

PS20: World Politics
Course Syllabus
Fall 2017

Professor Leslie Johns
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Bunche 3381

Teaching Assistants:

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LOCATION and TIME:

MW 9:30 -- 10:45 AM
Fowler A103B

Office hours for Prof. Johns: Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am--11:45 am

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: 20%

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.

Quizzes: 20%

During the quarter, you will be asked to take five short quizzes, which will cover the assigned reading for that week. This will include the reading for both lectures and your section meetings. These quizzes will be given at the beginning

of section meetings. Your lowest grade on these quizzes will be automatically dropped. There will be no make-up quizzes. If you do not take the quiz at the beginning of your section, you will receive a zero grade.

Midterm exam (Nov 1): 25%

Final exam (Dec 11): 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. (2015) *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

Note: Please be sure to get the third edition of this text, dated 2015. If you need to minimize textbook expenses, you can easily purchase the eTextbook, buy a used copy online, or rent a copy of the book via Amazon.

Coursepack from the *Harvard Business Review* --- This item is not available in the UCLA Bookstore. It must be purchased directly from the *Harvard Business Review* using this link:

<http://cb.hbsp.harvard.edu/cbmp/access/65890009>

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.

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

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

Week 1

Oct 2 (M): Syllabus overview and class policies
Major IR paradigms
Read: FLS, Introduction
FLS, Chapter 1 (skim)

Oct 4 (W): Interests and bargaining
Read: FLS, Chapter 2

Section: Read: Motyl, Alexander J. (2013) "Yanukovych's Choice." *Foreign Affairs Online*, November 7. -- ON CLASS WEBPAGE

Grätz, Jonas (2013) "Freedom of Association." *Foreign Affairs Online*, November 20. -- ON CLASS WEBPAGE

Mearsheimer, John J. (2014) "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault." *Foreign Affairs*. September/October. -- ON CLASS WEBPAGE

Week 2

Oct 9 (M): Cooperation and institutions
Read: FLS, Chapter 2

Part II: What Do We Know About International Conflict?

Oct 11 (W): Causes of war I: incomplete information
Read: FLS, Chapter 3

Section: **Quiz #1**

Read: "The Iraq War Case" In the *Harvard Business Review* coursepack.

Week 3

Oct 16 (M): Causes of war II: commitment and indivisibility
Read: FLS, Chapter 3

Oct 18 (W): Class cancelled (Prof Johns ill)

Section: **Quiz #2**

Read: "Launching the War on Terrorism" In the *Harvard Business Review* coursepack.

Week 4

Oct 23 (M): Nonstate actors: civil war and terrorism
Read: FLS, Chapter 6

Oct 25 (W): Domestic politics and war
Read: FLS, Chapter 4

Section: Midterm review session

Week 5

Oct 30 (M): International institutions and war
Read: FLS, Chapter 5

Nov 1 (W): **Midterm exam**

Section: No section meetings this week

Part III: What Do We Know About International Cooperation?

Week 6

Nov 6 (M): Finance I: foreign direct investment
Read: FLS, Chapter 8

Nov 8 (W): Finance II: IMF
Read: FLS, Chapter 8

Section: **Quiz #3**

Read: "One Belt One Road: Chinese Strategic Investment in the 21st Century" In the *Harvard Business Review* coursepack.

Week 7

Nov 13 (M): Trade I: economic theories and the domestic politics of protectionism
Read: FLS, Chapter 7

Nov 15 (W): Trade II: GATT/WTO and preferential trade agreements
Read: FLS, Chapter 7

Section: **Quiz #4**

Read: "To Grexit or Not? Politics and Greece's Sovereign Debt Crisis" In the *Harvard Business Review* coursepack.

Week 8

Nov 20 (M): Money
Read: FLS, Chapter 9

Nov 22 (W): Thanksgiving holiday. No lecture.

Section: No section meetings this week

Week 9

Nov 27 (M): International law and norms
Read: FLS, Chapter 11

Nov 29 (W): Human rights
Read: FLS, Chapter 12

Section: **Quiz #5**

Read: "Willkommen to Europe: The Political Economy of Migration Policy in Germany" In the *Harvard Business Review* coursepack.

Week 10

Dec 4 (M): Development I: why are some countries poor?
Read: FLS, Chapter 10

Dec 6 (W): Development II: how can the poor grow richer?
Read: FLS, Chapter 10

Section: Final exam review session

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 11, 2017 @ 11:30am-2:30 pm