

POLI 150: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND WORLD POLITICS

Fall 2019

Instructor:	Federico Fuchs	Time & Place:	TBD
Email:	ffuchs@live.unc.edu	Office Hours:	TBD

Course Overview

Conflicts arise or fizzle out, regimes change or become entrenched, tariffs are raised or lowered, and international cooperation is grasped and just as quickly passes through our fingers. We live in an active and changing world, but as this course will demonstrate, not a world driven by purely accidental occurrences. Conflict and cooperation do not "just happen," regardless of how it may appear on CNN. These events, like other political and social phenomena, can be explained through careful theoretical analysis of the underlying causes. This course is designed to provide you with some of the analytical concepts and tools necessary to make sense of these issues.

To do this, the course is divided into two primary sections. In the first section we focus on what has long been considered the central problem of international politics—*war and peace*—and develop the *realist* and the *liberal* perspectives on the problem of conflict. We will talk about the World Wars, the Cold War, war in the developing world, and terrorism. In the second section we will focus on everything else that happens in international politics, including international political economy, development, population growth, and environmental degradation. While these issues might not receive as much attention as war and peace, they will likely impact our day-to-day lives more profoundly and deeply. When you leave this course you should have the tools necessary to help make sense of these global issues

Your Instructor

Federico Fuchs

Department of Political Science

Email: ffuchs@live.unc.edu

Contacting your instructor

I will try to answer all emails as soon as possible, but please allow for up to 48 hours unless it is an emergency. If you email me after 5 pm, you should not expect a response before the next day. If your email concerns an assignment that is due the same day, you may not get a reply before the deadline, so please make all inquiries regarding assignments, due dates, etc. ahead of time. If you are emailing because you believe there is an error with your grade, please write one paragraph explaining why you think your grade is inadequate. I will not consider cases in which the student does not have an explanation to support his or her claim. Finally, you must understand that reevaluation of your work means you can get a higher grade, but also a lower one.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Textbooks

Three textbooks are required for this course:

- Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 5th edition, ISBN 978-1138290686 (hbk), 978-1138290693 (pbk), 9781315231372 (ebook)
- Nye, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*, 10th edition, ISBN 978-0134403168
- Oatley, *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*, 5th edition, ISBN 978-0205060634

Course Reserves and Additional Readings

Additional required readings beyond those contained in these three textbooks will be placed in the Course Reserves tab or can be accessed online. A link to these readings will be placed in the relevant lessons.

Lesson Notes

The lesson notes that are included are analogous to the lecture you would have in a classroom version of this course. These notes synthesize the material in the readings, offer analyses of concepts and theories, and sometimes offer new material. While it is important to read through these lesson notes, they should not be viewed as a substitute for the assigned readings in the texts and online.

Course Requirements

Part of my job as your instructor is to spark or expand your interest in international politics and to uncover the connections between international politics and your life. I will do my best to fulfill my side of the bargain between us, and I hope to get feedback from you frequently throughout the course. For the class to be successful and fun for all of us, you must also keep up your part of the bargain. That means the following tasks must be completed:

- Two exams (40 percent total at 20 percent each)
- Online discussion forum participation (30 percent)
- One short paper, five-page maximum length (30 percent)

Two Exams (20 percent each)

You are required to take a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will consist of a combination of short-answer questions and at least one long essay. The midterm exam will cover the readings and the lesson notes from Lessons 1–6 and you will have 90 minutes for six short-answer questions and one long essay. The final exam is not cumulative and will cover the readings and the lesson notes from Lessons 7–12. The final exam will be the same format as the midterm exam. You will have 90 minutes. You may **not** use your notes, books, Internet, or other resources during the exams.

Online Discussion Forum Participation (30 percent)

Each lesson contains several discussion questions designed to help you think about the week's readings and lesson notes. After you have read the assigned readings for the week, you should make **at least two contributions (unless otherwise noted)** to the discussion forum, following the guidelines below:

Contribution 1 should address one of the questions posed at the end of each section of lesson notes. The response you post should include a critical analysis of the evidence presented in the readings and lesson notes. Your response should be posted by 9 pm on the day they are due. Please consult the schedule for weekly deadlines of Contribution 1. The title of this contribution should be "Contribution 1: Question X" where X is the number of the question that you are addressing.

Contribution 2 should be a critical response to your fellow students' first postings (those labeled "Contribution 1"). Your posting should consider the merits and problems of the student's posting. Simply saying that "I agree with Joe because his argument makes a lot of sense to me" is not sufficient. Please consult the schedule for weekly deadlines of Contribution 2. This contribution should be posted as a follow-up under the message to which you are responding. Please change the subject line of your response so that it indicates this is: "Contribution 2." For week-to-week scheduling regarding forum posts, please consult the syllabus.

You are welcome to make additional contributions to the weekly discussion forum. These contributions could be a question about the concepts you are still unclear about, a response to another student's critique of your first contribution, a defense of another student's position, or it a response to any other type of comment in the discussion. While I make no promises, these additional posts will help boost your grade for a given week if they seem to contribute to the overall discussion.

Note: You should expect to spend about thirty minutes to an hour thinking about your response and typing out your discussion forum posting. If you are finding that it takes only five minutes, you probably need to think more deeply about the subject, but if you are working on it for more than an hour, it might be "overkill." Each forum contribution should be no more than 300 words in length. I am assessing not only your ability to make a coherent argument, but also to do so concisely.

