



Introduction to International Relations

(Freshmen Connection)

GVPT200FC Fall 2020
Syllabus v2.2 (November 2)
Discussion Th 6:00 pm-7:00 pm Online

Instructor: Sean Rao

seanrao@umd.edu

Zoom with me! (Office Hours)

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30-2:30 pm

Each hour has a different Zoom link on ELMS.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify key the concepts and questions which scholars use to describe and predict outcomes in international relations and related debates.
2. Recognize key concepts, actors, and institutions in specific examples of contemporary events in international politics.
3. Pose empirical questions about current topics in international relations and answer them using the relevant academic concepts.
4. Support your answers with empirical evidence from reliable sources, including the effective use of basic quantitative information.

"Our own land and our own flag cannot be replaced by any other land or any other flag. But you can join with other nations, under a joint flag, to accomplish something good for the world that you cannot accomplish alone." -Eleanor Roosevelt

How do power and ideas shape relationships between countries?

What are states in the international system? How do military and economic power shape their interests and actions? What are some causes for international conflict and civil war? Why do states form international institutions? How should states respond to pressing issues including terrorism, development, and climate change? Scholars have developed concepts and frameworks to assist in answering these questions and others. We will study these concepts and frameworks and apply them to understand relevant international political events. We will develop further questions and answer our questions with evidence, qualitative and quantitative.

Our study of international relations has five units: first, the major concepts used to analyze international relations (Weeks 1-3), next the causes and impact of conflict and cooperation among international actors in military security (Weeks 4-6), third, the role of international institutions in security (Weeks 7-9), and, fourth, in economics (Weeks 11-13). We will finish by discussing other relevant issues and carrying out a simulation (Weeks 14-15).

****READ THIS!****

UNIVERSITY COURSE RELATED POLICIES

Attendance, Academic Integrity, etc.

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Requirements and Policies

SEE ELMS>Assignments (Submit there or as an email attachment to seanrao@umd.edu)

Knowledge Survey 25 points (2.5% of course grade)

Writing Assignment 350 points total (35%):

Question and Proposal 150 points

Final Paper 200 points

Discussion Participation 200 points total (20%)

Simulation 250 points total (25%):

Written Memo 150 points

Participation 100 points

Small Assignments 150 points total (15%)

Final Response 25 points (2.5%)

Accommodations: if you need accommodation of any sort—learning support and other challenges, please communicate these as soon as possible. Please send me any ADS forms you may have within the first week so that I can assist you properly.

Expectations: Cheating of any sort is unacceptable. Suspected cases of plagiarism or cheating will be referred to the Student Honor Council. See www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu

Check your UMD email daily and be sure to receive ELMS updates as changes to course assignments, class cancellation, and other announcements will be done through both ELMS and email.

You are responsible for knowing all policies. It is helpful to do the week's readings before viewing the week's lecture videos. All required reading and lectures must be done before our Thursday discussions to get full participation points.

Other than the university policies linked above, this class or GVPT may differ from other courses or departments you may be taking. Please come ask me if you have any questions about any policies.

Due Dates: Pay careful attention to due dates and times. Work will be graded down by a whole letter

grade (or 10 percent) once it is 24 hours late and another letter grade (or 10 percent) for each additional day (24-hour period), not counting Saturday and Sunday, which it is late unless you have suffered an emergency (including COVID as explained below). I may grant extensions **before the due date** with a reasonable excuse. If you think you may have trouble meeting a due date, please contact me as soon as possible. Readings and lectures should be done before the next discussion. Show me you read this by emailing me any article about the United Nations by our first discussion for extra credit.

Absences: Please let me know in the first week if you know you will miss a discussion for religious observances, military service, or other obligations. Please let me know about other discussion absences as soon as possible. You need documentation if you will be miss more than one discussion, including as follows:

Policy on Excused Absences related to COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, self-certified notes will serve as documentation for COVID-19 related absences or missed course expectations. This means that students do not need a note signed by a doctor or other health professional for COVID-19 related absences.

In the event that students cannot complete the regular course assessments due to COVID-19 related absences, faculty can suggest alternative assignments for students to make up missing work and complete the course. According to university policy, these alternative assignments are permitted and cannot be the basis for an Arbitrary and Capricious grading claim.

