

**POLS 140: Introduction to International Relations**  
*Summer 2021*  
Online

**Professor**

Jon Pevehouse  
313 North Hall  
[pevehouse@polisci.wisc.edu](mailto:pevehouse@polisci.wisc.edu)  
Phone: 262-4839

**Co-Instructor**

Andrew McWard  
1050 Bascom Hall  
[amcward@wisc.edu](mailto:amcward@wisc.edu)

**Course format**

All content for this course is fully **asynchronous** (i.e., not conducted in real time). Materials for each week will be available on Canvas by the beginning of the relevant week.

**Instructor Office Hours**

Due to the small class size, office hours will be held by appointment. My schedule is flexible this summer and I am generally available. Please email me with 2-3 potential times to meet and I will email you to confirm and include a zoom link.

**Class Description**

This class will cover the major issues in international relations since the end of World War II. We will discuss a variety of topics from both a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Some of the topics we will cover include: the causes of interstate war; ethnic conflict; foreign policy decision-making; economic development; the North-South gap; international trade, globalization; economic interdependence; the environment; population; the UN and other international organizations; and international law.

More than centering on US foreign policy or US history, the class will discuss these topics from a broad international perspective. Although this is by no means a history class, I will go over some history to provide context for our current debates in international relations. Also, we will spend relatively little time discussing particular countries and their internal politics and problems, rather focusing on their relations with each other.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

The goal for this course is to further your understanding of facts about international relations, but also to help you develop analytical tools for thinking about important questions in world politics regardless of the countries or issues involved. The political science approach to international politics is a mix of ideas and data, that is, conceptual tools that help us understand particular sets of facts about a wide range of topics. It is hoped that students will leave the course with a better understanding of world politics and how to think about world politics. Level of knowledge will be assessed through quizzes, an analytic paper, participation in discussion boards, and a final essay.

### **Credit Hours**

This is a four credit-hour course held during the 8-week summer term. However, the amount of content is comparable to a normal-semester long course. This class therefore meets for a total of 8 class period hours – 6 hours of lecture and an two hours of discussion board activities – each week over the spring semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, problem sets, studying, etc.) for about 4 hours out of classroom for every class period.

### **Book/eText Required**

This course is part of the Engage E-text Pilot program. You should have received an email noting that you have already purchased access to the book (unless you chose to opt out of the program). You will access the textbook through Canvas. Once you have established an account within Revel (I will post a sheet on how to do this on Canvas), you will have access through Canvas.

- Jon C.W. Pevehouse and Joshua S. Goldstein, *International Relations, 12<sup>th</sup> ed*, Revel e-text. (Indicated by "GP" below.) Follow the “Pearson Revel” link in Canvas to access.
- Other readings – (Indicated by "Canvas" below.)

I also urge you to read a news source that has a lot of international content - my personal favorite is the *BBC* (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>). Another option is the *New York Times*—a good source of material on international relations. I will announce information on how to obtain a student subscription during the course. You may also choose to read the NYT online, although it is now behind a pay wall. Other sources of good international news are the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Economist*.

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation**

This class will be primarily lecture with recitation/discussion board participation. There is a moderate amount of reading, but none of it is particularly dense.

**Quizzes.** There will be 6 quizzes that cover the course content for that week (Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7). In each quiz, there will be 10 questions that are either multiple choice or true/false. Quizzes will be opened Wednesday and due each Saturday at 11:59pm. Each quiz counts towards 5% of your final grade. 30% Total.

**Response Paper.** To provide a level of critical engagement beyond the weekly discussion posts and improve your formal writing skills, you will complete one long-form response paper ranging from 1200-1500 words. In the third week of the course, 2-3 prompts will be provided. You will pick one to respond to with an original thesis. The paper will be graded on both the quality of the argument and writing. Once the prompts are released, you may submit the paper at any point before the end of week 5. There will be no quiz that week to give you a bit more time to finish up, but I highly recommend you begin working on it prior to that week. In addition, please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss your paper with me. I am very happy to start a dialogue over email or meet over Zoom. The response paper will be worth 20% of your final grade.

