate session readings; 2) concepts and ideas discussed in class (but not covered in the book or debate session readings); and 3) material and concepts discussed in the book, debate session readings, and in class. In order to prepare for the exams, students should read the assigned pages *prior* to attending class. It is recommended that students outline the chapters and identify key vocabulary words and concepts as they read each chapter as opposed to waiting until immediately before the exam to read and/or prepare a study guide of the assigned readings. During class, students should take detailed notes. PowerPoint slides will be used during each class but it is not sufficient to simply record the key words, ideas and phrases highlighted on PowerPoint slides. Students are expected to be familiar with all of the concepts discussed in class not simply those included on the slides. When studying for the exams, students should study the information gathered from reading and studying the textbook, debate session readings, as well as their detailed class notes. Finally, it is recommended that students utilize the various resources available on the textbook companion website (http://wps.pearsonlongman.com/long_goldstein_ir_brief6_cw/) including chapter summaries, practice quizzes, and critical thinking questions.

Controversy Paper = 30%

You will write one formal paper pertaining to one of the issues covered in the readings for our debate sessions. On the scheduled due date, you will turn in a paper on ONE of the debate issues covered in class. In the paper, you will discuss the *evidence on the issues* based on the readings, *reach a conclusion* on the controversy, and *explain* the reasoning behind your conclusion. Your sources for this paper will be the readings for debate sessions, materials distributed in class, class discussion, and at least one outside source. The paper is due on **Nov 16** and worth 30% of your grade. Papers must be 1,200-1,500 words long and have to be submitted in *both* hard copy and electronic format (through RamCT). More details on the papers will be circulated closer to the due date.

EXTRA CREDIT: Participation with iClickers and in-class participation = 5%

Students should come to class prepared to pay attention and participate in class discussion. This requires completion of the reading assignments before class, attending class, and participating actively while in class. We will use iClickers as a tool to monitor attendance, completion of the reading materials, and participation. With clickers, you can answer multiple choice questions in real time so that both you and I can get immediate feedback. This is useful for learning because it promotes active thinking about the material and gives students a way to assess their level of understanding. As an instructor, I can use student responses to clicker questions to evaluate students' knowledge and understanding of the material. The clickers can also be used to poll the class on important topics in world politics and to collect data for classroom demonstrations. If you answer 70 percent of questions posed throughout the semester with your clicker, you will receive full extra credit (5 points). Students with less than 70 percent clicker participation receive no extra credit (0 points). Clickers will be used every day in class, and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily. Since nobody is perfect, students are allowed one free pass for forgetting their clickers (teaching assistants will have a sign-up sheet to claim your free pass). In order to use your clicker, you will need to register your remote online before class on Aug 27, which is when I

will start to monitor clicker participation. To do this, go to clicker.colostate.edu/registration.aspx. Login with your ename and password. In the iClicker ID field, enter your remote ID and select the "Register" button. The remote ID is the number found on the back of your iClicker remote. For problems with registration or any other issue with your clicker, please refer to <https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis262/clicker/studentfaq.aspx>.

In addition to clickers, in-class participation is part of the extra credit portion. In-class participation consists of asking substantive questions, responding to the instructor's questions, and offering insights relating to readings or discussions. Teaching assistants will have a sign-in sheet to record the names of students who participated at the end of each class.

Grading

With the exception of debate sessions and extra credit, grades will be calculated on a 100 point scale.

A 92.5 – 100	C+ 76.5 – 79.99
A- 90 – 92.49	C 70 – 76.49
B+ 86.5 – 89.99	D 60 – 69.99
B 82.5 – 86.49	F 0 – 59.99
B- 80-82.49	

CLASS POLICIES

Contact

You can contact the instructor and teaching assistants by coming to office hours, calling during office hours, or via email. Please send email to the instructor and include both teaching assistants so we can respond promptly. We will do our best to respond within less than 48 hours on weekdays. If you do not hear from us within that time frame, feel free to send a follow-up message. Put your name and the course number in the subject line of your message.

In-Class Behavior

Students should come to class prepared to pay attention and participate in class discussion. This requires that students come to class on-time and do not leave before class ends. Please turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices before class begins. Students are allowed to use laptops for class purposes only. Students should not read newspapers, magazines, surf the Internet, texting, do crossword puzzles, or engage in any other inappropriate activities (including whispering to classmates, passing notes, etc.) during class time. Be respectful to your fellow classmates, instructor and TAs. Disruptive behavior is a sign of disrespect not only to me, but to your fellow students. Please note that the disruption or obstruction of teaching, classroom, or other educational interactions is proscribed under the Colorado State University Student Conduct Code (Art. IIIA4). Disruptive students may be asked to leave the classroom.

Late Policy

Assignments are due in class on the designated due dates and failure to submit the paper during class time (10-10:50am) means that the assignment is late and points will begin to be deducted immediately. A student's grade will be lowered by a letter grade (ten points) if a paper is submitted after the due date for each day late (including the day the assignment is due). In the case of an excused absence, late assignments will not be penalized but students must contact me before the due date (except in emergencies such as unexpected hospitalization) in order to advise an alternate due date and submit written documentation. For the sake of clarity, excusable absences relate to official medical appointments/illness confirmed by a doctor's note, university sporting commitments confirmed by a university request for absence, or a serious illness or death in the family.