Course Material:

There are no required textbooks, all texts will be offered on ELMS (elms.umd.edu) under the files or course reserves sections. Please check **both** of these! You will also use your UMD Zoom account: https://umd.service-now.com/itsupport/?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0015394&sys_kb_id=3e771a871bf7c810ef518738cd4bcb97

Grading Scale

The Letter Grade Is...	At or above this Percentage of Points...	And under this Percentage of Points
A+	97	100 or more
A	93	97
A-	90	93
B+	87	90
B	83	87
B-	80	83
C+	77	80
C	73	77
C-	70	73
D+	67	70
D	63	67
D-	60	63
F	0	60

If you are concerned about your grade, please contact me or join my Zoom office hour as soon as possible. If you do not do as well on earlier assignments, you still have a good chance of earning a good final grade for the course but only if you make changes and clarify anything which is confusing as soon as possible. You are always welcome to reach out to me, but it is harder to help you if you wait until the end of the class.

"The only way to win the next world war is to prevent it." -Dwight Eisenhower

Need Help: Know that the campus offers many resources, usually free:

go.umd.edu/assistance

Tutoring: tutoring.umd.edu

Writing Help: ter.ps/writing

Subject matter librarians www.lib.umd.edu

Counseling: counseling.umd.edu

Our Zoom discussions are at a set time (Thursdays 6-7 pm). **We will also use Zoom for our Simulation exercise: Tuesday, December 1, 6-7:15 pm, and Thursday, December 3, Tuesday, Dec. 8, and Thursday, Dec. 10 from 6:00 to 7:15 pm.** You will manage your own time for when to watch the lectures, do the reading, and finish the written assignments. Be sure to complete them before their due dates. Setting a study schedule that works for you will be important to your success at UMD.

Weekly Course Layout

Due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, our course will be entirely online. Please bear with me as we still adjust to this! Each week will follow a similar schedule of activities.

Monday

Video Lectures Posted 6:00 pm

There will be three half-hour videos each week accessible through the Pages section on ELMS. You may watch these any time between Monday and our Thursday discussion. It is helpful to do the reading before the video and you must do the reading before discussion.

Tuesday

Zoom Office Hour 1:30-2:30 pm

Each hour has a different Zoom link on ELMS.

Thursday

Zoom Office Hour 1:30-2:30 pm

Each hour has a different Zoom link on ELMS.

Zoom Discussion 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

This is a time to ask questions and interact with the course material more thoroughly. Zoom links will appear in the Zoom section under ELMS and will differ each week. Participation in these will count for 200 points (20% of your final grade). To get full points, read all the readings and watch all the video lectures up to that week. Put your full attention into all activities which we do during discussion.

Semester Course Schedule

Readings are subject to change. Please watch for updates. The latest version is on ELMS.

Week	Dates	Item	Video 1	Video 2	Video 3	Discussion
1	August 31-September 4	Topic	What is IR, Politics?	States and International System	Other Actors; Levels of Analysis	Current Issues (September 3)
		Readings	Snyder, Jack. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." <i>Foreign Policy</i> 145: 52-62.	1. Shany, Yuval, Amichai Cohen, and Tal Mimran. 2014, September 14. "ISIS: Is the Islamic State Really a State?." Israel Democracy Institute. https://en.idi.org.il/articles/5219 (9 pages) 2. Krasner, Stephen D. 2001. "Sovereignty." <i>Foreign Policy</i> (122): 20-29.	Singer, J. David. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." <i>World Politics</i> 14 (1): 77-92.	
		Assignments				Complete Knowledge Survey by 6 pm (ELMS -> Quizzes) (Or email an attachment to seanrao@umd.edu)
2	September 7-11	Topic	Realism	Idealism	Constructivism	Contrasting and Evaluating Frameworks (September 10)
		Readings	1. Thucydides. "Melian Dialogue". 167-177. 2. Morgenthau, Hans J. 1948. <i>Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace</i> . New York: Knopf. Ch. 1, "A Realist Theory of International Relations", 3-17.	1. Wilson, Woodrow. 1918. "Fourteen Points." p. 35-40. 2. Kant, Immanuel. 1917. "Perpetual Peace", "First Section" p. 1-4	Wendt, A. 1992. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." <i>International Organization</i> 46 (2): 391-425.	
		Assignments				
3	September 14-18	Topic	Neorealism	Liberal Institutionalism	Paper Proposal Instructions	Paper Instructions; Contrasting and Evaluating Frameworks (September 17)
		Readings	1. Mearsheimer, John. J. 2001. <i>The Tragedy of Great Power Politics</i> . New York: WW Norton & Company. Ch. 1, p. 1-28. 2. Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory. <i>The Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i> 18 (4): 615-628.	Johnson, Tana, and Andrew Heiss. 2018. "Liberal Institutionalism." <i>In International Organization and Global Governance, 2nd Ed.</i> , eds., Thomas G. Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson. London: Routledge.	Powner, Leanne C. 2014. <i>Empirical Research and Writing: A Political Science Student's Practical Guide</i> . Washington, DC: CQ Press. p. 6-10	
		Assignments				