**Discussion Posts.** Weekly discussion posts are required to critically engage with the course content. I will provide a discussion prompt at the beginning of each week. You will respond to this prompt with an original answer of about 150-200 words each week. These will be due by noon on Thursday (for a total of 8 initial responses). You will then have the opportunity to directly engage with the answers of your

peers. These responses can (respectfully) contest a previous response or extend an idea further. These second responses may also engage with the group's discussion as a whole. At times, I may intervene and provide a second prompt based on your initial responses. In short, the precise engagement can vary; the goal is to critically engage both the course content and the ideas of your peers. You must write 4 "peer responses" of at least 100 words throughout the term. These can be completed when you choose, but no more than one can be completed each week. In total, you will complete 12 discussion posts (8 "prompt responses" and 4 "peer responses"). Each response counts toward 2.5% of your grade. 30% total.

Final Essay. The final assignment is an essay response of approximately 1000 words. You will respond to a prompt that encapsulates several of the broad course themes. The essay is "timed" in that the prompt will become available on Wednesday (at 12:05pm) in the final week of the course and be due that Saturday (at 12:05pm). You may work on the essay at whatever time and for however long during that three day period. You are encouraged to use any and all notes you have collected throughout the term. The final essay will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Your class performance will be based on the following:

DISCUSSION POSTS	30%
QUIZZES	30%
RESPONSE PAPER	20%
FINAL ESSAY	20%

The grade scale is set at: 93+ = A; 87-92 = AB; 83-86 = B; 77-83 = BC; etc.

**Cheating and plagiarism** are very serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the course. You will receive a failing grade for the class, and the reason for the grade will be noted in your transcript.

### **Accommodation for Disabilities and Emergencies**

For anyone who needs accommodations for a documented disability, please let the professor know *as soon as possible*. I am happy to work through the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 905 University Avenue, 263-2741. Please contact them regarding this class and we can work out the nature of the accommodations that will be needed. All discussions will remain confidential.

If you know that you will be absent from section for religious or other permissible reasons that can be known in advance, please let your TA know. If you have to miss a deadline due to sickness or family emergencies, please keep your TA and me as informed as soon as possible. Remember that participation is 10% of your grade, and unexcused/unexplained absences will be noted accordingly.

### **Health, well-being, and basic needs**

If you are struggling, or if something happens in your life that affects what you do in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. I am here to provide what help that I can.

- As a student at this institution, you have access to free mental health counseling through University Health Services (UHS). Crisis services are available 24/7 at 608-265-5600 (option 9). If you feel comfortable speaking with us (or having your health care provider do so), we are happy to discuss ways to succeed in this course.

- You should know that I am a mandatory reporter under Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in U.S. schools. This means that if you disclose to me that you have experienced sexual harassment or assault, I am legally required to tell the Dean of Students office. UHS is a confidential reporting space should you ever need it; you can reach them at [survivor.services@uhs.wisc.edu](mailto:survivor.services@uhs.wisc.edu) or via phone at 608-265-5600 (option 3).
- Your safety and well-being is more important than anything going on in this class. Any student facing challenges securing food or housing or personal safety is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/contact-us/>).

### **Learning during a pandemic**

These are not normal times (still!). This past year has been awful any way you cut it. We're all just managing the best we can and taking it day by day. You most likely know people who have been affected by COVID-19: lost jobs, positive tests, serious illness and hospitalization, or perhaps have even died. Many of you likely have dramatically different responsibilities and/or increased family care responsibilities. My primary concern for you is to stay healthy and well. I hope to teach you a lot of international relations too... but nothing is worth sacrificing your health and welfare. Even though this now seems like the "new normal" – there are still surprises that pop up in life and will no doubt pop up during this course. There is still a lot of stress. I will do my best to help us all navigate all of this as best we can. But please don't hesitate to reach out to me and your TAs if you need help. If we can help, we will. If we can't, we usually know somebody who can. Please take care of yourselves and reach out to us at any point during the semester if you need.

### **QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION DUE TO COVID-19**

Students should continually monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and get tested for the virus if they have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Students should reach out to instructors as soon as possible if they become ill or need to isolate or quarantine, in order to make alternate plans for how to proceed with the course. Students are strongly encouraged to communicate with their instructor concerning their illness and the anticipated extent of their absence from the course (either in-person or remote). The instructor will work with the student to provide alternative ways to complete the course work.

