

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Department of Political Science

Introduction to International Politics
POLI SCI 115-001C (11064), 3 credits
No Prerequisites Required
Spring 2021

Dr. Juliane Troicki
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Important:

This course is taught fully online, asynchronously on CANVAS. This means that all class materials (except the textbooks) will be uploaded to the course page on CANVAS where you will access them. Since this course is taught asynchronously, there will not be any live broadcast lectures. Instead, the lectures, additional readings and quizzes will be uploaded ahead of time. You will be responsible for accessing, reading and learning all materials regularly and seriously. The beauty of this format is that you are able to work independently and at your own speed. However, it is your responsibility to make sure you keep up and put in enough time to master the material and succeed on the tests. Of course, you may contact me at any time if you have questions and I will gladly help you via email or virtual meeting. Please contact me via email (troickij@uwosh.edu) if you have questions about this class format or if you are unsure whether this class format will work for you.

Office Hours:

Professor Troicki is available via email and remotely via various virtual platforms upon request and by appointment. Please contact me at any time via email with any of your questions. I am happy to help and will respond as soon as I can.
Office hours - Office Hours (MS Teams)

The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor's icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot means they are busy.

Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during office hours, and will mark my availability as "busy" (a red dot).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help.

Many professors are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

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Course Description:

Political Science 115 International Politics (SS) (XS) (GC) Development of the nation-state system; role of the great powers; the struggle for power; settlement of disputes; diplomacy, the quest for law, nationalism, contemporary problems. 3 credits

This introductory course seeks to provide students with a basic understanding of the field of international relations (IR). The course will introduce the main theoretical traditions, including realism, liberalism and constructivism. Throughout the course, we will examine real world examples and issues of contemporary debate to demonstrate the utility of these concepts when considering issues of global politics. These issues include international conflict, terrorism, the environment, globalization, global poverty and women.

Students will learn about international politics through lecture, readings and paper writing. This course intends to actively engage students in critical thinking and discussion. Several films will further enhance the various topics throughout the course. Students' learning experience of class content will be assessed on the basis of their level of class participation, performance in exams, their paper writing and presentations.

Note to Political Science Majors:

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or your advisor.

Course Prerequisites:

Political Science 115 does not have any prerequisites. This course is one of three introductory courses in Political Science. The other two courses are Introduction to Comparative Politics (101) and introduction to American Politics (105). Political Science majors need to take all three courses. However, no particular order is required.

Course Objectives:

This course fulfills a USP Society (XS) requirement and has been designed to conform to UW Oshkosh's Essential Learning Outcomes (<https://www.uwosh.edu/usp/about-theusp/essential-learning-outcomes>) as well as our Departmental Learning Goals (<http://politicalscience.uwosh.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/Learning-Goals2016.pdf>).

In this class, students should pursue the following learning outcomes:

1. Practice critical thinking skills by examining ideas and concepts relevant to world politics. More specifically, students will practice their critical thinking skills by participating in class discussion, during exams, by writing papers and through their presentations. These components will help students understand and analyze course materials. This will help the students understand the given material and also help them form their own opinions on world politics.
2. Learn key theoretical political science concepts. With the help of these concepts, students will be able to examine international politics from a variety of angles. This interdisciplinary approach will provide students with varied perspectives on the course topics and a deeper understanding of the course content. Student analysis of this relationship is assessed via the papers and presentations.
3. Understand the historical context of the current international political reality, including the role and relationship of the United States with other states. At the same time, students will learn about contemporary politics through the use of current examples and cases. Students' learning will be assessed through their performance in exams, class discussion and papers.
4. Improve their communication skills. Every class meeting, students will discuss class materials, including assigned readings and relevant current political issues. Students will learn to express and use key concepts effectively. Students will share their own opinions while also respecting the opinions of others in the class. Students' oral communication skills will be practiced and assessed through class participation. Students' written communication skills will be assessed on the basis of their papers.
5. Advance their writing skills. Students will be guided in their paper writing. In their papers, students will examine and evaluate class materials. Similarly, students will learn how to write and cite properly, giving proper credit to authors and their intellectual property.