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Video 1</i>	<i>Video 2</i>	<i>Video 3</i>	<i>Discussion</i>
4	September 21-25	Topic	Game Theory	Interstate Conflict	Historical Applications	Prisoner's Dilemma, Russia and China (September 24)
		Readings	Axelrod, Robert. 1984. <i>The Evolution of Cooperation</i> . Cambridge, MA: Basic. p.73-87	Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." <i>International Organization</i> 49 (3): 379-414.	Lake, David A. 2010. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War." <i>International Security</i> 35 (3): 7-52.	
		Assignments				
5	September 28-October 2	Topic	Intrastate Conflict I	Intrastate Conflict II	Religion and International Politics	Syria and Yemen (October 1)
		Readings	1. Walter, Barbara F. 2009. "Bargaining Failures and Civil War." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> (12): 243-261. 2. Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher. 2011. "Divide and Conquer or Divide and Concede: How Do States Respond to Internally Divided Separatists?." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 105 (2): 275-297.	Cunningham, David. 2006. "Veto Players and Civil War Duration." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> https://doi.org/10.1111/1/j.1540-5907.2006.00221.x	Hassner, Ron Eduard. 2009. <i>War on Sacred Grounds</i> . Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. p.1-14	
		Assignments				
6	October 5-9	Topic	Ethnic Conflict	Terrorism	Nonviolent Contentious Politics	Belarus; Peer Review Paper Proposal Ideas (October 8)
		Readings	Bormann, Nils-Christian, Lars-Erik Cederman, and Manuel Vogt. 2015. "Language, Religion, and Ethnic Civil War." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i>	Chenoweth, Erica. 2013. "Terrorism and Democracy". <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 16: 355-378.	Chenoweth, Erica. 2020. "The Future of Nonviolent Resistance." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 31 (3).	
		Assignments				

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Video 1</u>	<u>Video 2</u>	<u>Video 3</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
7	October 12-16	Topic	International Organizations	UN	EU	Brexit (October 15)
		Readings	Abidin, Shazelina. "International Organizations." In <i>International Relations</i> , ed. Stephen McGlinchey. Bristol, UK: E-International Relations, 71-77.	Sengupta, Somini. 2017, September 17. "The United Nations Explained." <i>New York Times</i> . https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/17/world/americas/united-nations-un-explainer.html	1. Archick, Kristin. 2017, February 27. "The European Union: Current Challenges and Future Prospects." Congressional Research Service. P. 1-20. 2. BBC News. "Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU." https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887	
		Assignments				Paper Proposal Due. Submit on ELMS -> Assignments by 6 pm. (Or email an attachment to seanrao@umd.edu)
8	October 19-23	Topic	International Law	Crimes against Humanity and Courts	Final Paper Instructions	ICJ (October 22)
		Readings	Paul Huth, Sarah Croco, and Ben Appel. 2011. "Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes?." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 105 (2): 418-24.	Ainley, Kirsten. 2011. "The International Criminal Court on Trial." <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> 24 (3): 309-333. 2. New York Times, The ICC, Out of Africa.	No Reading	
		Assignments				

