

Bowdoin College
Department of Government and Legal Studies

Government 1600
Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2017
(v. 170829)

Adams 208
Mondays & Wednesdays 10:00-11:25 am
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Office hours: Monday 1:00-2:00pm, Tuesdays 2:30-4:00pm, or by appointment

This course serves as an introduction to the field of International Relations. It has three primary goals:

1. **To introduce students to the major theories of international relations in order to demonstrate the value of thinking theoretically about international politics.** We begin by asking what theories are and how they help us understand a complex world. Then we examine theories designed to answer the most important questions about international politics: Why do states go to war? What are the prospects for international cooperation? Are democratic states more peaceful than authoritarian regimes? What role do international institutions, such as the United Nations or the European Union, play in managing international politics? How has globalization altered the nature of international politics and the international economy?
2. **To apply a theoretical lens to major historical events and contemporary challenges within international politics.** After exploring the major theories of international relations, we explore the two World Wars, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War period. By examining these historical developments we are able to test the relevance of the major theories of international relations. Next, we examine how our theories stack up against contemporary challenges within international politics including those related to security, the environment, and economics.
3. **To explore the link between theory and policy-making in international politics.** Throughout the course, we will examine how different theories of international relations drive policy-makers toward various policies.

Course Policies:

Email Communication

- I will aim to respond to your emails within 48 hours. Please put “GOVT 1600” in the subject line of your email.

Technology

- Please turn off or silence your cell phone before coming to class.
- Laptops are not allowed in class unless we are doing a specific activity in which they are required. Research suggests students learn more when they do not use a laptop for taking notes. (For example, see: “[Why smart kids shouldn’t use laptops in class](#)” from *The Washington Post’s* Wonk Blog, May 6, 2016.)

Readings

- All assigned readings should be completed *before* each class. **Students should come prepared to discuss the author’s main argument, the evidence for this argument, and critiques of this argument.**
- There will be intermittent reading quizzes at the beginning of class during the course of the semester. The quizzes will count toward your participation and attendance grade. I will drop your two lowest quiz scores.
- All assignments will be posted on our course Blackboard site. Students should check this site regularly for announcements and details on course assignments. The assignments listed on the syllabus may be subject to minor changes throughout the semester. If changes are made, they will be announced in class as well as posted on Blackboard.

Academic Integrity

If there is a question as to whether you should cite something, err on the side of caution and cite it. You must cite the ideas of others—even if you are not directly quoting them—as well as facts and figures. Make sure that you provide as specific a citation as possible; if an author discusses an idea in one section or one page, cite the specific section or page instead of the full article or book. To review Bowdoin’s academic honor code and the definition of plagiarism, visit the following site: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/>.

Grade Disputes

Questions regarding your grades can be directed to me after a 48-hour waiting period. You are entitled to a satisfactory explanation as to why you received the grade you did. If you are not satisfied with the explanation provided, you may submit a written explanation for why you believe that your work was misgraded. The work will then be re-graded with the understanding that I may ultimately issue a grade that is better, the same, or worse than the original grade given.

Students with Disabilities

Please contact me at the beginning of the semester if specific accommodations are required for papers or exams.

Grading Policy

- Except in extreme cases—such as documented medical emergencies—late assignments will lose one full letter grade per day.
- Receiving a paper extension because of an absence requires notice from the Student Health Center or your academic Dean, preferably prior to the due date.
- No student can pass this course without completing all of the assignments.
- Students are responsible for retaining a copy of their papers until they have received a grade.

Grades will be assigned according to the following grading scale:

A	100-94
A-	93-90
B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70
D+	69-67

Course Assessment

Course grades will be based on the following assignments:

- Paper Assignment #1: 15%
- Paper Assignment #2: 25%
- Attendance/Reading Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final: 25%

Assignments:

Read the international/world section of one or more of the following papers, **every day**.

- The New York Times, www.nytimes.com
- The Washington Post, www.washingtonpost.com
- The Wall Street Journal, www.wsj.com
- The Economist, www.economist.com
- The BBC, www.bbc.com/news
- The Guardian, www.guardiannews.com

All readings will be available on Blackboard or via the hyperlinks provided below. Readings are **due on the day** they are assigned on this syllabus.

Introduction

- **August 30 (W): No class—Annual American Political Science Association Conference**
 - In lieu of class, please read: Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions and Institutions* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton Company, 2013): Chapter 1.
 - Ian Buruma, ["The End of the Anglo-American Order,"](#) *The New York Times Magazine*, November 29, 2016.
- **September 4 (M): Setting the stage with key concepts: Sovereignty, anarchy, actors, and power**
 - Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* [Chapter XIII.](#)
 - Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," Art & Jervis Reader: 10-16.
 - Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Soft Power: The Means to Success in world Politics* (New York, NY: PublicAffairs, 2004): 1-18.
- **September 6 (W): What makes a good theory in international relations?**
 - Kenneth N. Waltz, "Introduction" from *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis*, (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1959): 1-15.
 - Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* 145 (November/December 2004): 52-62.

Frameworks for Thinking about Conflict and Cooperation

- **September 11 (M): Structural Realism: How does anarchy help us understand international policies?**
 - Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," Art & Jervis Reader: 29-49.
 - Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions and Institutions* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton Company, 2013): 74-79. (Game theory tutorial)
- **September 13 (W): Liberalism I: How do institutions promote cooperation and how do structural realists critique this assessment?**
 - Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions" David A. Baldwin, ed., in *Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1993): 85-115.
 - Bruce Russett, ["The Waning of Warfare,"](#) *Current History* (January 2014): 30-32.
- **September 18 (M): Liberalism II: Are democratic states more peaceful?**
 - John M. Owen, "How Liberalism Produces the Democratic Peace," *International Security* 19:2 (Autumn 1994): 87-125.
 - Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratization and War," *Foreign Affairs*, 74:3 (May-June 1995): 79-97.

- **September 20 (W): Constructivism: How is the social world constructed? How do norms and identity affect international politics?**
 - Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of it," *Art & Jervis Reader*: 78-86.
 - Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization* 52:4 (1998): 887-917.
 - Start reading on page 889 under the heading "The Return to Norms"
- **September 25 (M): Review of the major systemic theories**
 - No reading, complete brief writing assignment
 - **Paper Assignment #1 handed out**
- **September 27 (W): How do state-level approaches help us understand international politics?**
 - Graham T. Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *The American Political Science Review* 63:3 (September 1969): 689-718.
- **October 2 (M): How do individuals—their biases, misperceptions, and analogies—affect state intentions in international politics?**
 - Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In," *International Security* 25:4 (Spring 2001): 107-146.
- **October 4 (W): Midterm**
- **October 9 (M): No class, fall break**

Applying Theory to History

- **October 11 (W): How does IR theory help us understand the origins of World War I?**
 - Samuel R. Williamson, Jr., "The Origins of World War I," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18:4 (Spring 1988): 795-818.
 - Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity," *International Organization* 44:2 (Spring 1990): 137-168.
- **October 16 (M): How does IR theory help us understand the interwar period and the origins of World War II in Europe?**
 - Gerhard Weinberg, *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994): 6-47.
- **October 18 (W): How does IR theory help us understand the origins of World War II in the Pacific?**
 - Scott D. Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18:4 (1988): 893-922.
 - **Paper Assignment #1 DRAFT Due to Writing Assistant**

- **October 23 (M): Why did the Cold War not turn hot?**
 - John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War* (New York: Penguin Books, 2006): 195-266.
 - George Kennan, "The Long Telegram," *Cable to the U.S. State Department* (22 February 1946).
 - Harry S. Truman, "[The Truman Doctrine](#)," (12 March 1947).
 - Watch this [10 minute video](#) to familiarize yourself with NSC-68 (April 1950).
- **October 25 (W): Does IR theory help us understand the present era?**
 - Nuno P. Monteiro, "Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity is not Peaceful," *International Security* 36:3 (2011/12): 9-40.

