

Political Science 230: International Relations

Fall Semester, 2016

Professor: M-W 2:30-3:45 pm

Office:

Office Hours:

Phone:

email:

Course Description: POSC 230 introduces students to key concepts, theories, and issues in contemporary world politics. Realism, liberalism, and alternative theoretical perspectives are introduced, critically assessed, and applied throughout the course. Processes, actors, and dilemmas are examined across the major subfields of IR (international law/organization, foreign policy, international security, and international political economy), with an emphasis on the prospects for international conflict and cooperation. Finally, through participation in the *Statecraft* simulation, students take on the roles of foreign policy decision-makers and grapple first-hand with the sorts of tradeoffs and responsibilities that characterize world politics.

Required Readings:

- 1) Compatible with any text book
- 2) Additional required readings will be posted on Canvas, Moodle, or any other LMS

Required Online Supplements:

- 1) Students will be required to purchase access to the *Statecraft* simulation for \$35 for the semester. To register, go to statecraftsim.com and click "Login/Create Account" to create a student account. Sign up with: **(Sim Code you Created during the simulation setup process)**.

Course Requirements: (*Simulation Participation & Performance is recommended to count for 5 to 10% of the course grade and/or 2 to 3% additional extra credit. The below example has participation - weekly memos, manual quiz, and "Historians' Verdict Award" - counting as 8% of the course grade and extra credit for performance counting as 0 to 4%. Note also that the short paper requiring students to integrate their Statecraft experience with course material is worth another 7% of the course grade*)

Assignment	Points	Percent of Grade
Exam #1	230	23%
Exam #2	230	23%
Exam #3 (Final)	230	23%

Quizzes	160	16%
Short (2 page) Paper	70	7%
Sim Memos	40	4%
Sim Manual Quiz	30	3%
Historians' Verdict Award	10	1%
TOTAL	1000	100%

For the short paper, only hard copies (no email submissions) will be accepted. **Excused absences for exams, quizzes, and simulation sessions can only be obtained for two reasons:** 1) serious personal or family emergencies, which must be promptly documented to the satisfaction of the professor (you must also notify Professor _____ of your emergency by phone or email as soon as physically possible), and 2) university-approved activities (as arranged in advance with the professor—see below). **An unexcused absence from an examination or quiz will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.**

Grading Scale: Your grades on individual assignments and your final course grade will be calculated based on the percent of possible points actually earned, as follows:

93 to 100%	A
90 to 92%	A-
87 to 89%	B+
83 to 86%	B
80 to 82%	B-
77 to 79%	C+
73 to 76%	C
70 to 72%	C-
60 to 69%	D
59% and below	F

Class Attendance and Professionalism: Regular attendance is expected and is essential if you want to do well in this course. However, attendance will only *directly* factor into your grade at the margins: if you are close to a certain grade at the end of the course (e.g., suppose you have a high B but not quite a B+), then an excellent attendance record—together with other signs of professionalism such as arriving to class on time, being attentive during class, etc.—will argue in favor of the B+, while a poor attendance record (and poor professionalism generally) will argue against such an adjustment. *EXCEPTION: attendance on Statecraft simulation Mondays is mandatory—see below.*

Cell Phones/Texting: Turn off cell phones and other distracting devices before entering class. Cell phones ringing and (especially) texting during class are huge pet peeves for your professor and may make him “snap” with unpredictable consequences for the student and the electronic device.

Exams: Three exams will test your mastery of the course material as covered in lecture and readings. Each exam is worth 23% of your course grade, so all three exams make up 69% of your grade. Exams will be non-comprehensive—they only cover material since the previous exam. Each exam will be made up of 46 multiple choice questions, worth 5 points each.

Quizzes: There will be approximately 10 quizzes during the semester that cover material from reading and lecture. These quizzes will together be worth 160 points (16% of your course grade).

Simulation Attendance (If you choose to use Statecraft as a blended learning activity and not solely online): It is critically important that students attend each simulation session. In order to provide an incentive to attend these sessions, students will be penalized for absences through the loss of extra credit earned from the simulation (which can total 30 points or more, depending on how successful you are in achieving country-specific and global goals):

1 Absence	Minus 10% Extra Credit
2 Absences	Minus 50% Extra Credit
3 or more Absences	Minus 100% Extra Credit

Simulation Memos (Students must submit each memo before the turn ends into the Statecraft System. Memos will be checked off for completion and stored in your Statecraft instructor profile): You must post a simulation memo in Statecraft **BEFORE** each turn ends. These memos must be 300 words in length (the equivalent of one double spaced page), although you are encouraged to write more if you so desire—in a sense, these memos will become your ongoing “journal” for the simulation experience. They are intended to help ensure that students are actively participating in, and thinking about, the simulation each week. **Late memos and memos shorter than the required length will not be counted.** If you complete all memos satisfactorily, you will receive all 40 points. Missing memos will lead to penalties as follows:

<u>Memos Completed Satisfactorily</u>	<u>Memo Points Earned</u>
All	40 points
Missing 1	35 points (minus 5)
Missing 2	20 points (minus 20)
Missing 3 or more memos	0 points (minus 40)

Short Paper: The short paper (2 pages) requires you to integrate your simulation experience with class material. This paper is worth 70 points (7% of your course grade). **It is due in class during the last class session (Wednesday, Dec. 7).** Late papers will lose 10% per day, beginning immediately after class. Specific requirements for the paper will be made available on Canvas.

Honor Code: All students are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the University Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation), falsification of attendance records or reasons for missing class, and other dishonest behavior will

not be tolerated. **Penalties for violating the Honor Code range from a reduced or failing grade in the course to suspension or expulsion.**

Late Adds: Students are responsible for registering for classes and for verifying their class schedules on e-campus. Late course additions will not be permitted. The deadline for adding a fall semester class without instructor and academic unit head approval is Tuesday Sept. 6. Between Sept. 6 and Thursday Sept. 15, instructor and academic unit head signatures will be required to add a class for fall semester 2016. No student will be allowed to register for a fall semester class after Thursday Sept. 15. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Late Drops: Political science department policy will not allow students to drop courses in INTA, POSC, & PPA after the official university course adjustment deadline (Thursday, Oct. 27). In other words, **there will be no late withdrawals.**

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor **prior to** any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Disability: If you are a student with a documented disability who will be requesting accommodations in my class, please make sure you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, Wilson Hall, Room 107, 568-6705 and provide me with an Access Plan letter outlining your accommodations. I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

The below course outline provides one example of how topics and assignments may be structured. You may choose to cover different topics, in a different order, than shown below. Statecraft is a flexible tool that will accommodate many different organizational schemes).

THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF IR

Monday, Aug. 29: Course Intro; Actors & Levels of Analysis

- *IR*, Chapter 1, pp. 1-17

Wednesday, Aug. 31: The Geographical & Historical Context

- *IR*, Chapter 1, pp. 17-34
- *IR*, Chapter 7, pp. 259-271, 273-278

MAKING SENSE OF IR: COMPETING PERSPECTIVES

Monday, Sept. 5: Dominant Perspectives: Realism and Idealism

- *IR*, Chapter 2, pp. 35-62
- *IR*, Chapter 3, pp. 63-71
- Douthat, “Obama the Realist” (*on Canvas*)
- Saunders, “Giving Realists a Bad Name” (*on Canvas*)

Wednesday, Sept. 7: Alternative Perspectives: Constructivism, Marxism, & Feminism

- *IR*, Chapter 3, pp. 86-106
- *IR*, Chapter 7, pp. 271-273

FOREIGN POLICY

Monday, Sept. 12: Models of the Foreign Policy Process

- *IR*, Chapter 3, pp. 78-80
- Holland, “The U.S. Decision to Launch Operation Desert Storm: A Bureaucratic Politics Analysis” (*on Canvas*)
- *Video Excerpts: Thirteen Days (in class)*

Wednesday, Sept. 14: Societal/Institutional Constraints: The Democratic Peace and Its Critics

- *IR*, Chapter 3, pp. 71-77
- Keller, “Constraint Respecters, Constraint Challengers...” (*on Canvas*)

Monday, Sept. 19: Foreign Policy Decision-Making, Part I: Leaders’ Personalities, Heuristics, & Biases

- *IR*, Chapter 3, pp. 80-86
- Keller and Foster, “Presidential Leadership Style and the Political Use of Force” (*on Canvas*)

Wednesday, Sept. 21: Foreign Policy Decision-Making, Part II: Groupthink, Problem Representation, & Images; Review for Exam #1

- Keller, “Problem Representation and the War on Terror” (*on Canvas*)

*****Monday, Sept. 26: EXAM #1*****

Wednesday, Sept. 28: Statecraft Orientation

- *Read Statecraft Manual*
- *Take Statecraft Manual Quiz (in class)*

Monday, Oct. 3: Statecraft, Turn 1

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY & THE ETHICS OF WAR

Wednesday, Oct. 5: Just War Theory and Modern Warfare

- *IR*, Chapter 4, pp. 107-113
- “*Just War Theory*” (on Canvas)
- *Video Excerpts: The Fog of War* (in class)

Monday, Oct. 10: Statecraft, Turn 2; Strategy in the Nuclear Age: Deterrence, Compellence, and MAD

- *IR*, Chapter 4, pp. 149-162

Wednesday, Oct. 12: Nuclear Proliferation and the Iran Case

- *Video Excerpts: Dr. Strangelove* (in class)
- Waltz, “*Why Iran Should Get the Bomb*” (on Canvas)
- Sagan, “*The Perils of Proliferation*” (on Canvas)

Monday, Oct. 17: Statecraft, Turn 3; Ethnic Conflict

- *IR*, Chapter 4, pp. 113-145
- Posen, “*The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict*” (on Canvas)

Wednesday, Oct. 19: Asymmetric Warfare and Counterinsurgency

- *IR*, Chapter 4, pp. 145-149
- Byman, “*Why Drones Work*” (on Canvas)
- Cronin, “*Why Drones Fail*” (on Canvas)

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Monday, Oct. 24: Statecraft, Turn 4; Mercantilism, Liberalism, & Marxism

- *IR*, Chapter 5, pp. 163-181

Wednesday, Oct. 26: Globalization and the Bretton Woods Institutions

- *IR*, Chapter 5, pp. 182-206

Monday, Oct. 31: Statecraft, Turn 5; Review for Exam #2

*****Wednesday, Nov. 2: EXAM #2*****

Monday, Nov. 7: Statecraft, Turn 6; Economic Development

- *IR*, Chapter 7, pp. 278-295
- Cincotta, “*Demographic Security Comes of Age*” (on Canvas)

Wednesday, Nov. 9: Economic Development, Continued

- *IR*, Chapter 7, pp. 295-307

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, HUMAN RIGHTS & THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Nov. 14: Statecraft, Turn 7; The Role of the United Nations

- *IR*, Chapter 6, pp. 207-226
- Keohane, “*International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?*” (on Canvas)

Wednesday, Nov. 16: IGOs and Global Governance

- *IR*, Chapter 6, pp. 226-240

Monday, Nov. 21-Friday, Nov. 25: THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Monday, Nov. 28: Statecraft, Turn 8; International Law, Human Rights, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- *IR*, Chapter 6, pp. 240-258
- *Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (on Canvas)

Wednesday, Nov. 30: The Environment, Scarcity, and Conflict

- *IR*, Chapter 8, pp. 308-346
- Homer-Dixon, “*On the Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict*” (on Canvas)

Monday, Dec. 5: Statecraft Debriefing; The Future of World Politics

- Huntington, “*The Clash of Civilizations?*” (on Canvas)

Wednesday, Dec. 7: The Future of World Politics, Continued

- ****SHORT PAPER DUE TODAY****

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1:00-3:00 pm