



蘇州大學
Soochow University

POL 130 Introduction to International Politics

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Introduction to International Politics is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the key concepts, theories, and issues in the field of international relations. Through lectures, readings, discussions, and assignments, students will explore topics such as state sovereignty, power dynamics, international cooperation, conflict resolution, globalization, and the role of international organizations. The course aims to equip students with analytical tools and critical thinking skills necessary for understanding and analyzing the complexities of global politics.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of key concepts and theories in international politics;
2. Analyze and evaluate the causes and consequences of major events and issues in international relations;
3. Apply theoretical frameworks to analyze contemporary global issues and conflicts;
4. Develop effective written and oral communication skills for discussing and presenting ideas related to international politics;
5. Demonstrate the ability to engage in informed and respectful debates on global issues from diverse perspectives.

PREREQUISITES

None



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
3 Assignments	15 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Group Project and Presentation	20 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

1. Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (2009). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. Norton.
2. Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (2010). *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*. MyPoliSciKit Series. Boston: Longman.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

There will be specific reading assignments based on class activity.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: The Evolution of the International System Topic 2: The Elements of International Relations Topic 3: The Political Uses of Force Topic 4: The Utility of Force Today Assessments: Assignment #1 Quiz #1
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: The Cold War and Realism Topic 6: Domestic Politics and War Topic 7: International Institutions and War Topic 8: Civil War and Terrorism Assessments: Assignment #2 Midterm Exam
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: International Trade Topic 10: International Financial Relations Topic 11: International Monetary Relations Topic 12: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations Assessments: Assignment #3 Quiz #2
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: International Law and Norms Topic 14: Human Rights Topic 15: The Global Environment Topic 16: The Future of International Politics Assessments: Group Project and Presentation Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.