

POLSC 228 International Relations
Fall 2022
M, W, & F 9:00am –9:50am
Morgan Hall 312

Instructor: Dr. Ghashia Kiyani	Western Illinois University Political Science Department
Office Location: Morgan Hall 430	Email: GO-Kiyani@wiu.edu .
Office Hours In-person & Virtual: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon, Tue (10:00am-12 pm); Wed (10-11 am) Office Hours Meeting Link: https://wiu.zoom.us/j/94563931056• By appointment	

Course Description

POLSC 228 introduces undergraduate students to the field of International Relations, which seeks to understand how the peoples and countries of the world get along, as well as scientific approach to study world politics. After a brief introduction, in the first unit of the course we will study international conflict, both its origins and how it can be resolved. In the second unit, we will study major issues in international political economy, such as trade, and monetary policy. Finally, in the third unit of the course, we will discuss a variety of issues that are likely to shape the future of world politics. This section will include topics such as terrorism/counterterrorism, human rights, and environmental policy. The course as a whole should provide you not only with an understanding of how states interact with each other in the international system, but also with a knowledge of the international relations scholarship that deals with these questions. The course will be taught from a political science, rather than a policy or history, perspective. While this is not primarily a current events course, we will devote several lectures to understanding different viewpoints on a variety of relevant issues in the international system. This course will prepare you for more advanced political science courses and help you think critically and analytically about current events.

Reading Materials

Throughout this course, we will rely on one single textbook:

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions: Fourth Edition. WW Norton & Company.

Make sure to get your own copy of the book. Otherwise, you may not be able to complete the requirements of the textbook. The book is available at the campus bookstore and from several online retailers. Norton also provides an option to purchase an e-book at a discounted price. Visit <http://books.wwnorton.com/nortonebooks/> for more information.

Course Requirements

Exams (50% of total grade)

Students are required to complete three (3) exams that examine their understanding of the assigned course materials. The exams are in class.

Unit 1 exam: (15% of course grade) In class, multiple choice questions, **Sep 21, 2022.**

Unit 2 exam: (15% of course grade) In class, multiple choice questions **Oct 26, 2022.**

Unit 3 exam: (20% of course grade) On scheduled final exam date, multiple choice questions, **December 14, 2022 at 8:00 am in Morgan 312.**

Inquisitive Quizzes (20% of course grade)

Throughout the semester, you will be assigned interactive quizzes in different weeks to help you understand the material. We will discuss these further in class. Exams and quizzes may be made up only in the case of a medical excuse or verified personal emergency. In order to be able to take a make-up exam, you must plan for it ahead of time, unless this is physically impossible. Under no other circumstances will there be make-up exams.

Response Memos (10% of course grade):

During the semester we will devote few lectures to discuss a scholarly article. Throughout the semester you must submit one (1) response memo. Memo for a particular topic of your choice will be due at the beginning of the lecture on a topic. Keep in mind that once we have discussed a topic, you may no longer write a memo on that topic (and, due to the nature of this assignment, no late memos will be accepted). All memos must be a maximum length of two (2) double-spaced pages, with standard margins and 11 or 12 size fonts (Arial, Times New Roman, or Calibri). Memos must be turned in as a hard copy (not e-mailed) at the beginning of class. Note that memos must address the research question, how the research fills the gap in the existing literature, what is the theoretical argument and what are the findings of the study. Memos that do not address the readings will be penalized.

Participation (20% of total grade)

Participation grades will be based on various components including attendance, engaging and responding to online discussion post every Friday, which will only be open during class time 9:00- 9:50 am, and actively participating in class lectures and responding to some of the reading questions. I will be randomly responding to some of the discussion posts.

Class Attendance

I will be taking attendance as required by the University. However, if you are feeling ill in any way, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or are uncomfortable with being in the classroom, please do not come to class. The course is designed so that all the course materials (other than the book) are accessible through Western Online; all exams will also be posted to that site.

Statement Regarding Academic Honesty

Western Illinois University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Title IX:

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, have been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Student rights and responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

Course Grades and Points Breakdown

Course grade will be based on total points earned out of **100 points**. The grades will not be bumped. It means that if you receive 89.5 at the end of semester, then you will earn a B grade.

Final grades will be assigned based on the number of points you accumulate during the semester. Here is the grading scheme: Points Earned	Grade
90 points and above	A
80 - 89 points	B
70 - 79 points	C
60 - 69 points	D

Lecture Topic and Reading Assignments

Readings listed for each day should be completed before the class meeting. The schedule is subject to change. If any changes occur, I will announce it in the class and it's your responsibility to attend all classes so you could be aware about any changes made to the course syllabus.

Tentative Course Outline* (may be subject to amendments)

Introduction

Week 1

Meeting # 1 (Aug 22): What Shaped Our World?

