

Instructor: Dr. Bojan Petrovic
E-mail: bmpetrov@uci.edu

Office hours: TBD

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Summer Session I 2019

Course description

The focus of this course is three **approaches** to the study of international politics: realist, liberal, and constructivist. Although you will learn a great deal about current international **issues** (e.g., nuclear proliferation and international terrorism) and about the evolution of international politics, the focus of this course is analytic rather than substantive, on how to analyze rather than on specific events and details.

The course is multidisciplinary, and integrates psychology, economics, sociology, history, and geography in the study of international relations. It also draws from all the other subfields of political science, including comparative politics and political theory. You will find that the course will help you to pull together quite disparate material from a variety of courses you may have taken.

Course requirements

Students are required to attend all lectures and to keep up with the reading according to the schedule below. Summer sessions move very quickly and you must take care not to fall behind in the assignments. There will be a mid-term and a final (non-cumulative) exam. Students are also strongly encouraged to read a major newspaper or newsmagazine to enhance class discussion. (You should use resources available on the Web. Various news services, including the *Los Angeles Times* are available on the Web. Some will give you just newswire reporting and nothing more extensive or analytic. But some will give you full-length articles. Some will let you search archives, which go back (varying lengths of time). Some news magazines, such as *Foreign Policy*, *The Economist*, and *The Time* are available on the Web.

In addition to these requirements, students must prepare two questions on the reading assignments for each and every class meeting excluding the days when the exams are scheduled. These questions must be word-processed or typewritten and turned in at the beginning of each class. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Grades are calculated as follows:

Mid-term	35%
Final	45%
Class participation:	20%

Required text: John Baylis, Steve Smith (2014). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* 6th ed., Oxford University Press

Recommended text: Andrew Heywood (2014). *Global Politics* 2nd ed., Palgrave Macmillan.

Lecture schedule

Week one

Introduction:

- Wednesday 06/26: What are different approaches to explaining international relations? What are different questions the field asks?
- Thursday 06/27: Levels of analysis in international relations.
Read: Chapter 6

Week two

Realist Approaches:

- Monday 07/01: Structural Realism: Why are great powers aggressive? Power, anarchy, and security dilemma.
Read: Chapter 4
- Tuesday 07/02: Offensive realism.
Read: Chapter 5

Liberal Approaches:

- Wednesday 07/03: Why states cooperate?
Read: Chapter 7
- Thursday 07/04: Globalization and interdependence; transnational actors and the diffusion of Power
Read: Chapter 8

Week three

- Monday 07/08: In-class **Mid-term Exam** (first hour of class).
- Tuesday 07/09: **Constructivist approaches:** Three conceptions of anarchy.
Read: Chapter 10
- Wednesday 07/10: **Postconstructivist Approaches**
Read: Chapters 11-12
- Thursday 07/11: International Ethics.
Read: Chapter 13

Week four

Global issues

- Monday 07/15: Great Power rivalry
Read: Chapter 15
- Tuesday 07/16: International Terrorism
Read: Chapter 26
- Wednesday 07/17: Ethnic Conflict
Read:
- Thursday 07/18: Nuclear Proliferation and Clashes over Values.
Read: Chapter 25 and slides

Week five

- Monday 07/24: **Final**