

GOVT 132
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Global Affairs, George Mason University Korea
Spring 2019

GMUK G#202
TR 03:00-04:15PM

Instructor: Dr. June Park
Office: GMUK #G649
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:00PM

E-mail: junepark@gmu.edu
Research Website: <http://blogs.bu.edu/junepark>
Office Hour Sign-up: <https://junepark.youcanbook.me>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Introduction to International Politics. ‘Why is the U.S. and China engaged in a trade war?’ ‘Why have the British voted for Brexit?’ ‘Will North Korea denuclearize?’ ‘Why are Russia and Iran under sanctions?’ ‘Has the role of the UN decreased vis-à-vis its inception post-WWII?’ ‘Who is the world’s biggest energy producer and the biggest air polluter?’ ‘Why did the U.S. wage war on Iraq?’ ‘Why is there a war in Yemen?’ ‘What is going on in the South China Sea?’ ‘Why is the U.S. dollar convertible in many countries?’ These are only some of the many questions that we will unravel in this introductory course of International Relations (IR). This course provides a primary introduction to international relations at the undergraduate level, with the intent to train the students to engage in a more advanced understanding of international politics. The core concepts of world politics will be learned in this course, focusing on terms in IR students can use to explain interstate behavior and the nexus of domestic politics and foreign policy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Within the broader discipline of political science, International Relations (IR) is a relatively young sub-discipline – other sub-disciplines include American politics, comparative politics, political theory, public administration, public policy, political methodology, and political economy. This course intends to deliver the introductory contents of the discipline of IR categorized in the following five sections:

The Introduction section will provide students with an empirical grounding in current and historical international dynamics. Students will discuss what the international system looks like, how it got to be that way and also what global shifts have occurred in the past two years.

The first section of the class – ‘Foundations,’ will introduce students to basic concepts and theories which will be used as the basis of discussion for the rest of the semester. Students will be introduced to the benefits and drawbacks of differing perspectives of the causes of various features of the international system as well as a common vocabulary with which to discuss those features.

The second section of the class – ‘War and Peace,’ will introduce students to International Security. Students will be introduced to basic concepts that define conflict and cooperation between states. Students will learn about traditional warfare and the changing nature of interstate wars with the advancement of technology.

The third section of the class – ‘International Political Economy,’ will introduce students to International Political Economy. Students will be introduced to the origins of international economic institutions, the behavior of multi-national corporations (MNCs) and the role of foreign-direct investment, international trade, debt, and development in international politics.

The fourth section of the class – ‘Transitional Politics,’ will introduce students to International Law – human rights, global norms, and global environmental politics related to energy issues. In particular, how they influence, and are influenced by, international politics.

The fifth section of the class – ‘Looking Ahead,’ will address some of the challenges to the global order.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Blackboard

The Mason Bb will be the primary source of materials for this class. Students are expected to regularly check the updates of uploaded material for download. I will be posting important materials for class. The Blackboard will be used in conjunction with the Microsoft Class Notebook.

Microsoft Office 365 OneNote Class Notebook

If the Blackboard is my space for instruction, the Class Notebook is your individual and group space where I engage with you on a one-to-one basis. The interactive platform for individual class notes, work submissions and collaborative online space for group work will be Microsoft Office Class Notebook, where I as instructor can access all of the students’ notebooks individually and students will have access to their notebooks as well as the collaborative space. Students are free to upload relevant materials in the collaborative space for group work to generate ideas via brainstorming with an open mind. Grading on coursework will be supplied to individual notebooks after students have completed a task. Access is strictly limited to students of this class, via invitation sent to the students’ GMU email accounts.

Readings

The lecture format for this course will be a ‘Socratic method of teaching,’ where students are expected to actively participate in cooperative, argumentative dialogues between themselves and the instructor. Based on the contents of the reading assigned, the instructor will ask and the student will answer questions, not only to check on student progress on the readings but also to stimulate critical thinking and to enable thinking for policy simulations outside the box. In order to perform well in class and to participate in the dialogues, students must complete all assigned readings prior to lecture. The readings are predominantly from the textbook, but there are certain materials indicated in black bullets that are outside the textbook – additional materials may arise as the course unfolds. Such readings will be uploaded by the instructor on the course Blackboard.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be uploaded each evening following the lecture of the day on *Class Notebook* along with class notes, if any. Students are to download them for review. While lecture slides will be posted online, these serve as a supplement to the lecture, and are not a substitute for the lecture. You are encouraged to get notes from your group members if you miss a lecture.

Classroom Behavior

Students are advised to be attentive during lecture hours. Laptops, and phones will be allowed ONLY for learning purposes.

