

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh at Fox Cities

Introduction to International Relations (POL 115)

About your Professor:

Dr. Amber Lusvardi
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Pronouns: She/her/hers

Find me:

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Department website:
<https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/>

About this class:

Introduction to International Relations
POL 115-002C
3 credit hours

When: MWF 9:10-10:10 a.m.
Where: Fox 1847 and FDL C-102



How long: Jan 30-May 12

This course meets in person on the Fox Cities campus and is delivered remotely to the FDL campus.

About Student Hours:

My student hours are time set aside specifically for you. We can discuss course content, any barriers you are facing, or broader questions about political science. I highly encourage students use this available time to discuss their class progress or college journey.

If you are not available during my student hours, please let me know and I can accommodate you.

Student Hours

10:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Fox or 1-2 p.m. Tuesday at Oshkosh in person (preferred) or via Teams.



In this Course

We will do an introductory survey of the subfield of International Relations – from theories of IR to international norms in human rights and pressing policy issues.

What to Know 🧠

Getting Started in this Course

Political science is a social science - sciences that study human and social behavior. In political science we are particularly interested in power. As Harold Laswell said, "Who Gets What, When, and How?"

In this course, we will look at the foundations of International Relations

Strategies for Success

- ✓ Check your Canvas page. There, you will see due dates reflected on your calendar, can see your updated grades, and can access course readings and assignment rubrics.
- ✓ If you find you are not performing as well as you would like in this course or your courses generally, please reach out to me. I can help to accommodate you or see if we can address any barriers you are experiencing together.
- ✓ Class attendance is the greatest predictor of academic success in college (Crede, Roche, and Kieszczynka 2010). I count on your attendance as a valued member of this class. If you are not attending class regularly, I will reach out to you for an office hours meeting.

Course Description

Catalog description: 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.

For this course, this means we will cover big questions around the state of world politics: Why do countries engage in war? What role do international organizations like the UN and NATO play in diplomacy? Do type of an

economy makes a country most successful?
How do countries support human rights?
How does the international community solve big problems?

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students should have a solid ability to:

- 1.) Explain a wide variety of theoretical perspectives on state behavior and apply them to real-life situations.
- 2.) Understand the significance of major events in world history and how they shaped (and continue to shape) the international political system.
- 3.) Describe the international system and its constituent parts, including states, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations.
- 4.) Describe the major components of the US government, including the Constitution and its interpretation, federalism, and the branches of government.
- 5.) Examine key public policies and learn the roles of citizens, groups, and elections in the making of policy.

Required Textbooks 📖

Essentials of International Relations, 9th ed.
Karen A. Mingst and Heather Elko McKibben

Essential Readings in World Politics, 8th ed.
Karen A. Mingst, Jack L. Snyder, Heather Elko McKibben

All other reading materials will be supplied via Canvas.

Grades

Your final grade will be based on a first-week writing assignment, midterm, Hunger Games assignment, pre- and post-test completion, Global Issues Summit simulation, participation, reading responses, mini exam, and final reflection paper.

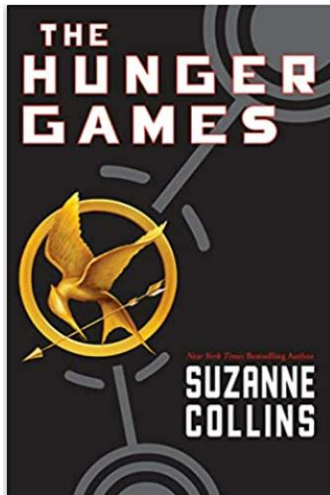
Assignments

First-week writing assignment (20) - I will provide you a prompt on our first day of class to help you reflect on how to best be a successful student during this semester. You have a week to complete your two-page typed response. Due Feb. 6.

Midterm (50) - The midterm exam (March 15) will cover content from the first half of the semester and include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Pre- and post-test completion (10) – You need to complete the pre- and post-tests for class. This is a completion grade regardless of your score.

The Hunger Games assignment (40) – In the dystopian YA novel and subsequent film *The Hunger Games*, we are introduced to a society known as Panem and its “government” efforts to ensure a peaceful society. Using the original book or movie as source material, you will write a four-page paper applying the concepts of realism to the Hunger Games. Full rubric on Canvas. Due March 3.



Global Issues Summit Simulation (120) – We will hold a three-day simulation known as the Global Issues Summit. On the agenda will be discussions and negotiations around two issues – nuclear proliferation and climate change. Students will be assigned a role

(country) and will be required to do research and create summit resolutions. You will also have to be active participants in the summit and engaged in your role. You will be graded on research, resolutions, and participation. Class time will be used to introduce students to parliamentary procedure and negotiations. Full simulation description and grading rubric on Canvas.

Participation (50) – What does it mean to be an active participant in class? We will discuss this during our first week of class and create (together) a rubric of ideas. At the end of the semester, I will ask you to reflect upon your view of your participation in class based on the standards that we have set.

Responses (10 x 10) – You will respond to each of the assigned readings by answering the following questions: 1. What is my main takeaway from this reading? 2. What is a question I have from this reading? 3. What is something from this reading that I do not understand. Responses are due by 8 a.m. Wednesdays, starting Feb. 15. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Mini Exam (30): This short exam will cover material from the second half of the semester and will be administered the final week of class. Students with three or fewer (excused or unexcused) absences may choose to not take this exam.

