

Syllabus for POLS 240 Section 4, "International Politics"

Fall 2012

Christopher Butler, Associate Professor

Contact Information:

Main Lecture: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 - 11:50 AM
in Center for the Arts (CTRART) 2018

Instructor's Office: Social Sciences Building (SSCO) 2051

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Jennifer Kerner

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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of International Relations. It will do so by surveying the key actors, issues, concepts, processes, patterns, and historical events that have shaped and continue to influence world politics. The course will provide students with knowledge of the historical antecedents of international affairs to aid understanding of foreign governments and societies, knowledge of world geography to understand the geographic context of foreign relations and U.S. foreign policy, knowledge of the basic principles of international economics and major contemporary international economic issues (four of twelve areas on the knowledge section of the U.S. Foreign Service Officer Written Examination).

Class Readings:

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2010. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. (available at the bookstore)

The United Nations Charter. (available on-line)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (*The UDHR*; available on-line)

The Non-Proliferation Treaty. (*The NPT*; available on-line)

Student Responsibilities:

Reading. Each student is expected to complete assigned readings before its corresponding lecture.

Current Events. Students are expected to keep up on current events related to international news since such events will be used as examples in class.

Participation. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and join discussion during class.

Attendance. Students are expected to attend all lectures.

Academic Integrity. Students are expected to comply with University policies regarding academic integrity. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated.

Basic Policies:

Make-up Policy. If a student has a University-approved excuse for missing an examination AND the instructor was notified PRIOR to the examination, arrangements for a make-up examination will be made. This policy is for exams only.

Late Written Assignments. Essays turned in late will be docked 10 points.

Completion. Grades of incomplete (I) will only be given in extraordinary circumstances.

Course Work and Grading:

Students will be evaluated on their understanding of the class material using the following grading system:

Exams (2)*	25%
Final Exam*	25%
Essays (4)	20%
Quizzes (3)	15%
Activity Participation (6)	15%
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	100%

* - There will be two exams (50 minutes) and a cumulative final exam (2 hours). Exam 1 will cover Parts One and Two of the textbook; exam 2 will cover Part Three of the textbook. The final exam will explicitly cover Parts Four and Five of the textbook and additionally cover material from the earlier in the semester. All exams will have multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank definitions (NOT matching), and country identification maps. Consideration will be given for scoring higher on the final exam compared to the first two exams.

Final grades will be determined according to the following scale.

<u>Percentage Earned</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
99.0 and above	A+
95.0 to 98.9	A
91.0 to 94.9	A-
87.0 to 90.9	B+
83.0 to 86.9	B
79.0 to 82.9	B-
75.0 to 78.9	C+
71.0 to 74.9	C
67.0 to 70.9	C-
63.0 to 66.9	D+
59.0 to 62.9	D
55.0 to 58.9	D-
below 55.0	F

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Lesson and Reading Schedule for POLS 240-4
Fall 2012

Monday		Wednesday		Friday	
Aug 20	Introductions FLS: Preface and Introduction	Aug 22	Time Travel: How did we get here? FLS: pp. 3-38	Aug 24	Our Framework: Strategy Matters FLS: pp. 40-74
Aug 27	Games States Play FLS: pp. 75-79	Aug 29	Why States Fight FLS: pp. 80-94	Aug 31	Mistaken Wars? FLS: pp. 94-105
Sep 3	<i>No class: Labor Day</i>	Sep 5	Rationalist Explanations for War & Peace FLS: pp. 105-121	Sep 7 Essay 1	Domestic Politics and War FLS: pp. 126-143
Sep 10	Special Interests and War FLS: pp. 143-153	Sep 12	Activity: Regime Type and War	Sep 14	Democratic Peace FLS: pp. 154-168
Sep 17	Alliances and Peace FLS: pp. 170-189	Sep 19	Activity: Balance of Power Politics	Sep 21	Collective Security FLS: pp. 189-213
Sep 24	Study Session	Sep 26	<u>Exam 1</u>	Sep 28	The United Nations <i>United Nations Charter</i>
Oct 1	Activity: Security Council Deliberations	Oct 3	What's so good about trade? FLS: pp. 214-227 AND 255-259	Oct 5 Essay 2	Protectionism FLS: pp. 228-238
Oct 8	Activity: International Trade	Oct 10	IPE and Trends of Trade FLS: pp. 238-254	Oct 12	<i>No class: Fall Break</i>
Oct 15	International Financial Relations FLS: pp. 260-282	Oct 17	Moving People and Moving Capital FLS: pp. 282-294	Oct 19	International Monetary Order FLS: pp. 296-319
Oct 22	Currency Crises FLS: pp. 320-329	Oct 24	Development Factors FLS: pp. 330-362	Oct 26	Activity: Developing Your Country
Oct 29	Study Session	Oct 31	<u>Exam 2</u>	Nov 2 Essay 3	Transnational Networks for the Good FLS: pp. 364-380
Nov 5	Transnational Networks for the Bad FLS: pp. 381-407	Nov 7	Internationalizing Human Rights <i>The UDHR AND</i> FLS: pp. 408-419	Nov 9	Sovereignty and Human Rights FLS: pp. 419-432
Nov 12	Protecting Human Rights FLS: pp. 432-443	Nov 14	Global Collective Action Problems FLS: pp. 444-456	Nov 16	Activity: The Global Commons
Nov 19	Why do polluters usually win? FLS: pp. 456-467	Nov 21	International Environmental Cooperation? FLS: pp. 467-483	Nov 23	<i>No class: Thanksgiving Break</i>
Nov 26	Non-Proliferation <i>The NPT AND</i> FLS: pp. 485-500	Nov 28	Power Transition Conflict? FLS: pp. 500-509	Nov 30 Essay 4	Globalization Expansive? FLS: pp. 509-520
Dec 3	The End of International Politics? FLS: pp. 520-530	Dec 5	Make-up Session	Dec 7	Study Session
		Dec 12	<u>Final Exam</u> 10:00 AM -12:00 PM		

FLS = *World Politics* by Frieden, Lake, and Schultz