

PSC 204 Introduction to International Relations

MW 3:00-4:15

ten Hoor (TH)

347

Austin M Schutz

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Office Location: ten Hoor Hall, Rm. 308,

Office Hours: MW 2:00-2:50

Notification of Changes:

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. These amendments will be limited to revision of course schedule (no assignments will ever be due earlier than listed on this syllabus), the elimination of certain assignments/readings/tests, and the substitution of certain readings in the event that a better reading is found, or that the order of topic presentation is altered. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Prerequisites:

No prerequisites are necessary for this course.

Description of Class:

“...it follows that a war of extermination, in which the process of annihilation would strike at both parties, and likewise at all Right at the same time, would reach Perpetual Peace only on the final Golgotha of the human race. Such a war, therefore, as well as the use of such means as might lead to it, must be absolutely unallowable” (Kant, 11).

This course will be a broad ranging introduction to *the field of* International Relations. What are international relations? International relations refer to interactions between political units across time and space, and the study of international relations is concerned both with the content of relations and the environment in which they occur.

The arc of the course is this:

- 1) Students will receive an introduction to the history of the international system and theories of international politics
- 2) Students will interrogate the dynamics of globalization, violence, and security.
- 3) Students will be introduced to a range of special topics.
- 4) Students will simulate a diplomatic scenario after being introduced to the contents of the course

This is a class which requires diligent time management to succeed. ***Reading and class attendance are an expectation.*** Failure to read will make your essay difficult, and regularly missing classes will severely impact your grade.

Classroom Conduct:

Many topics that we discuss are potentially controversial. Investigating issues in an intellectually honest manner requires mutual respect. Therefore, these discussions should be conducted in a civil manner. If at any time a discussion is veering away from the topic in an unproductive, antagonistic, or inappropriate manner it will be redirected back to course material. Any harassment, including on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship, age, appearance, etc. will be reported to the University.

With respect to these discussions, students are not expected to educate the class on any issue, although participation in discussions is encouraged. If you feel that I have made a mistake during a lecture, please feel free to contact me via email at amschutz1@crimson.ua.edu or leave an anonymous note under my door. If you feel that my conduct is inappropriate in any way, please report it to the department chair at jos.smith@ua.edu.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course students should:

- 1) Understand the difference between international relations and other disciplines in political science
- 2) Have a theoretical understanding of basic principles of international relations by demonstrating competence through quizzes, tests, and assignments.
- 3) Gain knowledge to become critical consumers of media related to international relations.
- 4) Be prepared for further studies in international relations.

Required Texts (Purchase New, Used, or Rent):

Textbook: Smith, Steve, Patricia Owens, and John Baylis. *The Globalization of World Politics an Introduction to International Relations 6th Edition*. Oxford (Inglaterra): Oxford University Press, 2014.

ISBN-13: 978-0199656172

ISBN-10: 0199656177

Please note that the 7th edition of this book is also acceptable, and some content from the 7th edition will be uploaded to blackboard. I will upload a document that provides equivalent page numbers for readings in the 7th edition for those of you that have purchased it, or for those of you using the book on two hour reserve in the library.

On required readings: Primarily, I have broken up chapters by outlining specific sections in each chapter that I would like you to read, rather than reading entire chapters. On some occasions, readings are uploaded to blackboard.

On recommended readings: Recommending readings provide more background explanation for a given topic. They contain material that will be covered in the lecture, and are recommended for deeper understanding of a given topic.

On suggested readings: Suggested readings provide a deeper analysis of topics that may interest you. They are not required, and they will not be tested on.

- addall.com
[This is a price comparing tool, I do not guarantee that it will result in finding the lowest price on a textbook]
- [Supe Store](#) ○ Smile.Amazon.com
[\[Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase, on select items, to the charity of your choice when you use this website instead of their normal one.\]](#)
- Other sites, stores, etc.

Grades:

A+	97-100%
A	93-96%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%

D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	0-59%

Where your grades come from:

Tests/Quizzes: 65%

There are 3 quizzes and a final. Each quiz is worth 15%, and the final is worth 20%. Each quiz will be composed of 20-25 multiple choice questions, and your final will be 40-50 multiple choice questions.

Simulation: 15%

Students will be asked to take part in a two-day diplomatic simulation. Grades will be based on attendance. Unexcused absences for this period will result in a reduction in your final grade by 7.5% for each day missed.

Essay: 20%

Your essay will be 3 pages, double spaced. I accept any citation style that includes parenthetical citations with the author's last name (or the title of an article, etc. abbreviated to one word) and the date it was written. Bibliographies are expected and do not count toward your page limit. I suggest using a bibliography creator such as Easybib or RefWorks. I expect you to cite your book when you are using information from it, citing any ideas that are not your own is good practice. If you use information from a suggested reading, please note this in the bibliography. If you use a suggested reading I will add 1-3 points to your final essay grade depending on how well you link it to the topic. A specific prompt will be given when the essay is assigned, accompanied by a detailed rubric. You can, however, expect that rubric to be an adaptation of the following:

A: free of stylistic errors, explains the topics in question with few conceptual errors. These essays show clear understanding of any and all theoretical concepts used. A+ essays will be *extremely* well argued and free of any conceptual errors.

B: these essays may exhibit moderate errors in style, or understanding and demonstrating concepts. A-/B+ essays have minor errors in these areas.

C: these essays exhibit major errors in style and/or understanding of the concepts discussed.

D: these essays were not on topic. F: you didn't turn in your essay.

Extra Credit Assignments: The following are opportunities for extra credit:

- 1) *The Writing Center:* Revise your class essay at the writing center. You must provide a copy of the writing center client report form. This is worth 4% of your final grade. To make an appointment, visit: <https://writingcenter.ua.edu/>

- 2) *Suggested reading*: Read a suggested reading that corresponds to the current unit (see schedule below). In half a page, summarize the reading. In another half page, summarize a required reading from the current week that you feel is related to the suggested reading and describe how the suggested reading aided your understanding of the required reading. Finally, in a half page, describe why you think the major theme(s) of these two readings are important. This assignment is worth 2% of your final grade. ***This can be completed once. All extra credit assignments are due prior to the quiz, test, or essay that concludes each unit (see schedule below) except the final unit (see criteria in next sentence). I will not accept late extra credit assignments, and I will not accept extra credit assignments during the final unit, dead week, or finals week. This extra credit assignment cannot be completed during the final unit of the course.***

- 3) *What are politics for?* This assignment is for my own edification, and for you to critically think about what the function of politics in the world ought to be. I am providing few criteria so that you can be creative. My criteria are this: first, the paper should be written like an academic essay. *Spend time on it*. I will be providing feedback, and the essay is due well before the assigned class essay. This will give you a chance to have a better understanding of my expectations when the assigned class essay is due. Second, the paper should be two pages in length, double spaced. This assignment is worth 2% of your final grade.

- 4) I retain the right to create additional extra credit assignments, however you should not expect that I will.

Excused Absences and Late/Missed Work

Students will be excused from late assignments and will be allowed to make up missed exams when (1) the student has promptly notified the instructor of the missed work, and (2) the student has an acceptable excuse. An acceptable excuse is defined as any event or circumstance that prevents the student from attending class or completing an assignment and which is beyond the reasonable control of the student. Examples of such events include major illnesses, serious illness or death of an immediate family member, travel required for officially recognized University organizations, and other reasons as determined by the instructor on a case by case basis. Without exception, documentation must be provided to the instructor for an excuse to be deemed acceptable.

Attendance

It will be difficult to pass without attending, thus I do not take attendance except where noted. There are ample opportunities for extra credit.

University & Class Policies

Blackboard & Email

I encourage you to regularly check both blackboard and your school email. Readings outside your textbook will *always* be posted to blackboard. ***When emailing me, you must put the following in your subject line:***

[PSC 204-004]

Followed by a short subject line describing why you are contacting me. Example email:

To: amschutz1@crimson.ua.edu

Subject: [PSC 204-004] Meeting for office hours

I would like to meet to discuss this week's readings during your office hours, however I have a class before yours and work immediately afterward. Is it possible to schedule an appointment? Please let me know what times are convenient for you ...

Following the formatting I suggest for your subject line will ensure that your email is sorted properly in my inbox. If I do not respond to an email within 48 hours, email again, and make sure that you followed the above formatting for the subject line.

Need help?

Office hours: this is an opportunity for you to clarify topics and assignments you don't understand, ask for advice about applying to graduate school, or discuss anything directly related to the course material and/or your academic career.

Email: Additionally, you can also contact me via email with questions, and I will attempt to answer within 24 hours (if you have not received a response in 48 hours, send your email again and refer to the "Blackboard & Email" section). **Use of Technology in the Classroom:** While it is encouraged that students employ personal and university technology, the instructor reserves the right to deny the use of technology within the classroom on an individual or group basis if it becomes a distraction.

The unacceptable use of technology is obvious (e.g. texting, calling, emailing, etc.). Technology should only be used for taking notes and looking up pertinent information for class discussion (e.g. dates, quotes, figures, data, etc.). ***If you are on call for work, or expecting to be contacted for a job interview, for extenuating circumstances, etc. Please notify me in person prior to class beginning that you are expecting to be interrupted. I will ask you to sit next to the door to avoid potential disruption of the class.***

Note: All presentation materials including, but not necessarily limited to: Power Point slides, audio/spoken word, handouts, exams, quizzes, etc. are protected under copyright. The posting, mass distribution, uploading, plagiarizing, etc. will be treated as a violation of copyright and, potentially, academic misconduct.

Severe Weather Guidelines:

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies

which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvua23.com/weather>.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Policy on Academic Misconduct:

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of

Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.” See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.

This class will add the following restrictions specific to quizzes and exams:

1. No hats/headwear (unless for protected purposes, such as: religion, medical, etc.);
2. All possessions must be placed in a non-see-through bag or in your pockets. If you do not bring a bag with you to class on a quiz or exam day or cannot fit your possessions into your pockets, then any notes, phones, or other possessions must be placed at the front of the classroom and may be retrieved once all of your testing materials are turned in;
3. Do not remove any testing materials from the classroom including, but not limited to: scrap paper, answer books, exams/quizzes, scantrons, etc.

Emergency Contact Information:

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Disability Statement:

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 1000 Houser Hall to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment or to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 1000 Houser Hall, before receiving academic adjustments.

UAct: Ethical Community Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Class Schedule

NOTE: Lectures may need to be continued the next class period due to time restrictions. If this consistently happens the syllabus will be revised in order to better reflect our progress through the material.

Topic 1: International History

January 10

Required Reading: Syllabus, Chapter 2* (6th edition: pp. 36-44)

Recommended Reading: Chapter 2 (from 7th edition: on reserve at library)

Topics: Broad course overview, class structure, how to take notes, the Peace of Westphalia ***First Extra Credit Assignment Explained***

January 17

Required Reading: Van Evra *The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War* ([blackboard](#), pp. 58-66), *Briand-Kellog Pact* ([blackboard](#), Articles I and II)

Topics: The Development of Global Orders to WWI, WWI and the Twenty Years' Crisis 1900-1939

January 22

Required Readings: Chapter 3, *Japan Stuns World* ([blackboard](#)).

Topics: WWII, the Cold War, and the Bipolar World Order

January 24

Required Reading: Chapter 4 (pp. 66-69, 73-76)

Topics: The Cold War and the "Unipolar Moment"

January 29

Quiz 1

Topic 2: Theories of International Relations

January 31

Required Reading: Chapter 6 (textbook)

Topics: Idealism, Realism, and Neorealism

February 5

Required Reading: J.S. Mill (the last paragraph on page 4 to the end, [blackboard](#)), Chapter 7 (116-120, textbook)

Topics: Imperial Liberalism, Utopianism, and Democratic Peace

February 7

Required Reading: Excerpt from Kant ([blackboard](#)), Chapter 5 (textbook)

Topics: More on the Origins of Liberalism, and Neoliberalism; Back to International History: the new International Order

February 12

Required Reading: Chapter 10 (pp. 156-167, Box 10.3 and Box 10.4)
Topics: Social Construction and Constructivism

February 14
Required Reading: None
Topics: Review

February 19
Quiz 2

Topic 3: Globalization

February 21
Required Reading: Chapter 1 (pp. 16-24)
Topics: Globalization

February 26
Required Reading: *Globalization: What's New? What's Not?* (blackboard)
Topics: Globalization and Global Politics
Written Assignment Given

Topic 4: Violence and Security

February 28
Required Reading: Chapter 14* (read at least the introduction)
Recommended Reading: Chapter 14 (seventh edition: on reserve at library)
Topics: Clausewitz' War
*The content of this chapter varies between the 6th and 7th editions, however both are a good introduction to the concept of war, Chapter 14 from the 6th edition will be uploaded to blackboard

March 5
Required Reading: Chapter 14 (finish), Chapter 25
Topics: The development of war, state, and society in the west; Nationalism

March 7
Required Reading: Chapter 23 (pp. 358-359)
Topics: Terrorism, Civil War

March 19
Required Reading: Chapter 15 (pp. 230-235, textbook); Chapter 25
Topics: International and Global Security, Human Security

March 21

Review

Globalization essay due March 25th at 11:59pm

March 26

Quiz 3

Topic 5: International Structures

March 28

Required Reading: Chapter 18

Topics: International Law and Regimes

April 2

Required Reading: Chapter 21, Chapter 24

Topics: Transnational Actors and International Organizations; Nuclear Proliferation

April 4

Required Reading: Chapter 20

Topics: The United Nations

April 9

Required Reading: TBD

Topics: Self-Other, Gender

April 11

Required Reading: Race in World Politics (on blackboard)

Topics: Race

April 16

TBA

April 18

Simulation

*required attendance

April 23

Simulation

*required attendance

April 25
Review day

May 3 FINAL EXAM 7:00-9:30