Required Readings:

Textbooks: available at the college bookstore or online. Should you buy them online, make sure to buy the correct edition.

Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2019. *Essentials of International Relations*, 8th ed. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN-13: 978-0393675191, ISBN-10: 039367519X. Note: in the schedule below this will be referenced as “Essentials”.

Mingst, Karen A. and Jack L. Snyder. 2019. *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 7th ed. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN-13: 978-0393664614, ISBN-10: 0393664619. Note: in the schedule below this will be referenced as “Essential Readings”.

It is very important that you complete all the assigned readings and do so thoroughly. You should also take notes while reading. Make sure you understand the main points of each piece and also take notes when you have questions. You need to complete all assigned readings, otherwise you will not do well on the quizzes. Take notes on your reading, keep a list of key terms and definitions, and write down questions you may have while reading.

News Sources:

In addition to assigned readings, students should also regularly consume high-quality news from a broad range of perspectives. Please download the BBC News app on your smartphone and learn how to use it. Make sure to read international news every day for at least 10 minutes so you are up to date on current events and can relate them to class. You will be amazed how much you will learn about world politics just by reading and watching BBC news daily.

Taking Notes:

It is important that students take notes, both when watching the recorded lectures and while doing assigned readings. Thorough notes will you do much better on exams and tests and will help you understand and retain material more easily. It is no secret that students who take good notes during lecture and during reading usually do better in class overall 😊

Assessing Student Learning:

Quizzes:

There will be a total of thirteen quizzes. All of these will be taken online on CANVAS by all students. Each quiz will cover the material of the respective week.

Course Requirements:

To successfully complete this course, you need to access CANVAS every week, do the assigned readings, view the recorded lectures and take the quiz each week. The total grade is based on the following:

Assignment	Percentage of Total Grade
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Quizzes (13)	100
Total	100

Grading Scale:

Your final grade will be calculated based on the UW Oshkosh Default Grading Scheme. Grades will be posted on CANVAS. Please make sure to check regularly to be aware of your class performance.

Late Submissions:

I will not accept late submissions of assignments unless there is a serious emergency or a really good reason for the assignment's lateness. I will determine whether or not to accept late submissions at my discretion. If you are allowed to turn in an assignment after the due date, it will lose points for lateness.

Quizzes:

Ideally, you should take each quiz in the week it is assigned. However, due to the unpredictable nature of a semester in the midst of a global pandemic, I have built in some flexibility. The deadline for all quizzes will be May 14, 2021. Consequently, you need to have all work done by that date to pass the course. The advantage is that you can work at your own pace and accommodate any special circumstances. Please make sure to keep up with the work so that you will finish everything by the deadline.

Political Science Department Tests:

This test is administered by the Political Science department in every PS115 class at the beginning and at the end of the semester. This means that you will take this test twice, first during the first week and then again in the last week of the semester. The department uses the data to assess student learning in its courses. Rest assured, your performance in this test will not count towards your grade in this class.

Early Alert Notifications:

The college uses the Early Alert Notification System to help students succeed in their classes. Your professors will let the college know how you have been doing in the first few weeks of the semester. If you have not done the work or have done poorly, you will receive a notification around week 6. Should you receive such a notification, please regard it as a friendly (but serious) reminder to turn things around and do better going forward so that you may still pass the class. Make sure to reach out to your professors if you have questions or are not sure how to proceed.

We want you to succeed in our classes 😊

If you do not receive any notification, this means that you are currently not at risk of failing the class. Regardless, feel free to connect with your professors at any time to ask questions, etc...

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Your assignments are expected to be an original effort, i.e., your own work. Group work (via technology or any other way) is not allowed for this class. The University of Wisconsin takes plagiarism very seriously and so do I. Students who are caught plagiarizing and/or cheating on exams will automatically fail the class.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

Academic Help and Disability Issues:

All assignments have been designed to meet all students' needs so no extra accommodations will be necessary. Students have two attempts to take each quiz and the quizzes are timed very generously to accommodate most needs.

