



Eugen L. Nagy, Lecturer

Spring 2026

Office: CAB 351 I

POLS 3341-002, International Relations

Office hrs: Wed 11:15 am - 12:00 pm & by appt

TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm

Email: use Blackboard messaging

Classroom: Senator Frank L. Madla 254

International Relations

DESCRIPTION

In this class we will endeavor a historically-rooted survey of international relations, during which the students will become acquainted with the role and nature of international actors, processes and phenomena, and with the scholarly theories and approaches that have been developed to explain them. The goal is to provide the students with the instruments and concepts necessary to describe and to explain the world of international politics, so that they will become able to make sense of international events and to interpret them from a scholarly perspective.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, the students will become familiar with the basic concepts, topics and theories of the field of International Relations, being able to apply them in analyzing past and current events in international politics.

COURSE WORK

IN THE CLASSROOM

We will meet in the classroom every Tuesday and Thursday, following [TAMUSA's academic calendar](#). **Attendance is mandatory**, as the most important teaching and learning tool in this course is represented by the **class lectures and our classroom work**. This means that you can only succeed in this class if you attend each class, pay close attention, take thorough and accurate lecture notes, and participate actively in our common work.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class meeting. In order to be marked present, a student needs to be present when attendance is taken, and to remain present throughout



the class period.

Students are expected to come to class prepared, having consulted the assigned study materials (textbook sections & Blackboard materials), and being able to actively and meaningfully discuss them in class. **Student participation** in the classroom work is evaluated on an ongoing basis and will count toward a distinct **participation grade**.

Together, attendance and participation will make up the **AP (Attendance & Participation) component of the final grade**.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Pop-quizzes may be administered at any point during the semester. Such pop-quizzes will count toward the overall **AP grade**. *Other activities*, such as attending talks, campus events or field trips, or completing surveys or other materials, as indicated by the instructor, might also be included in our activities during the semester. Some of these might yield points counting toward the **AP grade**. More specific information regarding such activities will be provided as needed.

COMMUNICATION

All email communication in this class will take place exclusively **through Blackboard messaging**. The normal answer time during regular business days is 24 hours. This does not apply to weekends (Sat-Sun) or holidays.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All forms of **academic dishonesty** (*cheating, plagiarism etc.*) will be addressed promptly and with severity. The use of AI tools to complete any assignments is forbidden. For all assignments and evaluations, students are expected to follow and to implement the written and verbal instructions given by the instructor.



ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Whenever and wherever we meet and communicate, in classroom or online, students are expected to behave as **polite, respectful and active members of our learning community**. Positive participation is encouraged, and will lead to a better grade. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and will result in one or more of the disciplinary measures listed below.

NOTE-TAKING TOOLS

In our classroom, the **use of electronic devices** (laptop, smartphone, headphones etc.) is **forbidden**, and is considered a disciplinary infraction, leading to disciplinary measures. Come prepared to take notes using pen and paper.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Failure to comply with any of the rules and expectations described in the syllabus, indicated verbally in class, or contained in the official TAMUSA policies, will result in one or more of the following **disciplinary measures**: expulsion from the given class; zero points (F) for the given assignment; deduction of points from, or an F for, the final grade component (e.g. AP); an F for the entire course; reporting to the disciplinary bodies of the university; expulsion from the entire course; reporting to University Police etc. The implementation of these and other disciplinary measures is at the discretion of the instructor.

EXAMINATIONS & GRADING

CLASSROOM WORK

Our classroom work this semester is organized into **five modules**, each of them about two-three weeks in length, and each of them dealing with one general subject matter:

M1: The World of International Relations

M2: IR Theories

M3: International Conflict

M4: International Law & International Regimes

M5: International Organizations



After each module there will be **an examination** covering the materials discussed in that module. The examinations will contain 15-20 questions, which could be a combination of short-answer questions and mini-essays. There is **no final, cumulative examination**, which means that you will have the opportunity to perform equally well within each module, and on each examination. This also means that you will have to maintain the same level of effort and engagement with our common work, throughout the semester (throughout each module, equally).

GRADING

The main components of the final grade are:

- *E1, The World of International Relations – 16.5%*
- *E2, IR Theories – 16.5%*
- *E3, International Conflict – 16.5%*
- *E4, International Law & International Regimes – 16.5%*
- *E5, International Organizations – 16.5%*
- *Attendance & Participation – 17.5%*

Each of these final grade components will receive a letter grade. Note that for these component grades we will use the traditional letter grading scale (with minus and plus), on a four-point scale, as follows:

A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7.