Make up Policy

Make up exams and other make up assignments are permissible only in the event of an unforeseen emergency (e.g. illness, death in the family, etc.) or when engaged in a university-sponsored activities. Students must make every effort to make arrangements prior to the exam/due date and will be required to submit written documentation. Exams for which students are absent without an excuse will receive a failing grade.

Academic Integrity

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the CSU General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. CSU has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 p.1). Consequently, academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Cheating (using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work) and plagiarism (using another's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) are serious offenses and may result in a failing grade for a particular assignment, failing grade for the course and/or disciplinary action by the university. Written assignments for this class must be submitted in electronic format and will be checked using RamCT plagiarism detection software. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to [Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services](#).

Use of Course Material

Please note that CSU's Student Conduct Code prohibits unauthorized soliciting or selling in violation of the university solicitation policy. This prohibition includes the use of CSU email and/or RamCT to advertise lecture notes or any other course materials for sale. Violations of this policy are subject to university disciplinary action.

Class Discussion

Part of what makes the study of political science interesting is the opportunity to engage in debates about controversial issues. In order to facilitate open debate and exchange, it is essential that students recognize and respect the right of each individual to "engage in discussion, to exchange ideas and opinions, and to speak, write and publish freely, in accordance with the guarantees and limitations of our state and national constitutions" (University General Catalog, p. 37).

Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities

Under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Colorado State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have some impact on their coursework and for which they may require accommodations should notify Resources for Disabled Students: <http://rds.colostate.edu/>. The RDS and the instructor will assist students in making appropriate accommodations with course instructors. It is important that the RDS and instructor be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester.

Important Note: No course earning a grade lower than a C- will be permitted to fulfill Political Science Major requirements if the course is taken during or after the Fall Semester, 2004.

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to be informed of schedule changes.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Introduction and Key Concepts		
Aug 20	Introduction and Class Overview	-
Aug 22	Key Principles	G&P: 1-10
Aug 24	Key Principles cont.	G&P: 10-24
Aug 27	History of the International System	G&P: 24-33
Aug 29	Guest Lecture: Dick Life	-
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
Realism		
Aug 31	Realism	G&P: 35-43
Sep 3	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY	-
Sep 5	Realism and Neorealism	G&P: 43-55
Liberalism and Beyond		
Sep 7	Liberal Theories	G&P: 63-71
Sep 10	Liberal Theories cont.	Kant, "Perpetual Peace" on RamCT
Sep 12	Social Theories	G&P: 86-89; 95-105
Foreign Policy		
Sep 14	Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy	G&P: 71-78
Sep 17	The Foreign-Policy Process	G&P: 78-86
Sep 19	Debate 1: Should the U.S. Substantially Limit Its Global Involvement?	Debate 1 on RamCT
Sep 21	EXAM 1	
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY		
Military Conflict		
Sep 24	Defining War and Conflict	G&P: 107-113
Sep 26	Conflicts of Ideas	G&P: 113-129
Sep 28	Conflicts of Interest	G&P: 129-136
Oct 1	Military Force, Weapons, and Non-Proliferation	G&P: 136-145, 149-160
Oct 3	Debate 2: Should the United States Preemptively Attack Iran's Emerging Nuclear Weapons Capability?	Debate 2 on RamCT
Oct 5	Terrorism	G&P: 145-149
International Organizations		
Oct 8	International Organizations	G&P: 207-219
Oct 10	International Organizations continued	G&P: 219-226
Oct 12	Debate 3: Is UN Peacekeeping Seriously Flawed?	Debate 3 on RamCT
International Law		
Oct 15	International Law	G&P: 240-248
Oct 17	Human Rights and International Law	G&P: 248-258
Oct 19	Debate 4: Is US Refusal to Join the ICC Wise?	Debate 4 on RamCT
Oct 22	EXAM 2	-
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY		
The International Economic System		
Oct 24	History of the International Economic System	G&P: 182-186

Oct 26	NO CLASS –PSS Meeting	-
Oct 29	Global Finance	G&P: 187-197
International Trade		
Oct 31	Trade Regimes	G&P: 163-172
Nov 2	Trade Theories	G&P: 173-182
Nov 5	Debate 5: Are Free Trade and Economic Liberalism Good for the United States?	Debate 5 on RamCT
Dependence and Development		
Nov 7	Colonialism	G&P: 259-271
Nov 9	Development Strategies	G&P: 278-305
Nov 12	Debate 6: Can Foreign Aid Reduce Poverty?	Debate 6 on RamCT
Nov 14	FILM: Commanding Heights	-
International Integration		
Nov 16	International Integration and the European Union	G&P: 226- 234, PAPER DUE
Nov 19 -23	NO CLASS – Fall Break	-
Nov 26	The European Union cont.	G&P: 234-240
Environment		
Nov 28	Global Issues: Environment	G&P: 308-322
Nov 30	Global Issues: Natural Resources	G&P: 322-335
Dec 3	Debate 7: Is Fighting Climate Change Worth the Cost?	Debate 7 on RamCT
Course Wrap-Up		
Dec 5	Global Challenges in 2030, Course Wrap-Up	-
Dec 7	Exam Review (attendance optional)	Review IPE Course Material
Dec 10	FINAL EXAM, 7:30-9:30am	-

G&P=Goldstein & Pevehouse, *International Relations, Brief Edition.*