Final reflection paper (40): This is a 3-4 page final paper with two goals – measure your learning this semester and to measure your own growth during the semester. In 2-3 pages, you will answer the following questions: What is the single most important concept you learned this semester? What do you understand about it? How does it apply to other knowledge you have about the broader social world? How would you explain it to someone who has never taken a political science course?

In the final page, you will reflect back upon the goals you set for yourself during the first

week of class in the first week writing assignment. What goals did you meet? Where did you fall short? What is something you will do differently in the future?

** Detailed descriptions and rubrics of all assignments are on Canvas.

Grading Scale

Your final grades are calculated by points earned/total points.

100-97 - A+
97-94 - A
93-90 - A-
89-87 - B+
84-86 - B
80-83 - B-
79-77 - C+
76-74 - C
73-70 - C-
69-67 - D+
66-64 - D
63-60 - D-
59 and below - failing

Weekly Schedule

*** IR = Essentials of International Relations;
WP = Essential Readings in World Politics

Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3: Introduction: Approaches to International Relations, Chapter 1, IR

WP: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan

Feb. 6, 8, 10: Historical Context, Chapter 2, IR

WP: Fukuyama, The End of History;
Huntington, Clash of Civilizations

Feb. 13, 15, 17: IR Theories, Chapter 3, IR

WP: Mearsheimer, Anarchy and the Struggle for power; Doyle, Liberalism and World Politics

Feb. 20, 22, 24: Levels of Analysis, Chapter 4, IR

WP: Yarhi-Milo, In the Eye of the Beholder;
Waltz, Why Iran should get the Bomb

Feb. 27, March 1, 3: The State and Tools of Statecraft, Chapter 5, IR

WP: Putnam: Diplomacy and Domestic Politics

Enloe: Masculinity as a Foreign Policy Issue via Canvas

March 6, 8, 10: War and Security, Chapter 6, IR

WP: Fearon, Rationalist explanations for War

Enloe, Gender Makes the World go Round via Canvas

March 13, 15, 17: International Cooperation and International Law, Chapter 7, Midterm exam

WP: Koh, How is international Human Rights Law Enforced?

March 19-26 – Spring Break

March 27, 29, 31 – International Political Economy, Chapter 8, IR

WP: Gilpin, The Nature of Political Economy; Farrell and Newman, Will the Coronavirus end Globalization as we know it?

April 3, 5, 7: Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations, Chapter 9, IR

WP: Power, Bystander to Genocide; Keck and Sikkink; Transnational Advocacy Networks

April 10, 12: The Environment, Chapter 11 and prep for summit

WP: Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons

No Class April 14: Midwest Political Science Association Conference

April 17, 19, 21: Global Issues Summit

April 24, 26, 28: Human rights, Chapter 10, IR

WP: Sen, Human Rights and Capabilities;
Donnelly, Human Rights and Cultural
Relativism

May 8: Wrapping up, big ideas

Mini Exam: May 10

May 12: Final Reflection due to Canvas

Note: If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.

All About YOU

You have the right to be called by whatever name and pronouns you prefer. You are a valued member of this class. Your experience as part of this class is important to me. If you are experiencing barriers to your success in this course, please reach out to me so I can assist you or can help you find the correct resources.

On Language

Each person in this course is a valued member of the group and you should feel free to share your experiences as they are relevant to this class. No student in this class is ever expected or believed to speak for all members of a group. Do be thoughtful and inclusive in your language when adding to class discussion

What About My Technology?

You will never be required to bring a laptop or tablet to class. I discourage students from the use of laptops or tablets in my courses due to the extensive research that shows it to be a hindrance to learning and a distraction to classmates (see Dontre 2020). It is your choice whether to use your laptop/tablet while we are taking notes, but it should be stowed away at other times. As engagement and discussion are important, please refrain from wearing headphones during class.

Note to Poli Sci Majors

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. If you have questions about this requirement, your course schedule, possible internships, or career preparation please reach out to your faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to meet with their faculty advisers at least once per year. If you are unsure who your adviser is, you can check Titanweb or email Ms. Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu.

Prerequisites There are no prerequisites for this course. It is open to students at any level and in all majors and is the first in a series of introductory courses in Political Science. In Introduction to Comparative Politics, we introduce students to the democratic and non-democratic political systems of several different states (e.g., Germany, China, Iran), taking a look inside each one to determine how they function. In Introduction to American Politics, we give students an in-depth look at the working of the American system of government. And in Introduction to International Relations, we show you how states work with and against each other in the global system. Political Science majors are required to take all three, but they stand independently so that non- majors can benefit from them as well.

Student Right to Know

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/AcademicHonesty>

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, the writing must 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.

Disability Statement:

This course is for all UWO students, including those with mental, physical, or cognitive disabilities, illness, injuries, impairments, or any other condition that could negatively impact one's equal access to education. If, at any point in the term, you find yourself not able to fully access the space or content of this course, please contact me by email, phone, or during office hours to discuss your specific needs. I am happy to discuss how to best accommodate you. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessibility Center in Dempsey Hall 215 or at accessibilitycenter@uwosh.edu for further assistance.

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.

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.

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Caregiver statement:

I recognize that some of you may be caregivers to others (siblings, children, partners, parents, etc.) and that places an added consideration to your availability. If you are a caregiver, please reach out to me if there are additional ways that I can support you.