

INR 2002: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2017

Instructor: Professor von Borzyskowski

Office: 569 Bellamy Building

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm

Email: i.Borzyskowski@fsu.edu

Class Meeting: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:35pm-4:50pm (HCB 102)

Course and Office Hours

Course hours and location are listed above. I have set aside weekly office hours for you on Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm; my office is in 569 Bellamy Building. This time is for you, no appointment needed. Please contact me via email if you would like to schedule an alternative time to meet and we can coordinate a time that works for both of us. As a general rule I am unavailable most mornings.

Course Description and Goals

This class explores the principles that shape international relations and illustrates these principles with examples drawn from history and contemporary world politics. The goals of the course are threefold. First, this course introduces students to the major concepts, theories, and topics in the study of international relations. Second, the course aims to increase understanding of current international issues. A third goal of the course is to develop each student's analytical reasoning skills.

The foundations of politics, both domestic and international, are interests, interactions, and institutions. Understanding international relations, and politics more generally, involves understanding who the primary decision-makers are on a given topic, their interests, and their constraints (e.g. institutions, the interests of other actors, information, and the distribution of power). We will discuss the key actors, interests, institutions, and interactions in the areas of international security, international political economy, and other trans-national issues.

Among the key questions we will address are: If war is costly, why does it occur? Do politicians start wars to divert political attention from their domestic problems? Given that there is no way to enforce an alliance contract, how do you make an alliance credible? If trade promotes wealth, why do all countries restrict trade in some way? Why do some countries restrict trade more than others? How do nations manage the relationship between currencies? How do transnational networks (e.g. international non-governmental organizations) influence politics? Why do some transnational actors use terrorism? What can be done to prevent terrorism? Why do states protect the human rights of people in other countries? Why is it so hard to cooperate internationally to protect the global environment? By the end of the course students will understand the central dilemmas in world politics and know ways to mitigate these dilemmas. Students who master the material will also be able to provide cogent answers to each question mentioned in this paragraph.

Course Materials

All class readings are to be completed **before** the class meeting for which they are listed. There is one required textbook for the class: *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, by Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz. W.W. Norton & Company. 3rd Edition. This textbook is available at the FSU Bookstore and online. It is also available in electronic version as an e-book. In addition to the book, supplementary readings may be announced during the semester that will be available online.

You should make a habit (if you have not already) of reading at least one major newspaper or periodical with substantial international coverage, such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, or the *Economist*. You can access these and other news sources free of charge through the library. Lectures will frequently reference relevant current international events, and being conversant with what is going on in the world will be important to contribute to discussions and do well on exams. Exams will reference current events in the countries we are studying, so it is in your best interest to stay on top of things.

This course is supported by a Canvas website. Go to <https://fsu.instructure.com> to log in. I have posted the syllabus and reading quizzes online. I will also post lecture outlines and other information. In Canvas, students are responsible for ensuring that notification preferences link to student emails. Check your Canvas notification settings to avoid missing announcements.

Course Policies [read carefully]

- Students must be courteous and respectful to the instructor and fellow students. I reserve the right to dismiss you or lower your grade for any behavior that is disrespectful or in violation of course rules.
- Arriving late or leaving during class is disruptive both for me and for your classmates. Be on time. If you come to class, stay for the whole session. If you must leave early one day, sit near the exit to avoid distracting others. If you missed class, talk to other students to find out what material you missed.
- No cell phones. All communication devices must be silent and out of sight.
- No laptops. Several studies have shown that taking notes with pen and paper results in better understanding, better recollection, and higher exam and course grades. See studies posted on Canvas.
- No private discussions.
- No recordings. Electronic video, audio, and photographic recording is prohibited. No student may record any aspect of classroom activity without express written consent from me.
- No food or beverages.
- Email policy: I will make every effort to respond to professional emails in a timely manner, usually within 48 hours, except weekends and holidays. To receive a response, the email must be sent from your FSU email address and the subject line of all emails must include the course number (INR 2002), followed by a descriptive subject title (e.g., “INR 2002: Question about [topic]”). The instructor will not respond via email to the following:
 1. Emails that fail to include the course number and a descriptive title in the subject line.
 2. Emails that fail to address the instructor with a proper title (Professor or Dr).
 3. Questions that students can answer themselves by reading the syllabus.
 4. Questions that require more than a short paragraph to address fully. For more detailed responses, students are encouraged to see the instructor during office hours.

- *Cheating* is a very serious offense that will get you in great trouble. I have zero tolerance for any instance of academic misconduct. You will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript. In addition, I will seek the severest penalty consistent with university guidelines, including recommendation for suspension. This will make it extremely difficult for you to gain entrance to graduate or professional schools and will jeopardize your opportunities with a large number of employers in the future. If you see other students cheating or helping someone cheat (during exams or otherwise), please let me know.