In order to calculate the final grade, you will have to use the numeric equivalents of the letter grade for each component, according to the formula listed below:

$$\text{Final Grade} = E1*16.5\% + E2*16.5\% + E3*16.5\% + E4*16.5\% + E5*16.5\% + AP*17.5\%.$$

Remember however that, following the existing policies of Texas A&M University - San Antonio, the official *final grade* for the course will be expressed and recorded as a *full letter grade* (A, B, C, D, or F).



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Texas A&M University – San Antonio has a range of services dedicated to student success and well-being. These resources are listed and described in detail in the **IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES** section of this syllabus (see below). Know how these resources can assist you, and do not be reluctant to use them; remember, your mental and physical health should always represent your first concern!

If you are registered with **DSS** and need specific arrangements either in terms of the class work or for the examinations, please make sure to inform the instructor ahead of time.

Overall, make sure to maintain a constant channel of communication with the instructor, and to let him know as early as possible if issues or problems occur that might have a negative impact on your attendance or work in this class.

STUDY MATERIALS

The **study / learning materials** that we will use in this class are the following:

- class lecture notes & discussion
- textbooks
- Blackboard materials

Lecture notes: The class lectures and our classroom work constitute the most important teaching and learning tool in this course. This is why you are expected to attend each class, to take precise and detailed lecture notes, and to be an active participant in our class discussions.

Textbooks:

- Pevehouse, Jon C. et al. *International Relations*. Thirteenth edition. Pearson, 2024.
- Mingst, Karen A. & McKibben, Heather Elko. *Essentials of International Relations*. Ninth Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2021.

Blackboard materials: The materials posted on Blackboard will play an important role in our work in this course; thus, they constitute mandatory reading and examination material. The course's Blackboard page, and the materials posted there, should represent a constant companion for you in this course, which you check and use on an ongoing basis.



PLANNING YOUR WORK

SYLLABUS SCHEDULE

The general schedule posted below is **for orientation purposes only**. In actuality, the pacing and rhythm of any class is shaped by the common work, and each learning community has a different pace of work. Accordingly, the schedule included below will be modified, adjusted, updated and improved, as necessary, to better reflect the actual pace of work of our particular learning community, and to accomplish the goals of the course. All such changes are at the discretion of the instructor.

WEEKLY WORK PLAN

This is why **your actual planning tool** in this course is represented by the **Weekly Work Plan** that is posted before each week, and which contains the up-to-date information regarding what we will discuss that week, in each class; the assigned readings for the week; announcements regarding upcoming examinations; and other important information regarding our work in this course. Make sure therefore **to consult the Weekly Work Plan before each week**, this semester, and to plan your work based on that information.

CLASSROOM WORK: SCHEDULE

MODULE 1: The World of International Relations

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION & THE WORLD OF IR

Jan 20-25

WEEK 2 THE WORLD OF IR

Jan 26 - Feb 1



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WEEK 3 THE WORLD OF IR

Feb 2-8

E1 – The World of International Relations

MODULE 2: IR Theories

WEEK 4 IR THEORIES

Feb 9-15

WEEK 5 IR THEORIES

Feb 16-22

WEEK 6 IR THEORIES

Feb 23 - Mar 1

E2 – IR Theories

MODULE 3: International Conflict

WEEK 7 INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Mar 2-8

SPRING BREAK

Mar 9-15

WEEK 8 INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Mar 16-22

WEEK 9 INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Mar 23-29

E3 – International Conflict



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MODULE 4: International Law & International Regimes

WEEK 10 INTERNATIONAL LAW & INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

Mar 30 – Apr 5

WEEK 11 INTERNATIONAL LAW & INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

Apr 6-12

WEEK 12 INTERNATIONAL LAW & INTERNATIONAL REGIMES

Apr 13-19

E4 – International Law & International Regimes

MODULE 5: International Organizations

WEEK 13 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Apr 20-26

WEEK 14 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Apr 27 - May 3

FINALS PERIOD

May 6 - 12

(TBA) E5 – International Organizations



IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Course Communications and Email Policies

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via the university communications systems. Note that **in this course we will use the Blackboard mailing system exclusively, for all communications.**

Make sure therefore that you have your TAMUSA accounts (Jaguar email account and Blackboard messaging system) ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the website or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse



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online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.

The [TELUS Student Support App](#) provides a variety of mental health resources to include 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty who are registered with the alert system have the option to receive a text message or an email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.



The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the **Student Services tab**. Click on **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an **Online Appointment**. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to [submit a CARE report for support](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.



The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such



discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-



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years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.



3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, **any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct**. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).

Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university



Dates	Event
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

In GOVT 2305 all work submitted needs to be generated by the respective student.

Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.