Discussion Forum Grading

You will receive a discussion forum grade on a ten-point scale for each lesson. To receive a grade of seven points, you must post all contributions on time, and they must meet the minimum content requirements described above. To get a grade above a seven, your posts must go beyond simply answering the question and provide critical analysis that offers evidence and support from the course materials or even material found outside the course—the news, government and organization websites, Wikipedia, and so on. When using material to support your argument, please tell us where that material is coming from so that we can check it out if we want to. (This is especially important if you are using material from sources outside the course.)

Additionally, please note that two posts are required (unless otherwise noted on the syllabus), and you can receive a high score for making two strong posts. That said, if you are trying to receive a high forum grade, making additional posts beyond the two required ones can help you achieve this, if those posts add to the discussion.

Using the Discussion Forum

The discussion forum also serves as one of the main ways in which you can communicate with your classmates and with me. If you have questions about the readings that you would like to pose to your classmates or to me—such as seeking clarification on the meaning of a specific passage—feel free to post the question to the forum, as long as it does not carry one of the titles described above.

Note: I reserve the right to delete any inappropriate or duplicate postings and to intervene in the discussion if the exchange becomes hostile or uncivil. In general, however, I will refrain from getting too involved in the discussion during the week. Once the lesson is finished for the week, I will send out an email summarizing the various points made, pointing out any relevant issues that might have been addressed but were not, assessing the general quality of the discussion, and telling you more about my opinion on the topic.

Short Paper (30 percent)

This assignment will require you to apply one or more of the theoretical concepts covered in the readings and lesson notes to recent real-world events in international relations. As such, depending on the topic you choose you may need to read ahead and also do some additional research outside of the assigned readings. The purpose, of course, is to help you to develop your critical thinking skills and analyze how different strands of international relations theory may or may not be relevant to what we observe in the world.

Your paper should be five-pages maximum length and will be graded on a 100-point scale. A **first draft of the paper** is due by the date listed in the schedule. This will allow me to give you feedback and comments on how it might be improved, and give you time to incorporate any changes and recommendations you wish to adopt prior to submitting the final copy to me. It will also ensure that you do not leave your final paper until the last minute. Please note that, while I will not explicitly grade this first draft, submission of the draft will account for 10 percent of your paper grade. In other words, if you do not submit a first draft to me by this deadline, a 10-point penalty will be applied to your final paper grade and the maximum you can possibly receive for the paper is 90. The deadline for the **final paper** is outlined in the schedule.

For tips on writing clearly and persuasively, visit handouts and resources provided by [UNC Writing Center Plagiarism handout](#). These include handouts on [Writing for Political Science](#), writing the Paper (argument, thesis, introductions, conclusions, and editing and proofreading) and Style.

Grading Policy

To determine your course grade, I will calculate your percentage score for each component of the course, multiply that percentage by the weight of the component, and then calculate your total.

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A	94 or greater	C	74-75.9
A-	90-93.9	C-	70-73.9
B+	86-89.9	D+	66-69.9

B	84-85.9	D	64-65.9
B-	80-83.9	D-	60-63.9
C+	76-79.9		

Note: While I reserve the right to round grades up, the lines have to be drawn somewhere, and I will do my best to stick with this scale so that everybody knows what the expectations are.

After each assignment deadline passes, I will try to notify students who missed the due date. I will offer a brief extension in reasonable cases. If I extend the deadline and that deadline passes, the grade becomes a zero with no option for a longer extension. Exceptions will be granted only in extreme situations such as medical or family emergencies.

Syllabus Changes

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

Academic Policies

By enrolling as a student in this course, you agree to abide by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill policies related to the acceptable use of online resources. Please consult the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) on topics such as copyright, net-etiquette, and privacy protection.

As part of this course, you may be asked to participate in online discussions or other online activities that may include personal information about you or other students in the course. Please be respectful of the rights and protection of other participants under the UNC-Chapel Hill [ITS Information Security Policies](#) when participating in online classes.

When using online resources offered by organizations not affiliated with UNC-Chapel Hill, such as Google or YouTube, please note that the Terms and Conditions of these companies and not the University's Terms and Conditions apply. These third parties may offer different degrees of privacy protection and access rights to online content. You should be well aware of this when posting content to sites not managed by UNC-Chapel Hill. When links to sites outside of the unc.edu domain are inserted in class discussions, please be mindful that clicking on sites not affiliated with UNC-Chapel Hill may pose a risk for your computer due to the possible presence of malware on such sites.

Honor Code

Remember that as a student of UNC-Chapel Hill, you are bound by the University's [Honor Code](#), which states that "It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University students or academic personnel acting in an official capacity." An especially serious Honor Code violation is plagiarism. You may wish to take [tutorial on plagiarism](#) that was developed by librarians at UNC, Duke, NCSU and NCCU. If you have questions, please consult your instructor.

Office of Accessibility/Special Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability, you can receive services through [Accessibility Resources & Service](#). You must self-identify through Accessibility Resources to receive services or accommodation from either of these offices. Accessibility Resources works closely with programs, offices, and departments throughout the University to help create an accessible environment.

The office is located in Suite 2126 of the Student Academic Services Building (SASB), 450 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill, NC, and is open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. You can contact them by phone at 919-962-8300 or 711 (NC-RELAY), or by email at accessibility@unc.edu.