Earning Your Grade

Read this section carefully. Registration in this course implies that you agree with everything in this syllabus, including all elements of evaluation described here. In order to accomplish the above stated course goals and ensure your success in the course, I strongly encourage you to do the following (at a minimum):

1. Complete all readings **before** the class for which readings are assigned. The readings are required, not optional, and are a necessary first step towards in-class participation and earning your grade. Even readings that have not been explicitly addressed in lecture can be covered in the exams. So just doing the reading on the last night before the exam means an almost certain failing grade. Do your readings carefully and on time.
2. Take reading notes **before** the class for which readings are assigned. Your reading notes should include text summaries, core concepts with definitions and examples, and any questions that you still had after completing the reading. This enables you to keep up with lecture and to discuss the readings. It will also make your preparation for the exams much easier.
3. Complete the reading quiz online. This will help you check how well you understand the material.
4. Come to class, take good notes, ask informed and pertinent questions of your instructor and each other. Taking *good* notes in class does not mean writing every single word that is said or on the slides. It means listening, thinking, and then taking notes on what is new to you, such as additional examples or deeper explanations than what is in the textbook. If you did #1 and #2, this step will be easy.
5. Critically engage with the material and participate in class activities and discussions.
6. Contact your instructor early and often if you have questions or concerns about course materials, course expectations, or your grade which are not answered on this syllabus.

Exams: Three exams provide the main basis for evaluation, comprising 450 points. Each exam is on scantron. Forms of questions will include multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank. You must bring a pencil. Also, arrive on time to the exam: as soon as the first person completes the exam and leaves, no one else may start the exam. All exams are closed-book and closed-note exams.

Anything covered in readings, lecture, and discussion is fair game for the exams. Even if the lecture did *not* cover something in the readings at all, that material might still be on the exam. The readings and lecture are both essential for your understanding of the material. Do the readings as often as necessary until you understand the material. If you need study guides for the exam, the textbook provides study tool kits at the end of each chapter.

The exam days are set. Clear your schedules now. You must take the exam at its scheduled time; drop the class if you cannot attend one of the exams. The first exam will take place on Tuesday, September 26, in class and will cover material up to that point. The second exam will take place on Thursday, October 26, in class and will cover material after the first exam. The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 5:30pm-7:30pm and will cover all material; it will be comprehensive.

There will be NO make-up exams, except in extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances. In a genuine emergency, I am very willing to work with you. I will, however, require documentation of emergencies (e.g. notes from doctors or emergency room personnel that you were unable to attend class on the day of the exam) in all instances. A note stating only that you saw a doctor is not sufficient. Students must get the instructor's approval to take a makeup within within two calendar days of the missed exam. All makeup exams will be administered during the university scheduled timeframe, Friday December 15, 5:30-7:30pm, at my office. Missed exams for which no proper documentation is provided will receive a score of zero. NO early exams will be given.

Exam grades will be posted as soon as possible. It often takes a day or two to scan and another day or two to look the scores over and upload them to Canvas. Re-grading Policy: If you feel that any assignment has been graded incorrectly, you may request that it be regraded. However, you must wait for 48 hours after the assignment has been returned before issuing any complaints. Following such "cooling-off" period, you must provide a 1 page memo indicating the reason for your concern and why you deserve a better grade. This memo has to be based entirely on the merit of your own work (i.e., it cannot be based on comparisons with the grades of other students) and it has to be submitted within 4 days of receiving the grade. Upon receiving your memo, I will regrade the ENTIRE assignment in question within 72 hours. This means that the revised grade may be higher or lower than what you originally received. Be certain that you have a very specific and justifiable reason before asking for re-grading; this is not a risk-free process.

Reading Quizzes: You will be responsible for taking 10 out-of-class reading quizzes, each of which are worth 12 points, for a total of 120 points. Reading quizzes will be made available on Canvas about 46 hours before the reading is due and will close down 35 minutes before class starts. Some quizzes are available Sunday-Tuesday, others are available Tuesday-Thursday. It is up to you to check Canvas for these quizzes; they take place about once a week and due dates are posted online. You must attempt 10 of these reading quizzes throughout the semester, though there are 14 quiz opportunities. It is up to you which 10 of these 14 quizzes you would like to complete. You can retake a quiz as many times as you wish to improve your score until the quiz period closes. For each quiz you attempt multiple times, your highest score will be saved. Quizzes canNOT be made up for any reason. This means you must complete quizzes over the course of the semester, and will NOT be able to complete several quizzes in one day at the end of the semester.

Once you completed 10 quizzes, you can take 4 additional quizzes to earn extra credit points. Each extra credit quiz will be worth a maximum of 5 points each, for a total 20 points.

