

PLSC 111 / GLBL 268: Introduction to International Relations

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Class Hours: T/Th 9:25am-10:15am

Class Room: Luce 201

Course Description

This course introduces students to the causes of conflict and cooperation among (and sometimes within) states and their effects on security, prosperity, and equality. We critically examine various theories of international politics by drawing equally on security and economic affairs from across different historical eras. Historically, we will focus on the making of the contemporary world from World War I onwards. The course also introduces primary documents from different historical eras and engages with diverse theoretical perspectives. The goal of the course is not to advance any one particular theory of world politics. Instead, the course aims to help students develop and refine their own theoretical frameworks for understanding different aspects of world politics. Through instruction and individual feedback, the course aims to develop analytical writing skills with broad utility across the social sciences and beyond.

Learning Objectives

- Identify and classify major historical events, actors, and institutions that have shaped international security and economic affairs.
- Apply diverse theoretical lenses to interpret and explain global affairs across temporal (historical and contemporary) and spatial contexts (in and beyond the West, *between* and *within* states).
- Assess and critique claims about causes and effects in international politics, and argue persuasively for your interpretation in both speech and writing.
- Develop the analytical writing skills to frame a research question, review the scholarly literature, describe an appropriate research design, and persuasively argue a position.
- *To be continued...*

Required Book

- Karen A. Mingst, Jack L. Snyder, and Heather Elko McKibben, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, Seventh Edition (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2019), ISBN: 978-0-393-66461-4, \$65.35. (Abbreviated *MSM*)

The textbook is available at the Yale Bookstore and may be purchased or rented from any bookseller, *but please note the correct edition*. Additional readings will be provided electronically.

Course Policies

Assignments & Grading

- Participation (10%)
- Midterm Exam (25%) – March 5
- Research Paper (35%)
 - 12 pages, presenting original research on a topic related to the course. A research proposal (3 pages) with literature review is due February 14, and a research design (3 pages) is due March 27. The final paper, due April 24, builds on the first two writing assignments but should reflect substantial revision of these components of the essay.
- Final Exam (30%) – May 6

Students must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade. Submissions received after the deadline will be penalized by one-third of a letter grade (e.g. B+ to B) for each day late.

Attendance

The course meets for two 50-minute lectures per week, plus one 50-minute discussion section. Your attendance in section is *required*, and the quality of your participation will count for 10% of your final grade.

Contacting Me

Your TF will be your primary contact person for this course, and you should direct all logistical questions about the course to them.

If you have a quick (i.e. non-substantive) question, email is the best way to contact me. While I typically respond to emails quickly, please allow 48 hours for a response. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, follow up with a reminder. This article is recommended reading about how to draft an effective email: Laura Portwood-Stacer, “How to Email Your Professor (without being annoying AF),” <https://goo.gl/Aqg5h6>.

If you email me the night before a deadline with a last minute request, please do not expect a response; it is imperative that you look at the assignments early to ensure I can answer any questions you may have in a timeframe that is useful to you. Longer questions – for example, those dealing with your performance in the course or substantive questions about the course material – are better asked in person.

I will hold regular office hours throughout the semester. Please sign up in advance at: <https://calendly.com/nicklotito/officehours/>. Other appointments can be made on an individual basis via email.

Academic Integrity

As a student at Yale, you have joined an academic community. In this community, our intellectual honesty is our currency. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the school's standards of academic integrity. It means, among other things, truth in presentation, diligence and precision in citing works and ideas we have used, and acknowledging our collaborations with others. Please review the section on "General Conduct and Discipline" in the Undergraduate Regulations.

Plagiarism

You must document all of your source material. If you take any text from somebody else, you must make it clear the text is being quoted and where the text comes from. You must also cite any sources from which you obtain numbers, ideas, or other material. If you have any questions about what does or does not constitute plagiarism, *ask!* Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. Fortunately, it is also easy to avoid. Take care to give credit where credit is due, and you will not run into any problems. For guidance on how to properly cite your sources, please visit the Writing Center (<http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>).

Disabilities

I will be happy to work with you to provide any disability accommodations you may require. You must first contact the Resource Office on Disabilities (<http://rod.yale.edu/>).

Class Schedule

Week 01, Introduction

- *MSM*, Chap. 1, Approaches to International Relations

Week 02, History

- *MSM*, Chap. 2, Historical Context

Week 03, Theory

- *MSM*, Chap. 3, International Relations Theories
- Rohan Mukherjee, “Two Cheers for the Liberal World Order: The International Order and Rising Powers in a Trumpian World,” February 22, 2019, accessed November 8, 2019, <http://issforum.org/roundtables/policy/1-5B0-two-cheers>

Week 04, Levels of Analysis

- *MSM*, Chap. 4, Levels of Analysis
- Joshua D. Kertzer and Dustin Tingley, “Political Psychology in International Relations: Beyond the Paradigms,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 21, no. 1 (2018): 319–39

Week 05, States

- *MSM*, Chap. 5, The State and the Tools of Statecraft

Week 06, Interstate Conflict

- *MSM*, Chap. 6a, War and Nuclear Security
- James C. Scott, “Population Control: Bondage and War,” in *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States* (New Haven: Yale University Press, August 22, 2017), 150–82

Week 07, Intrastate and Transnational Conflict

- *MSM*, Chap. 6b, Terrorism and Cyberwar
- James D. Fearon, “Civil War & the Current International System,” *Daedalus* 146, no. 4 (2017): 18–32

Week 08, Midterm Review

Midterm Exam in Class Thursday

Week 09, Cooperation

- *MSM*, Chap. 7a, International Cooperation
- *MSM*, Chap. 9, Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations

Week 10, Political Economy

- *MSM*, Chap. 8, International Political Economy
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson. 2012. “The Making of Prosperity and Poverty,” *Why Nations Fail* (Currency), pp.70-95.

Week 11, Law

- *MSM*, Chap. 7b, International Law
- *MSM*, Chap. 10, Human Rights

Week 12, Human Security

- *MSM*, Chap. 11, Human Security: Migration, Global Health, and the Environment
- McDonnell, Tim. 2018. “The Refugees The World Barely Pays Attention To,” *Goats and Soda* (NPR).

Week 13, Review

- *Additional reading TBA*