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Video 1</u>	<u>Video 2</u>	<u>Video 3</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
		Topic	WMD	Arms Control	Historical Applications	Arms Control Effectiveness (October 29)
9	October 26-30	Readings	Hummel, Stephen. 2016. "The Islamic State and WMD: Assessing the Future Threat." <i>CTC Sentinel</i> 9 (1) https://ctc.usma.edu/the-islamic-state-and-wmd-assessing-the-future-threat/	1. Beauchamp, Zack. 2018, May 8. "Trump's Withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal." Vox. https://www.vox.com/world/2018/5/8/17328520/iran-nuclear-deal-trump-withdraw 2. Einhorn, Robert. 2015, August 12. Debating the Iran Nuclear Deal: A Former American Negotiator Outlines the Battleground Issues." Brookings. https://www.brookings.edu/research/debating-the-iran-nuclear-deal-a-former-american-negotiator-outlines-the-battleground-issues/	No Reading	
		Assignments				
		Topic	Foreign Policy and Domestic Politics	Democratic Peace	Elections	Elections, Democratic Peace (November 5)
10	November 2-6	Readings	Kahneman, Daniel, and Jonathan Renshon. 2007. "Why Hawks Win." <i>Foreign Policy</i> (158): 34-38.	Russett, Bruce. 1993. "Why Democratic Peace?" In <i>Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for A Post-Cold War World</i> , ed. Bruce Russett. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 24-42.	Breslawski, Jori, and David E. Cunningham. 2019. "International Influences on Nonviolent and Violent Contention." <i>International Interactions</i> 45 (4): 638-665. DOI: 10.1080/03050629.2019.1638375	
		Assignments				
		Topic	IPE	Trade and the WTO	Investment and the IMF	Free Trade vs. Protectionism (November 12)
11	November 9-13	Readings	Taylor, Timothy, and Stephen Greenlaw. 2016. <i>Principles of Economics</i> , ch. 33, sections 1, 2, and 4 https://opentextbc.ca/principlesofeconomics/ (Read through the link if possible to see the pictures; use the file on ELMS for a backup if needed.)	No Reading	Frieden, Jeffrey. 2016. "The Governance of International Finance." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 19. (You may skip pages 10-12)	
		Assignments				

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Video 1</u>	<u>Video 2</u>	<u>Video 3</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
		Topic	MNCs	Development/ BRICS	Simulation Memorandum Instructions	Peer Review Final Paper; Development (November 19)
12	November 16-20	Readings	Haufler, Virginia. 2004. "International Diplomacy and the Privatization of Conflict Prevention." <i>International Studies Perspectives</i> 5 (2): 158-163.	1. Ayres, Alyssa. 2017, August 31. "How the BRICS Got Here." Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/expert-brief/how-brics-got-here 2. Ross, Michael. 2006. "Is Democracy Good for the Poor?." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 50 (4): 860-874.	No Reading	
		Assignments				Be ready to discuss your paper in class. Have a draft if possible.
		Topic	Final Paper Due (November 24) Environment	Climate Agreements	Simulation Instructions	Thanksgiving - No Discussion, No Office Hours
13	November 23-24	Readings	1. Roston, E., and Migliozi, B. 2017, April 19. "How a Melting Arctic Changes Everything." Bloomberg News. https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2017-arctic/ (Use the Link if Possible to Because the Pictures will display better there) 2. Dupont, Alan. "The Strategic Implications of Climate Change." <i>Survival</i> 50 (3): 29-47.	1. Victor, D. G. 2006. "Toward Effective International Cooperation on Climate Change: Numbers, Interests and Institutions." <i>Global Environmental Politics</i> 6 (3): 90-103. 2. Light, John. 2018, June 5. "One Year after Trump Ditched the Paris Agreement, Where Are We?." https://www.undispatch.com/one-year-after-trump-ditched-the-paris-agreement-where-are-we/	No Reading	
		Assignments	Final Paper Due (November 24). Submit on ELMS -> Assignments by 6 pm. (Or email an attachment to seanrao@umd.edu)			
		Topic	Review and Discuss Simulation *ZOOM* 6-7:15 pm (December 1)			Perform Simulation 1 6-7:15 (December 3)
14	November 30-December 4	Readings	No Readings			
		Assignments				

<i>Week</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>
15	December 7-11	Topic	Simulation Memo Due Perform Simulation II *ZOOM* 6-7:15 (December 8)
		Readings	
		Assignments	Simulation Memo Due. Submit on ELMS -> Assignments by 6 pm. (Or email an attachment to seanrao@umd.edu)
16	December 14-19	Topic	Final Reaction Due (December 19)
		Readings	
		Assignments	No Class Final Reaction Due. Submit on ELMS by 11:59 pm on Saturday, December 19. (Or email an attachment to seanrao@umd.edu)