Contemporary Challenges

- **October 30 (M): Why do states develop nuclear weapons?**
 - Joseph Cirincione, "Building the Bomb" in *The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007): 1-13.
 - Scott D. Sagan, "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb," *International Security* 21:3 (1996/1997): 54-86.
 - **Paper Assignment #1 Due**
 - **Paper Assignment #2 Handed Out**
- **November 1 (W): How have nuclear weapons changed international politics? Should leaders pursue nuclear abolition?**
 - Kenneth N. Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability," *Foreign Affairs* 91: 4 (July/August 2012): 2-5.
 - Colin H. Kahl and Kenneth N. Waltz, "Iran and the Bomb: Would a Nuclear Iran Make the Middle East More Secure," *Foreign Affairs* 91:5 (September/October 2012): 157-162.
 - Tom Sauer and Joellen Pretorius, "Nuclear Weapons and the Humanitarian Approach," *Global Change, Peace & Security* (2014): 1-18.
- **November 6 (M): How should the international community fight terrorism?**
 - Andrew Moran, "Terrorism," in *International Security Studies* (London: Routledge, 2015): pp. 150-163.
 - Steven Brill, "[Is America Any Safer?](#)" *The Atlantic*, September 2016.
- **November 8 (W): How role does the United Nations help mitigate conflict?**
 - David L. Bosco, *Five to Rule Them All: The UN Security Council and the Making of the Modern World* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009): 1-38.
 - Lise Morje Howard, "Peacekeeping, Peace Enforcement, and UN Reform," *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 16(2) (Summer/Fall 2015): 6-13.
- **November 13 (M): What role should the international community play in intervening to stop ethnic conflict and genocide?**
 - Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen," *The Atlantic Monthly* (September 2001): 84-108. (OVER→)

- Alan J. Kuperman, "A Model Humanitarian Intervention? Reassessing NATO's Libya Campaign," *International Security* 38:1 (2013): 105-136.
- **November 15 (W): Why do powerful states obey powerless international laws?**
 - J. Martin Rochester, *Between Peril and Promise: The Politics of International Law* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications): 3-17 & 44-73.
 - **Assignment #2 DRAFT Due to Writing Assistant**
- **November 20 (M): How do domestic politics affect international trade and finance? What is globalization and how does it affect societies?**
 - Robert Gilpin, "The Nature of the Political Economy," *Art & Jervis Reader*: 282-298.
 - Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002): ix-22.
- **November 22 (W): Thanksgiving Break – no class**
- **November 27 (M): Why is it so difficult for states to cooperate to protect the environment?**
 - Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 162:3859 (1968): 1243-1248.
 - Elinor Ostrom, "Institutions and the Environment," *Economic Affairs* (September 2008): 24-31
 - Alan Dupont, "Strategic Implications of Climate Change," *Art & Jervis Reader*: 541-550.
- **November 29 (W): What grand strategy should the United States adopt?**
 - Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, William C. Wohlforth. "Don't Come Home, America." *International Security* 37:3 (2012): 7-51.
 - Read one of the two articles below:
 - John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "The Case for Offshore Balancing," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2016): 70-83.
 - Hal Brands, "U.S. Grand Strategy in an Age of Nationalism: Fortress America and its Alternatives," *The Washington Quarterly* 40:1 (2017): 73-94.
- **December 4 (M): Will the rise of China lead to conflict with the United States?**
 - G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs* 87:1 (2008): 23-37.
 - John J. Mearsheimer, "China's Unpeaceful Rise," *Current History* (April 2006): 160-162.
 - **Paper Assignment #2 Due**
- **December 6 (W): Final Review**

FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 15, 2017 at 9:00 am in Adams 208