Communication via Email

Communication on projects and assignments will be via email. I will hold office hours from 2-3PM every Tuesday for GOVT 132 students. I will try to respond to emails within 24 business hours of an email being sent. I seldom check my email over the weekend. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please send me a reminder email, as I may have missed the original email.

Office Hours

The instructor will hold office hours from 2-3PM every Tuesday for GOVT 132 students. In an effort to organize timeslots and to hold office hours in the most efficient and productive way possible, students will be required to sign up for office hour times **at least a day prior to their desired date** of meeting on my *YouCanBookMe* page by visiting <https://junepark.youcanbook.me> and choosing their slots offered in 10-minute increments with their information (first and last names, email address). If you cannot choose a slot among those offered due to a schedule conflict or if you have a question that takes longer than a paragraph to answer, please schedule a meeting or a phone call.

Honor Code and Plagiarism

Students are encouraged to read the Full Honor Code, which serves as a contract and guideline for what will occur in the case of honor code violations. Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>)

Attendance

There is not a participation grade component for this class. However, there is a weekly quiz grade and a group project grade. These grade components will rely on student attendance. You are expected to attend class.

READINGS & COURSE MATERIALS

Required Text

Jeffrey Frieden, Lake, David, and Schultz, Kenneth. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Fourth Edition. W.W. Norton. (ISBN: 0393675092)

<https://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294997746>
https://www.amazon.com/dp/0393675092/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_BxAtCbD26FV5N

The above book is the only book required for class. Students are expected to purchase the textbook in time to complete the readings for the first week of class.

NOTE: Previous editions of the above book are not appropriate for this course as the fourth edition includes latest updates on international affairs.

Supplementary Texts

Payne, Richard J. 2017. *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*. 5th Edition. Pearson. (ISBN: 9780134202051) **PDF available on Blackboard.**

<https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/product/Payne-Global-Issues-Politics-Economics-and-Culture-Subscription-5th-Edition/9780134416090.html>
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01DV756O8/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_RZSxCbPZ0SS72

Case studies from the above book will be used for group project presentations. Students will not be required to purchase this book.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING METHOD

Assignments	Percentage (%)	Notes
1. Weekly Quizzes via <i>InQuizitive</i>	10	Instructions to be given the first day of class
2. Simulations via <i>Model Diplomacy</i>	15	Case studies from CFR
3. Mid-Term	20	Multiple choice, short answers and essays
4. Essay on 'Tokyo Trial' via <i>Microsoft Class Notebook</i>	15	Individual writing assignment
5. Group Project Presentations	10	Topics to be chosen in consultation with the instructor

Grading Rubric

Grade	Description
100-97: A+	"A(+/-)" indicates excellent performance with clear evidence of
96-93: A	--a comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter and principles treated in the course
92-90: A-	--a high degree of originality and independence of thought --a superior ability to organize and analyze ideas --an outstanding ability to communicate these ideas (orally or through composition).
89-87: B+	"B(+/-)" indicates good performance with evidence of
86-83: B	--a substantial knowledge of the subject matter
82-80: B-	--a moderate degree of originality and independence of thought --a good ability organize and analyze ideas --an ability to communicate or compose clearly.
79-77: C+	"C(+/-)" indicates satisfactory performance with evidence of
76-70: C	--an acceptable grasp of the subject matter --an acceptable ability to organize and analyze ideas --an ability to communicate or compose adequately.
69-60: D	"D" indicates minimally acceptable performance with evidence of --rudimentary knowledge of the subject matter --some evidence that organizational and analytical skills have been developed, but with significant weaknesses in some areas. --significant weakness in the ability to compose or communicate ideas.
59-0: F	"F" indicates failing performance with evidence of --an inadequate knowledge of the subject matter --failure to complete required work, and an inability to organize, compose, or communicate ideas.

1. Review Quizzes via W.W.Norton *InQuizitive* (10%):

Weekly review quizzes will be short quizzes about the week's readings, but students will be answering quizzes before each class. *InQuizitive* is an award-winning, student-friendly, fun learning tool that effectively enhances student understanding of key concepts, and *InQuizitive* questions have been prepared by the textbook publisher, W.W.Norton, in consultation with Dustin Tingley of the Government Department at Harvard University. *InQuizitive* will generate data based on student performance and it will help the instructor track down what concepts students are struggling with. *InQuizitive* can be used both as preview and review of lecture content, but the instructor expects the students to: 1) first read the assigned chapter, 2) working on reviewing the contents after the weekly lectures, 3) and then log onto *InQuizitive* to answer the quizzes for self-assessment.

Here's how it works: I will be creating a new student set – essentially a roster for all students for this course on *InQuizitive* (<https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol4>). Students are to register with their G#Numbers using their own unique GMU email addresses ONLY, to ensure the identity of the registered user.

- You score points in *InQuizitive* by answering questions.
- You determine how many points you can gain or lose on each question using the Question Confidence slider (to the right if you're on a computer, or at the bottom for smartphone users).
- You must answer a minimum number of questions to get a grade on the activity.
- To get a perfect grade (100%) on the activity, you must reach a designated target Score.

We will walk through *InQuizitive* using the classroom screen step by step on February 26, the first day of class.

We will be completing a chapter per week, excluding Week 13, when we will be completing two chapters. Students are expected to read the designated pages of the chapter prior to each lecture. Students must complete the designated readings prior to logging into *InQuizitive* to answer the quizzes. Upon access to *InQuizitive*, students will be expected to submit their *InQuizitive* answers for the assigned chapter of the week by Friday evening of the week, 11:59PM Eastern Time (Washington DC time, which will provide students at GMUK 14 hours extra due to the time difference between Seoul and DC to work on *InQuizitive* on Saturday until 2PM Korea Standard Time if they choose to answer after the lecture). Late submissions beyond the deadline each week will not be accepted.

Grades for Quizzes will be accumulated based on each *InQuizitive* input of answers that the student completes each week. If the student does not answer any *InQuizitive* quizzes, no grades will be given for weekly quizzes.

2. *Simulations (15%):*

There will be three simulations, each time we complete a PART of the course. The simulation is a group project that will occur intermittently as we cover the contents of the textbook in the second-half of each class during the second-half of the semester, and will be announced at least a week prior for the students to prepare for their roles as individuals or groups, also announced a week prior. **Students will utilize the collaborative space on Microsoft Class Notebook for brainstorming.** The simulation cases will be drawn from Model Diplomacy by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) (<https://modeldiplomacy.cfr.org>) case library. (Model Diplomacy simulations are developed by CFR experts with the support of the Education team. CFR experts are well-known scholars with deep experience in the issues and regions covered, many coming from high-level government service.) Groups will be set in advance, and during each class, the groups, which will represent actors in a crisis, will argue for why certain actions should occur, and why the other groups' actions should not occur. Argumentation will be evaluated based on the veracity of empirical facts used to support arguments, and the congruence of those arguments' assumptions with the theory we will learn in class. Each group will have objectives, and their ability to accomplish those objectives will determine their grade for the simulation.

3. *Essay on 'Tokyo Trial' via Netflix (10%):*

We will watch a Netflix miniseries, "Tokyo Trial" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4040530/>) from Week 11 to 12 as we cover International Law and Human Rights. Following the screening and discussions, students are to submit an essay based on their analysis of contemporary international legal order that was constructed at the Tokyo Trial on the offenses on the crimes that were adjudicated at the trial. A guideline for the essay will be handed out to the students prior to the screening. The essay should be argumentative and may be supported by other reading materials provided by the instructor. The length of the essay should be less than 1,000 words and is due midnight of May 23 on *Microsoft Class Notebook*.

4. *Group Project Presentations (15%):*

There are 20 students in this class. **Students will form a team of 4, forming 5 groups to work together an ongoing issue in international politics towards presentation in the Week 14 and 15.** A group would agree on a case study from the supplementary textbook by Richard Payne (2017) – available on Blackboard - of their choice and will work together as a group throughout the semester outside class hours to analyze a recent global issue in the news using a critical concept we've discussed in class (for example, neoliberalism, nationalism, the international order). Students will be assigned to groups based on their topic of interest and are encouraged to get to know their fellow group members. Each group will work together throughout the semester toward their final presentation, where each presentation using power point slides will address the following: 1) a brief recap of the topic for the classroom audience; 2) what is at stake in international politics regarding that specific topic; 3) what are conflicting interstate interests from country perspectives using the analytical tools we developed throughout the course; 4) what the group propose to resolve the issue in the future. Pending unusual circumstances, all students in the same group will receive the same grade for a given project.

5. *Exams: Mid-Term (20%) and Final Exam (30%) via Microsoft Class Notebook*

We have two exams, the mid-term (20%) and the final (30%). Both will be combination of multiple choices, short-answers, and essay(s). The final is not cumulative (it covers between the mid-term and the end of the semester). The

weekly review quizzes and map quizzes will keep the students on track as they prepare for the exams, and the reading responses will be the mode of assessment in gauging how much understanding the students are gaining and the level of content they are able to process. As long as the student follows through each week's reading and quizzes in addition to their reading response contributions, they will be more than ready for the exams. The final will be comprised of multiple choice, short answers and short essays. The final exam will be administered in the classroom during the final exam period for the course. Students need to bring a scantron and a #2 pencil to the final exam for multiple choice questions. The Final Exam date [June 18, 2019 (Tuesday) at 1600 – 1845] is determined by the University. Barring medical emergencies, changing the exam date is not permitted.