Technology and Communication:

We will be using CANVAS for this class. I will also use CANVAS and email to communicate and post grades. The best way to contact me is through email. My email address is troickij@uwosh.edu. You are expected to use your school email account. Please state your full name in your email so that I may know who you are when you are writing to me. Please feel welcome to email me at any time with your questions and concerns. I check my messages every day and respond as soon as I can.

Campus Resources:

There are numerous campus resources available to you. In the University Studies Program, we want you to be successful. Please visit the University's resource page at: <https://uwosh.edu/resources/> to find out about all the campus services available to support your success.

Disclosure statement:

"Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>."

Grievance Statement:

The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at kruegerj@uwosh.edu. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

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Course Schedule:

Please see the reading assignments in the schedule listed below. The reading assignment is for the entire week. Ideally, you take the quiz by the end of the week.

Week 1 (February 1): Introduction to the class and assignments

- Reading assignment: syllabus, Essentials: chapter 1: Approaches to International Relations
- Watch videos on CANVAS
- Take 115 Political Science Department Pre-Test on CANVAS

Week 2 (February 8): Historical Context of International Relations

- Reading assignment: Essentials: chapter 2: The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations
- Essential Readings: Woodrow Wilson, The Fourteen Points & Francis Fukuyama, The End of History?
- Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 1 on CANVAS

Week 3 (February 15): Theories of International Relations I

- Reading assignment: Essentials: chapter 3
- Essential Readings: Jack Snyder, One World, Rival Theories
- Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 2 on CANVAS

Week 4 (February 22): Theories of International Relations II

- Reading assignment: Essential Readings: chapter 3 (all readings)
- Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 3 on CANVAS

Week 5 (March 1): Levels of Analysis

- Reading assignment: Essentials: chapter 4
- Essential Readings: Hans J. Morgenthau, The Balance of Power & Robert Jervis, Hypotheses on Misperception & Keren Yarhi-Milo, In the Eye of the Beholder
- Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 4 on CANVAS

Week 6 (March 8): The State

- Reading assignment: Essentials: chapter 5: The State and the Tools of Statecraft
- Essential Readings: Barry R. Posen, The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict
- Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 5 on CANVAS
- **Early Alert notifications**

Week 7 (March 15): War and Security

- Reading Assignment: Essentials: chapter 6,
- Watch videos and slideshows on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 6 on CANVAS

Week 8 (March 22): SPRING BREAK, March 21 – 28, NO CLASSES**Week 9 (March 29): War and Security II**

- Reading Assignment: Essential Readings chapter 6 (all readings)
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 7 on CANVAS

Week 10 (April 5): International Cooperation and International Law

- Reading Assignment: Essentials: chapter 7
- Essential Readings: Robert Jervis, Cooperation under the Security Dilemma & Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane, Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 8 on CANVAS

Week 11 (April 12): International Political Economy

- Reading Assignment: Essentials: chapter 8
- Essential Readings: Edward Alden, From Failure to Adjust...& Fareed Zakaria, Populism on the March & Daniel W. Drezner, The Irony of Global Economic Governance...
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 9 on CANVAS

Week 12 (April 19): Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations

- Reading Assignment: Essentials: chapter 9
- Essential Readings: Samantha Powers, Bystanders to Genocide... & John J. Mearsheimer, The False Promise of International Institutions & Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 10 on CANVAS

Week 13 (April 26): Human Rights

- Reading Assignment: Essentials: chapter 10
- Essential Readings: Jack Donnelly, Human Rights and Cultural Relativism & Beth A. Simmons, From Mobilizing for Human Rights
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 11 on CANVAS

Week 14 (May 3): Human Security: Migration, Global Health and the Environment I

- Reading Assignment: Essentials: chapter 11
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 12 on CANVAS

Week 15 (May 10): Human Security: Migration, Global Health and the Environment II

- Reading Assignment: Essential Readings: chapter 11 (all readings)
- View and watch recording/slide show on CANVAS
- Take Quiz 13 on CANVAS
- Take 115 Political Science Department Post-Test on CANVAS

NOTE: Professor Troicki reserves the right to modify this syllabus when appropriate and at her discretion. If substantive changes are made in the course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus.