

International Relations Syllabus

(POLS 3341-001)

3 credit hours

Fall 2024

August 26, 2024 to December 5, 2024

In-person class: Tuesdays, Thursdays; 2:00 - 3:15 pm

Classroom: Madla 254

Instructor Information

Emily Naasz, PhD

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Virtual office hours : Fridays, 1:00 - 4:00pm

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to international politics. First, we will analyze different theories of international politics and how each might be applied to real world scenarios. Then, we will delve into international relations, cooperation, political economy, and conflict. At various times throughout the course, we will examine current global issues through the lens of our theoretical framework. At the completion of this course, you will have the ability to identify and critique the theories and explanations of behavior in the international system (in particular, the role the U.S. plays in the international community), demonstrate awareness and knowledge of cultural differences within the global society, and demonstrate knowledge of new methodological techniques for explaining and predicting real world outcomes.

2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Materials.

- Frieden, Lake, & Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (5th edition)

Course Website. You are responsible for logging into Blackboard regularly (at least once a week). Any and all course-related announcements will be sent out via Blackboard.

3. GRADING

To calculate your grade at any point in this class, divide the number of points you currently have by the total possible points (as found in Blackboard). You can use this grade distribution to calculate what is possible for you based on your grades on assignments.

Your letter grade in this class will be based on the following scale:

Final Grade Determination.

- 90 and above: A
- 80-89: B
- 70-79: C
- 60-69: D
- 59 and below: F

Summary of Graded Work. There are **625** possible points available in this class. The points are broken down as follows:

The grading breakdown for the course assignments is as follows:

- In-class simulations: 250 points possible
- Discussion portfolio: 125 points possible
- Participation: 100 points possible
- Final project: 100 points possible
- Syllabus assignment: 25 points possible
- Final project check-in: 25 points possible

Simulations. The study of international relations involves abstract and sometimes difficult to understand concepts. To help with your understanding of concepts like anarchy and cooperation, you'll complete five different simulations over the course of the semester. To complete each simulation, you'll be asked to do some prep work outside of the classroom before the simulation. Each simulation will be completed in class and will be followed with a reflection assignment submitted online. (See course calendar for due dates).

Discussion portfolio. Critical thinking and reflection are a foundational skill in any political science course. To help hone this skill, you'll create a discussion portfolio where you will record original commentary, reflection, and critical analysis of course topics and discussions. You are encouraged to maintain a weekly log of critical commentary and reflection by course chapter, with formal submission requirements at the end of each unit. (See Blackboard for detailed instructions and/or course calendar for due dates).

Participation. Active and consistent participation is critical to your success in this course. Engaging with the material as well as your classmates helps contribute to your understanding of key concepts. If you are present and able to meaningfully contribute to the weekly discussions you can expect to earn your full points at the end of the semester.

Final project. Instead of a final exam, you'll be asked to complete a final project reflecting on what you learned over the course of the semester.

Final project check-in. In order to stave-off procrastination and a last-minute dash, you'll complete a short final project check-in around halfway through the semester. This is a semi-informal assignment to make sure you've given some thought to what you might want to write about for your final project.

Syllabus assignment. Almost everything you need to know about the course can be found on this syllabus and/or on Blackboard. To help you familiarize yourself with the syllabus and Blackboard layout, you'll complete a syllabus activity at the beginning of the course.

4. COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Withdrawal Policy and Course Drop Date. Students should note that the last day to drop the course with an automatic "W" is November 11, 2024.

Plagiarism and Cheating. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a 0 for the assignment and may face further punitive actions from the University. I do not take this issue lightly and reserve the right to fail a student from the course for cheating and/or plagiarizing. For more information, please see the University's statement on academic honesty.

Use of Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence). Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments must be prepared by the student and the student alone. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated and/or assisted submissions are *not* permitted in this course and will be treated as plagiarism.

Any student suspected of using AI to complete an assignment will be called in for an oral defense of their assignment.

Late Work. Staying on top of your work is one of the best ways to do well in this course. Late work will incur a 5% penalty each day it's late, up to two days after the due date; any work submitted after the third day will receive a 0.

Classroom Civility. We may touch on some sensitive topics, and rudeness or inappropriate comments will not be tolerated at all. In-class discussions give students a chance to increase their understanding of the material and how it relates to their everyday lives. As such, discussions will *not* be a platform or a license for un-civil behavior. Rude, sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise uncourteous language is not welcome and will be penalized.

E-mail. I respond to student e-mails within 24 to 36 hours on the weekdays, from 9am to 5pm (ish). I generally do not respond to e-mail on the weekends, so your best bet is to contact me during the weekdays.

Please stay in touch. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent you from completing your coursework please let me know as soon as you are able to so we can make arrangements. Do *not* wait until the end of the semester to reach out.