Extra Credit and Make-ups: This course offers extra credit in a few forms. Students that deliver strong answers during our classroom discussions will be occasionally awarded extra credits to be reflected in their final grades. Students will also be allowed to drop their lowest weekly *InQuizitive* grade. However, students will not be allowed to make-up missing assignments and therefore must deliver each assignment on time. Exceptions will be made for medical emergencies or deaths in the immediate family per university policy (i.e., sports/religious observance). Requests must be made within the first two-weeks of class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND TOPICS

Note: Number of pages for each reading in parentheses, all readings are tentative and subject to change.

PART I. FOUNDATIONS

Week 1. Introduction

February 26, 2019 (I)

- Introduction (pp. xvi-xxxix)

February 28, 2019 (R)

- Chapter One: What Shaped our World? A Historical Introduction (pp. 2-41)

Week 2. Interests, Interactions and Institutions

March 5, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Two: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (pp. 42-87)

March 7, 2019 (R)

Three Camps: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism

- John Mearsheimer. 2001. "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics" (Excerpt)
- Robert Keohane. 1986. "After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in World Political Economy" (Excerpt)
- Alexander Wendt. 1999. "Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring, 1992), pp. 391-425 (Excerpt)

PART II: WAR AND PEACE

Week 3. Wars

March 12, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Three: Why Are There Wars? (pp. 88-117)

March 14, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Three: Why Are There Wars? (pp. 118-137)

Week 4. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

March 19, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Four: Domestic Politics and War (pp. 138-165)

March 21, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Four: Domestic Politics and War (pp. 166-185)

Week 5. International Institutions and Security

March 26, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Five: International Institutions and War (pp. 186-204)
- Victor Cha, Powerplay Chapter 1. (Alliances)

<http://assets.press.princeton.edu/chapters/s10845.pdf>

March 28, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Five: International Institutions and War (pp. 205-235)
- Eric Voeten, "The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force". *International Organization*. 59(3):527-557

Week 6. Civil War and Terrorism & Midterm

April 2, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Six: Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil War and Terrorism (pp. 236-293)

♣ Simulation 1

April 4, 2019 (R)

Mid-Term

PART III. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 7. International Trade

April 9, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Seven: International Trade (pp. 294-318)

April 11, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Seven: International Trade (pp. 318-345)

Week 8. International Finance

April 16, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Eight: International Financial Relations (pp. 346-370)

April 18, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Eight: International Financial Relations (pp. 371-385)

Week 9. International Monetary System

April 23, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Nine: International Monetary Relations (pp.386-401)

April 25, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Nine: International Monetary Relations (pp.402-423)

Week 10. Development

April 30, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Ten: Development – Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations (pp.424-445)

May 2, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Ten: Development – Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations (pp.445-461)

♣ Simulation 2

Week 11. International Law

May 7, 2019 (I) Spring Recess (No Class)

May 9, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Eleven: International Law and Norms (pp.462-497)

Watch Film: Tokyo Trial (2017) Running Time: 46 min (Ep.1) and 46 min (Ep.2)

PART IV. TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS / PART V. Looking Ahead

Week 12. Human Rights

May 14, 2019 (I)

- Chapter Twelve: Human Rights (pp. 498-520)

Miniseries Screening: Tokyo Trial (2016) Running Time: 48 min (Ep.3) and 49 min (Ep.4)

May 16, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Twelve: Human Rights (pp. 520-539)

Miniseries Screening: Watch remainder of Tokyo Trial (2016) then break into small groups for interactive discussions based on the miniseries, led independently by students

Week 13. Energy and Environment

May 21, 2019 (T)

- Chapter Thirteen: The Global Environment (pp.540-583)

May 23, 2019 (R)

- Chapter Fourteen: Challenges to the Global Order (pp.584-637)

♣ Simulation 3

Assignment: Essay on 'Tokyo Trial' due by midnight on May 23 via Microsoft Class Notebook

Week 14. Student Presentations – Groups on International Security and International Political Economy

May 28, 2019 (T)

Student Presentations – International Security

May 30, 2019 (R)

Student Presentations – International Political Economy

Week 15. Student Presentations – Groups on International Law, Development and Environment

June 4, 2019 (T)

Student Presentations – International Law, Development and Environment

June 6, 2019 (R) Memorial Day (No Class)

Week 16. Reading Week

June 11, 2019 (T) Reading Day

June 13, 2019 (R) Reading Day

Week 17. Final Exam

June 18, 2019 (T)

Final Exam