

The University of Texas at Austin
Introduction to International Relations
REVEL COURSE CODE: t33wf9k

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DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course to the study of international relations. It will be organized around critical questions that shape the dominant lines of inquiry in the field. Among other, we will explore: why do states go to war? Under what conditions do governments restrict international commerce? How does capital mobility constrain national economic policy? What is the role of international organizations such as the IMF and the United Nations in altering national interests and state action? What role do nonstate actors, such as multinational corporations and transnational activists, play in world politics?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be three sets of requirements for this course. First, you will be expected to attend class, keep up with the assigned readings, and participate in our discussions. We will track this participation through graded online discussions in the classroom and the completion of the activities assigned in your digital textbook. Second, you will complete one take home essay. Third, you will complete two in-class examinations: a midterm and a final. These requirements contribute to your final grade as follows:

Participation in graded chat during class	15%
Textbook activities	10%
Essay	25%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

READING MATERIALS

We have one required books for this course—a digital textbook. We will also add a few digital article readings that will be made available to you through Canvas.

McDonald, Patrick J., Terrence L. Chapman, and Robert Moser. 2020. *An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System*. Pearson. (**Hereafter: OGS**)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session 1: Introduction to International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 1

Session 2: The International System

Readings: OGS, Module 2

Session 3: Thinking Theoretically About International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 3

Session 4: Rationalist Approaches in International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 4

Session 5: Social and Psychological Approaches to International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 5

Session 6: War in IR

Readings: OGS, Module 7 and Sections 16.3-16.5

Session 7: Explaining the Outbreak of War, Part I

Readings: OGS, Module 8

Session 8: Explaining the Outbreak of War, Part II

Readings: OGS, Module 9

Session 9: Civil War and International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 12

Session 10: Alliances and Security Politics

Readings: OGS, Module 11

Session 11: Great Power Politics

Readings: OGS, Module 20

Session 12: Nuclear Weapons, Deterrence, and the Challenges of Proliferation

Readings: OGS, Modules 13-14

Session 13: Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Readings: OGS, Module 15

Session 14: Midterm

Session 15: States and the States System as a Source of Political Order in IR

Readings: OGS, Sections 16.1-16.2, Module 17

Session 16: Domestic Politics and International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 18

Session 17: Democracy in International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 19

Session 18: IOs and Global Governance

Readings: OGS, Module 21

Session 19: International Law

Readings: OGS, Module 22

Session 20: International Norms

Readings: OGS, Module 23

Session 21: Global Civil Society and Transnational Actors

Readings: OGS, Module 25

Session 22: Global Economic Integration and Trade Policy

Readings: OGS, Module 26, Sections 27.1-27.3

Session 23: The International Politics of Exchange Rates

Readings: OGS, Module 28

Session 24: The International Politics of Capital Flows

Readings: OGS, Module 29

Session 25: Poverty and Development

Readings: OGS, Module 31

Session 26: International Migration

Readings: OGS, Module 32

Session 27: Environmental Politics

Readings: OGS, Module 33

Session 28: Final Exam