

PS20: World Politics
Course Syllabus
Fall 2015

Professor Leslie Johns
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Bunche 3381

Teaching Assistants:

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LOCATION and TIME:

TR 9:30 -- 10:45 AM
Dodd 147

Office hours for Professor Johns: Wednesdays at 11:00 am--12:00 pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations. We will learn about the major paradigms and tools for studying interactions between nation-states. Then we will survey key topics in the study of conflict and cooperation. This is an introductory-level course and is designed for freshmen and sophomores.

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

Your grade in this course is based on the following:

Participation: 10%

Your TA will determine this component of your grade based on your performance in section meetings. To receive full credit you must actively participate and demonstrate that you have prepared by completing the assigned reading.

Writing assignments: 30%

During the quarter, you will be asked to write 7 short (2-3 page) policy briefs on contemporary international relations topics. These assignments are due at the beginning of section meetings. Your two lowest grades on these policy briefs will be automatically dropped. There will be no make-up writing assignments. If you do not hand in an assignment at the beginning of your section, you will receive a zero grade.

Midterm exam (October 29): 25%

Final exam (TBA): 35%

There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a grade of zero. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

TEXTS

Required texts:

FLS: Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. (2013) *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

Note: Please be sure to buy the second edition of this text, dated 2013. The text is different from the earlier first edition, dated 2010.

Other required readings:

These will be made available on the course web-site:

<https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/15F-POLSCI20-1>

Other resources:

For your writing assignments, you will often need to do independent research on a current foreign policy topic. Internet sources should be used cautiously; just because a statement is posted on the Internet doesn't mean that it is true. However, you can treat the web-sites of major newspapers (*New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, etc.) as credible sources. You can also use the student web-page developed by the Council on Foreign Relations, a well-respected independent and non-partisan organization, as a credible source:

www.cfr.org/students

If you have any questions about the credibility of a source, please speak with your TA before your assignment is due.

STUDY AIDS

Before each class meeting, I will post an outline of that day's lecture on the class web-page. These outlines are intended to be study aids for note-taking and exam review. I will not be posting lecture slides.

- These outlines are not substitutes for attending lectures. If you miss lecture, you do so at your own risk.
- These outlines do not limit the scope or content of possible exam questions.

UCLA's Undergraduate Writing Center provides free one-on-one sessions to improve your writing. Information about this service is located on the course web-site and at: www.wp.ucla.edu

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All UCLA students are bound by UCLA's Student Conduct Code, which is available at: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu>. As required by UCLA procedures, any suspected or alleged misconduct---including plagiarism and cheating---will be automatically reported to the Dean of Students. If you have any questions or concerns about what constitutes plagiarism, you should consult with your TA, professor, or the Office of the Dean of Students.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 0

Sept 24 (R): Syllabus overview and class policies

Part I: How Can We Study International Relations?---Paradigms and Tools

Week 1

Sept 29 (T): Major IR paradigms
Read: FLS, Introduction
FLS, Chapter 1

Oct 1 (R): Interests and bargaining
Read: FLS, Chapter 2

Section: **Brief #1 due: Ukraine**

Read: Motyl, Alexander J. (2013) "Yanukovich's Choice." *Foreign Affairs Online*, November 7.
<<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/eastern-europe-caucasus/2013-11-07/yanukovychs-choice>>

Grätz, Jonas (2013) "Freedom of Association." *Foreign Affairs Online*, November 20.
<<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2013-11-20/freedom-association>>.

Mearsheimer, John J. (2014) "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault." *Foreign Affairs*. September/October, pp.
<<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russia-fsu/2014-08-18/why-ukraine-crisis-west-s-fault>>.

Week 2

Oct 6 (T): Cooperation and institutions
Read: FLS, Chapter 2

Part II: What Do We Know About International Conflict?

Oct 8 (R): Causes of war I: incomplete information
Read: FLS, Chapter 3

Section: **Brief #2 due: ISIS**

Read: Laub, Zachary and Jonathan Masters (2015) "Backgrounder: The Islamic State" Council on Foreign Relations, May 18,
<<http://www.cfr.org/iraq/islamic-state/p14811>>

Week 3

Oct 13 (T): Causes of war II: commitment and indivisibility
Read: FLS, Chapter 3

Oct 15 (R): Domestic politics and war
Read: FLS, Chapter 4

Section: **Brief #3 due: Iran nuclear agreement**

Week 4

Oct 20 (T): International institutions and war
Read: FLS, Chapter 5

Oct 22 (R): Nonstate actors: civil war and terrorism
Read: FLS, Chapter 6

Section: **Brief #4 due: EU migration crisis**

Read: Park, Jeanne (2015) "Backgrounder: Europe's Migration Crisis"
Council on Foreign Relations, September 9,
<<http://www.cfr.org/migration/europes-migration-crisis/p32874>>

Week 5

Oct 27 (T): Midterm exam review session

Oct 29 (R): **Midterm exam.**

Section: No section meetings this week

Part III: What Do We Know About International Cooperation?

Week 6

Nov 3 (T): Trade I: economic theories and the domestic politics of protectionism
Read: FLS, Chapter 7

Nov 5 (R): Trade II: GATT/WTO and preferential trade agreements
Read: FLS, Chapter 7

Section: **Brief #5 due: Export-Import Bank**

Read: Hochberg, Fred P. (2015) "Protecting America's Competitive Advantage: Why the Export-Import Bank Matters" *Foreign Affairs* May/June, pp. 59-65

Bandow, Doug (2015) "Export-Import Bank Closes: Kill Subsidies To Cut Federal Liabilities, Promote Economic Fairness" *Forbes* June 30, <<http://onforb.es/1LFLZRi>>

Week 7

Nov 10 (T): Finance I: IMF
Read: FLS, Chapter 8

Nov 12 (R): Finance II: foreign direct investment
Read: FLS, Chapter 8

Section: **Brief #6 due: Investor-State Dispute Settlement.**

Read: McBride, James (2015) "Backgrounder: The Future of U.S. Trade Policy" Council on Foreign Relations, June 25,
<<http://www.cfr.org/trade/future-us-trade-policy/p36422>>

Week 8

Nov 17 (T): Development I: why are some countries poor?
Read: FLS, Chapter 10

Nov 19 (R): Development II: how can the poor grow richer?
Read: FLS, Chapter 10

Section: **Brief #7 due: Global Health Initiatives.**

Read: Garrett, Laurie (2015) "Ebola's Lessons: How the WHO Mishandled the Crisis" *Foreign Affairs* September/October, pp. 80--107.

Week 9

Nov 24 (T): Money
Read: FLS, Chapter 9

Nov 26 (R): Thanksgiving holiday. No lecture.

Section: No section meetings this week

Week 10

Dec 1 (T): Human rights I: international law and advocacy
Read: FLS, Chapter 12

Dec 3 (R): Human rights II: domestic law and advocacy

Read: Leval, Pierre N. (2013) "The Long Arm of International Law: Giving Victims of Human Rights Abuses Their Day in Court" *Foreign Affairs* March/April, pp. 16-21.

Kyl, Jon, Douglas J. Feith, and John Fonte (2013) "The War of Law: How New International Law Undermines Democratic Sovereignty" *Foreign Affairs* July/August, pp. 115-125.

Cabranes, Jose A. (2015) "Withholding Judgment: Why U.S. Courts Shouldn't Make Foreign Policy" *Foreign Affairs* September/October, pp. 125-133.

Section: Final exam review session