Etiquette. When you contact me (or any other faculty for that matter), please observe appropriate e-mail formatting guidelines and etiquette. To insure a timely response, please include the following in your e-mail:

- A descriptive subject in the subject line that includes your (1) course number and section (found at the top of this syllabus) and (2) a brief description of the subject matter
- An appropriate greeting with the recipients preferred title (Dr. Naasz or Professor Naasz are both appropriate)
- A brief description of the reason for the e-mail
- Full sentences with punctuation
- Your full legal name (as it appears in the class roster)

5. GENERAL COURSE RULES

- It is your responsibility to ensure that your computer and connection are functioning properly. Please do not try to complete coursework on a mobile phone, if you can avoid it. Technical problems are never an excuse for failed or incomplete work.
- Always maintain professional and respectful language, both in emails and in your coursework.
- Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in a loss of credit for the assignment and possibly a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other forms of bigotry are not acceptable in this class.
- You are responsible for all information and announcements made in the course. Prepare to log onto Blackboard at least once a week to check for updates, changes, or new information.

6. COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

These are distinct from the rules above but should be read and understood for students who want to be successful.

- Complete all of your work *prior* to the deadline. I recommend completing work at least *three days* before any deadline. Do your work well in advance of the deadline. The primary reason students do not succeed in this course is missed work.
- Read and follow all directions. Students who do poorly on assignments have typically not followed all instructions. Read the directions, complete your work, then read the directions again and make sure you've followed all of them.
- Read all content before asking questions. Try to find the answers on your own. I will not answer questions that can be answered on your own by reading information in Blackboard.
- Pay close attention to the Academic Integrity policy. Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. Do not use generative AI

Professionalism.

- Don't ask a question that you could have answered yourself. Read all information and instructions in Blackboard before you send an email.
- Use an appropriate subject line that identifies yourself and your concern
- Your first sentence should introduce yourself and include your course and section number. Please let me know if you prefer to go by a different name than what appears in the gradebook/roster, but be sure to include your full legal name as it appears in the roster.
- Be specific about what your request is. Demonstrate that you have read and understood course information and instructions.

7. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

See the current *A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook*

You can find the complete listing of the University's policies and resources under the 'Syllabus and Course Calendar' link on the sidebar in Blackboard.

8. COURSE OUTLINE AND DUE DATES

All reflection portfolio assignments are due at the start of class on the indicated date. All other assignments are due online by 11:59pm central time on the indicated date. Late work will incur a 5%/day penalty up to two days; work will not be accepted after two days.

Unit	Week	Dates (In-person class)	Topic	Reading	Graded Work (due date)	Notes
I. Foundations of IR	1	August 26 – September 1 August 27 August 29	Course Introduction	N/A	*Syllabus reconnaissance (September 1; 11:59pmCT)	Familiarize yourself with the course
	2	September 2 – 8 September 3 September 5	Introduction	*Chapter 1		Go through simulation prep material ahead of next week's class
	3	September 9 – 15 September 10 September 12* *Simulation #1: Climate Change and Actors' Interests	Interests, interactions, and institutions	*Chapter 2	*Unit 1 analysis (start of class, September 12) *Simulation #1 reflection (due online September 15; 11:59pmCT)	
II. War and Peace	4	September 16 – 22 September 17 September 19	Why war?	*Chapter 3		Go through simulation prep material ahead of next week's class
	5	September 23 – 29 September 24 September 26* *Simulation #2: Guns 'n' Butter	Domestic politics and war	*Chapter 4	*Simulation #2 reflection (online September 29; 11:59pmCT)	
	6	September 30 – October 6 October 1 October 3	International institutions and war	*Chapter 5		Optional: start on simulation #3 prep (hard-and-fast due date: October 13)

	7	October 7 – 13 October 8 October 10	Violence by nonstate actors	*Chapter 6	*Unit 2 analysis (start of class, October 10) *Simulation prep for Week 8 (due October 13; 11:59pmCT)	
III. IPE	8	October 14 – 20 October 15 October 17 * *Simulation #3: Where'd your stuff come from?	International trade	*Chapter 7	*Simulation #3 reflection (due online October 20; 11:59pmCT)	
	9	October 21 – 27 October 22 October 24	International financial relations	*Chapter 8	*Final project check-in (due online October 27; 11:59pmCT)	Go through simulation prep material ahead of next week's class
	10	October 28 – November 3 October 29 October 31 * *Simulation #4: Measuring Wealth	Economic Development	*Chapter 10	*Unit 3 analysis (start of class, October 31) *Simulation #4 reflection (due online November 3; 11:59pmCT)	
IV. Transnational Politics	11	November 4 – 10 November 5 November 7	International law	*Chapter 11		<i>Election Day: November 5</i>
	12	November 11 – 17 November 12 November 14	Human Rights	*Chapter 12		-Last day to drop with a 'W': November 11 -Go through simulation prep material ahead of next week's class

	13	November 18 – 24 November 19 November 21 * *Simulation #5: Tragedy of the Commons	The environment	*Chapter 13	*Unit 4 analysis (start of class, November 21) *Simulation #5 reflection (online November 24; 11:59pmCT)		
	14	November 25 – December 1 November 26: Open virtual office hours	Thanksgiving break (No classes)				
V. Challenges and Solutions	15	December 2 – 5 December 3 December 5	Challenges and solutions	*Chapter 14	*Unit 5/course reflection and analysis (start of class, December 5) *Final projects (December 5; 11:59pmCT)		

Final projects due December 5 by 11:59pmCT