- Class Introductions
- Reading: Textbook Chapter 1

Meeting # 2 (Aug 24): Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 2

Unit 1: WAR & PEACE

Week 2

Meeting # 3 (Aug 29): Why Are There Wars?

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 3

Meeting # 4 (Aug 31): Domestic Politics and War

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 4
- Memo Article: **Alliance, contiguity, wealth, and political stability: Is the lack of conflict among democracies a statistical artifact?** Maoz and Russett 1992. (Available in <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03050629208434782>)
- **Memo Due (If you plan on submitting a memo for this article)**

Week 3

Meeting # 5 (Sep 7): International Institutions and War

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 5

Meeting # 6 (Sep 12): Violence by Non-State Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 6

Meeting # 7 (Sep 14): Violence by Non-State Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

- Continued Reading: Textbook Chapter 6

Week 4

Meeting # 7 (Sep 19): Review Unit 1

- Review Unit 1

Meeting # 8 (Sep 21): Exam 1

- ***Unit 1 Exam***

Unit 2: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 5

Meeting # 9(Sep 26): International Trade

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 7

Meeting # 10(Sep 28): International Trade Continued

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 7

Week 6

Meeting # 11 (Oct 3): Trade and International Conflict

- Reading: How could Trade affect Conflict?
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0022343399036004006>
- **Memo Due (If you plan on submitting a memo for this article)**

Meeting # 12 (Oct 5): Domestic Politics of Trade and Conflict

- Reading: How domestic politics affect the relationship between trade and conflict?
<https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/57/3/605/1809522>
- **Memo Due (If you plan on submitting a memo for this article)**

Week 7

Meeting # 13 (Oct 10): Development: Causes of Wealth and Poverty of Nations

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 10

Meeting # 14 (Oct 12): Development: Causes of Wealth and Poverty of Nations Continued

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 10
- In class quiz Chapter 7& 10

Week 8 (Oct 18-21): Cyber Security I

- This week I will be attending Women in Legislative Studies Conference (18-21 Oct) at Houston, TX and GA will be showing you lectures on cyber security and IR
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcwmKnCeS6s>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8924i6rZerA>
- During this week, you will read one of the articles of your choice and submit your reaction of a reading;
 - [Maness, R. C., & Valeriano, B. \(2016\). The impact of cyber conflict on international interactions. *Armed Forces & Society*, 42\(2\), 301-323.](#)
 - [Mauslein, J. A., & Pickering, J. \(2021\). Rivalry type and cyber operations: "hot" rivalries, "cold" rivalries, and cyber incidents, 1990–2009. *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*, 27\(2\), 169-195.](#)

Week 9

Meeting # 17 (Oct 24): Review Unit II and Exam Questions

Meeting # 18 (Oct 26): **Exam 2**

- **Exam Unit 2**

Week 10

Unit 3: TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS

Meeting # 19 (Oct 31): International Law

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 11

Meeting # 20 (Nov 2): International Law Continued

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 11
- Quiz Chapter 11

Week 11

Meeting # 21 (Nov 7): International Agreement and Rivalry

- Reading: <https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/56/1/51/1940975>
- **Memo Due (If you plan on submitting a memo for this article)**

Meeting # 22 (Nov 9): International Agreement and Rivalry

- Reading: <https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/56/1/51/1940975>
- **Memo Due (If you plan on submitting a memo for this article)**

Week 12 (Nov 14-18): Cyber Security II

- This week I will be attending ISA-MW Annual Conference and a graduate Student will take the class and showing a lecture on Cybersecurity and International Relations;
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDCNgOK85-U>
- During this week, you need to read one of the articles for Friday discussion;
 - [Lutscher, P. M., Weidmann, N. B., Roberts, M. E., Jonker, M., King, A., & Dainotti, A. \(2020\). At home and abroad: The use of denial-of-service attacks during elections in nondemocratic regimes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 64\(2-3\), 373-401.](#)
 - [Asal, V., Mauslein, J., Murdie, A., Young, J., Cousins, K., & Bronk, C. \(2016\). Repression, education, and politically motivated cyberattacks. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 1\(3\), 235-247.](#)

Week 13

Meeting # 25 (Nov 21): Thanksgiving Break

- NO CLASS

Meeting # 26 (Nov 23): Thanksgiving Break

- NO CLASS

Week 14

Meeting # 27 (Nov 28): Human Rights

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 12

Meeting # 28 (Nov 30): Domestic and International Factors Affecting Human Rights

- Reading: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0095327X211006835>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/07388942211045045>
- <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0022002716632300>
- **Memo Due (If you plan on submitting a memo for one of these articles)**

Week 15

Meeting # 29 (Dec 5): Review

- Review Session for Final Exam

Week 16 (Dec 12-16)

- Final Exam Dec 14th, 2022 at 8 am in Morgan 312.