### **PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS and the USAGE of AUDIO RECORDED LECTURES**

See information about [privacy of student records and the usage of audio-recorded lectures](#).

#### **Usage of Audio Recorded Lectures Statement**

Lecture materials and recordings for PS 359 are protected intellectual property at UW-Madison. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or have lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings

constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university’s policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

**Course Pacing**

Given the online and asynchronous delivery of the course, I thought it might be helpful to outline what a typical week of work should look like for the course. (Weeks #5 and #8 will be slightly different).

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Overview	View course assignments & review any assignments due that week						
Readings	Complete all readings						
Lecture		Watch lecture videos and take notes			Finish unwatched lecture videos and review		
Discussion		Post response to discussion prompt			Respond to peer's prompt		
Quiz (Not weeks 5 & 8)				Quiz opens Wednesday   Quiz due Saturday 11:59pm			
Response Paper (Weeks 3-7)	Work on your response paper on your own time; just don't procrastinate!						

## Course Outline

### Module 1: Concepts, Actors and History (June 14 - June 19)

*Lecture 1: Introduction + Levels of Analysis*

PG: Sections 1.1

*Lecture 2: Actors, Concepts, and Principals*

PG: Sections 1.2-1.3

*Lecture 3: World War I and the Inter-war Period*

PG: Section 1.4

*Lecture 4: World War II, Lessons, and the Cold War*

Canvas: John Lukacs. 1989. "The Coming of the Second World War." *Foreign Affairs* 68 (4): 165-174.

### Module 2: Theories of international relations (June 21 - June 26)

*Lecture 5: Realism: History and Assumptions*

PG: Sections 2.1-2.2

Canvas: Hans Morgenthau. 1967. *Politics Among Nations*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. NY: Knopf, pp. 3-14.

*Lecture 6: Realism: Implications and Practice*

PG: Sections 2.3-2.4

*Lecture 7: Liberal Theories*

PG: Sections 2.5 + 3.1-3.2

### Module 3: Social IR theories and conflict (June 28 - July 3)

*Lecture 8: Liberal Theories & Social Theories*

PG: Sections 3.3-3.4

*Lecture 9: More Social Theories & Review*

PG: Section 3.6

*Lecture 10: Introduction to Security/International Conflict*

PG: Sections 5.1 + 6.1

**RESPONSE PAPER PROMPTS RELEASED** (*due July 17 @ 11:59 pm*)

**Module 4: Conflict continued (July 5 - July 10)**

*Lecture 11: The Causes of War*

PG: Sections 5.2-5.3

*Lecture 12: Terrorism & WMD*

PG: Sections 6.3-6.4

*Lecture 13: Military Technology*

PG: Section 6.2

**Module 5: International Organizations (July 12 - July 17)**

*Lecture 14: International Organizations: Theories & the UN*

PG: Sections 7.1-7.2

*Lecture 15: International Organizations: the European Union*

PG: Sections 10.1-10.3

**NO QUIZ THIS WEEK**

**RESPONSE PAPER DUE** (*July 17 @ 11:59 pm*)

**Module 6: International Law, Human Rights and Global Governance (July 19 - July 24)**

*Lecture 16: International Law: Human Rights*

PG: Sections 7.3-7.5

*Lecture 17: International Law: Information & Cyber-security*

PG: Sections 10.4

*Lecture 18: Global Governance: The Environment*

PG: Sections 11.1-11.3 (skim 11.3)

*Lecture 19: Global Governance: Global Health*

PG: Section 11.4

**Module 7: International Political Economy (July 26 - July 31)**

*Lecture 20: International Trade*

PG: Sections 8.1 + 8.3

*Lecture 21: International Trade Institutions*

PG: Section 8.2

*Lecture 22: International Finance*

PG: Sections 9.1-9.2

**Module 8: Global Development Issues (August 2 - August 6)**

*Lecture 23: North-South Gap (State of the South)*

PG: Sections 12.1 + 12.3

*Lecture 24: Development I: Debt & FDI (OPTIONAL)*

PG: Sections 9.4 + 13.3

*Lecture 25: Development II: Foreign Assistance & Remittances (OPTIONAL)*

PG: Section 13.4

**NO QUIZ THIS WEEK**

**FINAL ESSAY** (due August. 6 @ 12:05 pm)