Course Description

This is a course dedicated to the study of global conflict and cooperation. The general objective of the course is to help students get familiar with major approaches, theories, concepts, and substantive issues in the study of international politics. The emphasis will be on enhancing our comprehension of key theoretical perspectives and debates in the field of international relations. We will do this by closely examining both the assumptions underlying different approaches and theories and how they purport to ‘explain’ actual events and developments in international politics. Lectures, readings, and participation in class discussions will help students acquire the ability to understand and critically analyze major past and present issues in global politics.

The course is roughly divided into three parts. In the the first part, we will get familiar with major concepts and theories of international relations. Part two is dedicated to assessing and evaluating the utility of those theories in helping us understand the underlying causes of some major historical events of the twentieth century. In part three we will turn our attention to major contemporary issues and debates in global politics, including international law and institutions, globalization, international political economy, international security, and so on. Each class meeting will be organized in such a way as to strike the right balance between proper communication of key concepts, theories and debates and the active engagement of students with course materials. In order to achieve this objective, each meeting will include both power-point lectures and structured discussions and debates about the topic being covered.
Requirements

Course assignments have been selected with the intention of ensuring adequate breadth and depth in covering each topic. The required texts for the course are *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* by Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (Thirteenth Edition) and *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (Third Edition) by Jeffry A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Shultz (2015), both of which are available at GU’s Bookstore. Supplementary readings, including articles and book chapters, have been assigned to ensure a deeper understanding of each topic and to help generate class discussion. These supplementary readings will be posted onto the course website on Canvas.

Note that class attendance is mandatory and that you are expected to come to class having read all assigned materials. Full preparation for each class meeting is crucial given the fact that the course is condensed into five weeks, as opposed to a normal semester.

**Final grade components**: classroom participation (20%), a mid-term exam (40%) and a final exam (40%).
Part I: Introduction and Grand Theories

Class 1: Historical Introduction


Class 2: Conceptual Introduction

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, *World Politics*, Introduction, pp. xix-xxix (Canvas)
- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, *World Politics*, pp. 75-79 (Canvas)

Class 3: Realism I

- Nye and Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, pp. 22-30 (Canvas)
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (A&J, pp. 48-69)

Class 4: Realism II


Class 5: Liberalism

- Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs” (A&J, pp. 139-153)
Class 6: Constructivism

- Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” (A&J, pp. 78-86)

Class 7: Individual and Domestic Politics Approaches

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, *World Politics*, pp. 126-67 (Canvas)
- Glennon, Michael, *National Security and Double Government*, (Oxford University Press: 2015); introduction and conclusion (Canvas)

Class 8: Critical Theory and Marxism

- Benno Teschke, “Marxism,” in *Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 163-87 (Canvas)

Class 9: **Midterm Exam**

**Part II: Historical Examples in International Relations**

Class 10: World War I

- Nye and Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, pp. 102-116 (Canvas)

Class 11: World War II

- Nye and Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, pp. 119-145 (Canvas)

Class 12: The Cold War

- Nye and Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, pp. 149-199 (Canvas)

**Part III: Issues and Debates in International Relations**

Class 13: International Law, Institutions, and Norms
Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks” (A&J, pp. 454-460)

Class 14: International Political Economy
Helen Milner. 1998. “International Political Economy: Beyond Hegemonic Stability,” Foreign Policy, No. 110, pp. 112-123. (Canvas)

Class 15: Globalization
Pankaj Ghemawat, “Why the World Isn’t Flat” Foreign Policy; Mar/Apr 2007
Dani Rodrik, “Trading in Illusions” Foreign Policy, No. 123 (Mar. - Apr., 2001), pp. 54-62 (Canvas)

Class 16: War, Security, and Securitization
Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, pp. 82-120 (Canvas)

Class 17: Contemporary Issues in International Politics I
Bruce Hoffman, “What is Terrorism?” (A&J, pp. 218-228)
Asad, Talal, On Suicide Bombing, (Columbia University Press: 2007); pp. 1-38, 93-96 (Canvas)
Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, pp. 490-500 (Canvas)

Class 18: Contemporary Issues in International Politics II
Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (A&J, pp. 480-485)
Class 19: Conclusion: The Future of International Politics

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, pp. 500-509 (Canvas)
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, pp. 360-402 (Canvas)

Class 20: Final Exam