Participation: The final 30 points will be allocated based on your participation in 6 in-class activities (individual assignments and group work) that are each worth 5 points. These activities will be scheduled approximately once every other week, and will relate to materials from the readings and lecture. I may ask you to read or seek out additional information in preparation of an activity, but will notify you in class and vial email if that will be necessary. If you miss class for an excused absence, you may submit a short response paper (one page single spaced) covering the text that was due for that class period, though this make-up assignment and all related proper documentation (see missed exam policy above) must be submitted to the instructor no later than one week following the missed class period.

Grades: Grades for the course will be assigned according to completion of the following course assignments:

- Exam 1 150 points
- Exam 2 150 points
- Exam 3 150 points
- Reading quizzes 120 points
- Participation 30 points
- Total 600 points

Note that the "total" column that is automatically calculated on Canvas is likely NOT an accurate reflection of your grade, and you will likely need to do calculations to get a correctly weighted estimate.

There is no formal grade for attendance.

There are no additional ways to earn credit for the course beyond those specified in the syllabus. Since a substantial amount of extra credit opportunities is already built into the course and equally available to all students (hint: reading quizzes), there will be no exceptions, nor is there room to negotiate. If you need a good grade, put in the work. I'm always happy to clarify difficult material in lecture and office hours, but I will not change grading policies for individual students – no matter how badly they want a specific grade.

Your final point total for the semester will translate into letter grades as shown below. Final grade points ending in a decimal of .5 or greater will be rounded up to the next whole number. The scale may be revised if needed.

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|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| • 93 and above: A | • 86-83: B | • 76-73: C | • 66-63: D |
| • 92-90: A- | • 82-80: B- | • 72-70: C- | • 62-60: D- |
| • 89-87: B+ | • 79-77: C+ | • 69-67: D+ | • 59 and below: F |

Final grades will be available on December 20. Incompletes will not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances, prior to the end of the course, at the discretion of the instructor and in consultation with the Dean of Students and/or the Dean of the College of Social Sciences.

On letters of recommendation: I encourage your plans to study abroad, seek employment or pursue additional educational opportunities. Though you are no doubt deserving of accolades and endorsement, I am not available to write letters of recommendation for students who have only taken this introductory class with me. If you would like to receive a reference from me, take one of my upper level classes.

University Policies

Academic Honor Policy: FSU's Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." Violations include (but are not limited to) the use of unauthorized information on course assignments or examinations, representing another's work or any part thereof (published or unpublished) as one's own, assisting another student in obtaining unauthorized information for course assignments or examinations, and attempting to commit such an offense. A more complete listing of violations can be found in the FSU Student Handbook.

Attendance Policy: Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. If you have to miss class for any reason, it is *your* responsibility to inform yourself on what has been covered and get notes from classmates. I suggest you make friends.

Special Accommodations: Students needing special accommodations to ensure full participation in this course should contact me as early as possible. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, 850-644-9566, sdrc@admin.fsu.edu,

<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/> I will make every effort not only to maintain the confidentiality of personal information but also to enable full participation in this course by all students.

Liberal Studies Social Sciences Competence: Students will become: critical appraisers of theories and the facts that support them. Courses must enable students to meet all three competencies – (1) explain how human experience shapes the past and present; (2) collect and analyze data and evaluate arguments using appropriate tools. Social Sciences courses should place their emphasis on social science and social science methodologies. Students will demonstrate the ability to: (1) critically examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, cultural, economic, and social experiences and/or structures shape the past and/or the present. (2) employ appropriate social scientific methods and technology in the selection and appraisal of data, and use these data to assess causal arguments, and analyze assertions and evidence.

Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Aug. 29 & 31	The Study of International Relations	Introduction & Ch. 1
2	Sept. 5 & 7	Interests, Interactions, Institutions	Ch. 2
3	Sept. 12 & 14	Why are there Wars?	Ch. 3
4	Sept. 19 & 21	Domestic Politics and War	Ch. 4
5	Sept. 26	Exam #1	Ch. 1-4
	Sept. 28	International Institutions and War	Ch. 5
6	Oct. 3 & 5	Civil War and Terrorism	Ch. 5 & 6
7	Oct. 10 & 12	International Trade	Ch. 6 & 7
	Oct. 13	Last day to drop without receiving a grade	
8	Oct. 17 & 19	International Finance	Ch. 7 & 8
9	Oct. 24	International Monetary Relations	Ch. 9
	Oct. 26	Exam #2	Ch. 5-9
10	Oct. 31 & Nov. 2	Economic Development	Ch. 10
11	Nov. 7 & 9	International Law	Ch. 11
12	Nov. 14 & 16	Human Rights	Ch. 12
	Nov. 17	Last day to drop with Dean's permission	
13	Nov. 21	Human Rights, cont'd	Ch. 12
	Nov. 23	No Class (Thanksgiving)	
14	Nov. 28 & 30	The Environment	Ch. 13
15	Dec. 5 & 7	Future of International Politics	Ch. 14
16	Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30pm	Exam #3	Ch. 1-14

Note: schedule is tentative and may change as semester progresses.