

INTL 3200 Introduction to International Relations

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Objectives

This class is intended to lay the analytic foundation for a study of international politics. The course is anchored to questions like Why war? What are the goals of states? When is international cooperation possible? What is the role of governments in shaping the global economy? Together we will explore proposed answers to these questions (and many others). With a critical eye, we will compare and contrast competing explanations.

The course will also include a foreign policy simulation on the topic of cybersecurity. The purpose of the simulation is to help students integrate course concepts through practical experience and to develop substantive knowledge of an essential contemporary national security issue.

Detailed instructions outlining the simulation, the meeting schedule, and rules for participation will be distributed in class. For now, please review this background information on the National Security Council (NSC). Pay close attention to the function and importance of forceful disagreement between security officials who, at the same time, embrace the shared purpose of the NSC:

- Overview of the NSC: [Video](#)
- Running an NSC Meeting: [Video](#)
- Overview of the Interagency Process: [Video](#)
- Summary of Tools in Diplomacy: [Video](#)
- Summary of Sanctions: [Video](#)
- Summary of Negotiations: [Video](#)

There is one text for this class: *International Relations* by Jon C.W. Pevehouse & Joshua S. Goldstein. While a standard introductory text in most respects, it is unique in that the focus is upon the relationship between a state's strategic environment and its ability to pursue foreign policy objectives. It thus serves as an excellent complement to the material presented in class. To purchase the current version of the text, you will receive an email invitation to register for the course from the publisher (Pearson) and can obtain the text (digital or paper) via the website.

There are also several official government documents archived online that support the in-class simulation. Please confirm that you can access this folder containing background documents on cybersecurity in the Bush and Obama Administrations: [Links to Files](#).

Grading and Assignments

Assignments involve both individual and team-graded work. Both are a necessary components for student success in the class.

Individual Work

- *Exams*: There will be three (3) ***unannounced in-class examinations***. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will cover readings and lecture material, using essays (lecture material) and multiple-choice (readings) formats.
- *Simulation Character Sheets*: Students will research and write a 3-page "character sheet," providing biographical information for one of the members in President Obama's National Security Council (50 pts).
- *Reflection Paper*: A 5-page reflection paper critically evaluating the results of the simulation will be due at the end of the semester (50 pts).
- *Cyber Security Document Research*: Students will compile a set of documents describing the state of cybersecurity threats in the first year of the Obama Administration (50 pts).

Group Work

- *Cyber Memo Proposals*: Initial proposals for NSC deliberations (25 pts) via small group committees.
- *National Security Strategy on Cyber*: Formal NSC proposal to the President (50 pts)
- *Crisis Response Memo*: Initial proposals for NSC deliberations (25 pts) via small group committees.
- *Peer Evaluation*: Students will grade their group partners on the quality and consistency of their work in the game (25 pts).

There will be no make-up quizzes without medical documentation explaining the absence. There is no attendance policy for this class. However, note, again, that exams will not be announced in advance. The grading scale, calculated as a percentage of the total number of available points in the class, is as follows:

A	100 - 93
A-	92 - 90
B+	89 - 87
B	86 - 83
B-	82 - 80
C+	79 - 77
C	76 - 73

C-	72 - 70
D	69 - 60
F	59 and below

The UGA Student Honor Code states: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” A Culture of Honesty, the University’s policy, and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty can be assessed here: <https://honesty.uga.edu>.

Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as required by university policy. Course work must be done on an individual basis unless the syllabus clearly indicates that the assignment is team-graded.

Additional Student Resources

- The University of Georgia's commitment to diversity welcomes individuals from any racial, ethnic, religious, age, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, and nationality: <http://diversity.uga.edu/index.php/about/welcome>
- The Office of Student Care & Outreach can provide assistance to students experiencing hardship/unforeseen circumstances) – 706-542-7774 or by email sco@uga.edu.
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) - 706-542-2273 (regular business hours)
- After Hour Mental Health Crisis: 706-542-2200, this connects you to the UGA Police—ask to speak to the CAPS, on-call clinician.
- Sexual Violence Prevention – 706-542-SAFE

Faculty and staff are obligated to report any knowledge of sexual assault and/or relationship violence to UGA’s Equal Opportunity Office.

Reading Schedule

Important Note: Please review the reading list weekly. As the simulation unfolds, we may add or remove readings or assignments to facilitate the simulation's deliberations. In a few instances, there are no reading assignments. This is to make time for work related to the simulation.

Below outlines a timetable for the completion of the assigned readings. Please have the material read before the class date identified below. The reading burden for this course is not substantial. I intend this deliberately. There are no excuses for not completing the readings in a timely fashion. That is my 'carrot,' the incentive for you to stay current with the readings. The 'stick' rests both in the fact that your careful and considered completion of the assigned readings is essential for success in this course, and that the examinations are structured to ensure this.

Note that the lectures will introduce new material, but the order of topics discussed in lectures will generally coincide with the readings.

August 15: Introduction & Class Structure

Aug 20/22: Theorizing about International Politics
Ch.1

Aug 27/29: Important Actors
Ch.2
(Character assignments and simulation introduction)

Sept 3/5: Anarchy & States Goals
Extra credit quiz on video content

Sept 10/13: Cooperation/Power
Ch. 7

Sept 17/19: Power Continued
Simulation Research: Background on cyber (links below)
Review the Bush Administration policy of cybersecurity, and other documents as you like.

Sept 24/26: Decision Making
Ch.4

Oct 1/3: Strategic Games
(no reading this week. Spend your time on the research brief)
Cyber Security Research Briefs due: October 1

Oct 8/10: Cooperation/Integration
Ch.10

Oct 15/17: Domestic Influences
Ch 3
Character Role Sheets Due: October 17

Oct 22/24: War
Ch.5

May-Oct 29/31: War Continued
Ch.6

Nov 5/7: Trade
G. Ch.8

Nov 12/14: Trade Continued

Ch.9

Nov 19/21: Nuclear Proliferation/Environment

Ch.11

November 26/ (28 is Thanksgiving break)

Dec 3/(end of the semester): Simulation Debrief