

# Introduction to International Relations (790:102:1,2,3,5,6, and 10)

Spring 2017

Instructor: Ju Yeon (Julia) Park (park.juyeon85@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Tue. 1:10-2:00 RSC Atrium, Wed. 12:15-1:00 Hickman 316

Class time and location: Tuesdays and every other Fridays at 11:30-12:50, Scott Hall, Room 123  
TAs: David Hunter Walsh and Wei-Chih Chen

## Course Description

This course intends to help students build their ability to think strategically and rationally when they interpret international political phenomena. In the journey to this aim, we will go over various theoretical perspectives to study international relations and discuss what are the logical short-comings of each approach and how we can improve the theoretical arguments to best describe the real world. As one solution, the course will highlight how domestic political conditions shape international political sphere by restricting national leaders' foreign policy options to choose from. With this in mind, we will explore why states go to a war, why we see less wars these days, why and how states cooperate through international institutions, why they sometimes fail to do so, how the international society can deal with a rising threat of terrorism, and whether the global trend of democratization can bring world peace. Game-theoretic concepts will be introduced in the earlier part of the course and used frequently as a tool to solve such puzzles.

## Course Objectives

By the end of the semester you should be able to:

- Describe major historical events that served as a pathway to build the international system today
- Explain and evaluate various theories for international relations by comparing their assumptions, arguments, and evidence
- Apply theories, game-theoretic methods, and concepts about human and social behavior to real-world international politics
- Critically analyze causes and consequences of contemporary international political events



## Course Expectations

Quiz (10%): I will have pop quizzes during classes without a prior notification. The quiz questions will ask you about important concepts or key words that we covered in the past a few weeks. QUIZ CANNOT BE MADE UP. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Attendance to TA sections (10%): Students are expected to attend all TA sections that happen biweekly and to participate meaningfully in class. You must show up on time and stay for the entire class to receive credit for attendance. Any legitimate excuses (e.g. family or religious affairs) will be taken into consideration only when you consult with your TA at least two weeks ahead AND with **\*\*officially documented proof\*\***. If you do not have any documented proof, you do not need to discuss your absence with your TA.

Homework (30%): There will be three homework assignments (10% for each). Each assignment is due at the beginning of the class and should be submitted in two formats: 1) a hardcopy and 2) a pdf file submitted to the sakai's class website. (Do not email your homework to the instructor.) Any set handed in later than 5 minutes into class time shall be deemed late. Students will lose 50% of the total points of the given assignment for submitting it late on the due date. Submissions past the due date will receive only 30% of the total points earned.

Exams (50%): There will be a midterm and a final exam (25% for each). Both will be in-class exams. Final exam will be cumulative with more weight on the materials taught after the midterm. The exams will comprise a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. (Note: Make up exams will be permitted only under the gravest of circumstances with appropriate **\*\*documentation\*\***. Personal travel plans, sickness without hospitalization, death of beloved ones (other than that of parents, brothers and sisters), or schedule conflicts are not legitimate reasons for requesting to take an exam at a different time.)

Misbehavior: In addition, any disruptive behavior (e.g. sleeping, talking outside of regular discussion, using cell phones, web surfing and insulting other people in the class, etc.) during the class will cost you **\*\*a full letter grade down\*\*** for each time detected. You can use laptops but they should be used only for course-related activities (e.g. taking notes) but not for internet surfing. It is very important for you to be polite and respectful when you are communicating with your instructor and TAs in any means including emails.

Letter Grades: The thresholds for the letter grades at the end of the semester will be determined based on the distribution and the satisfactory performance of the class.

### **Other issues**

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Students must do all their work within the boundaries of acceptable academic norms. See the Academic Integrity page of the Rutgers website regarding college policy on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty - <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>

Students found guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include reduction of grade, a failure in the course, suspension or expulsion. This includes homework assignments – if they are copied from another student, severe penalties may be applied.

Textbooks: The following books are required for your course work:

- 1) Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. Principles of International Politics (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). CQ Press.
- 2) Anna Getmansky and Alejandro Quiroz Florez. Applying the Strategic Perspective: Problems and Models Workbook, (5th Edition). CQ Press.

Other Readings: In some weeks, there may be additional readings from other sources. I will give notice in advance and upload pdf copies to the class website.

Changes: There may be adjustments in the scheduling of homework or reading assignments. Any changes will be announced in class and/or through email in advance.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1 (Jan 17, 20) – Introduction to various theoretical perspectives in IR**

- Readings: BDM, Introduction and Ch1

#### **Week 2 (Jan 24) – Evaluating Arguments about International Politics**

- Readings: BDM, Ch1; Appendix p.476-480
- Recitation section: Review of Introduction and Ch1

#### **Week 3 (Jan 31, Feb 3) – The Strategic Perspective**

- Readings: BDM, Ch2; Appendix p. 480-483

#### **Week 4 (Feb 7) – Tools for Analyzing International Affairs**

- Readings: BDM, Ch3; Appendix p. 483-486
- Recitation section: Review of Ch2 and 3

**Week 5 (Feb 14, 17) – Introduction to Game Theory**

- Readings: BDM, Ch4; Appendix p. 486-488

**Week 6 (Feb 21, 24) – Why War? The Big Picture**

- Readings: BDM, Ch5; Appendix p. 488-491
- **\*\*Homework 1 distributed on Feb. 24\*\***

**Week 7 (Feb 28) – Domestic Theories of War**

- Readings: BDM, Ch6.
- Recitation section: Review Ch4 and 5 (help with the Homework1)

**Week 8 (Mar 7) – Domestic Theories of War (continued)**

- Readings: BDM, Ch6.
- Recitation section: Review for Midterm (including Ch6)
- **\*\*Homework1 due\*\***

**Week 9 (Mar 14, 17) – Spring Recess**

**Week 10 (Mar 21) - \*\*Midterm\*\***

**(Mar 24) – How International Organizations Work or Don't Work**

- Readings: BDM, Ch7.

**Week 11 (Mar 28) – How International Organizations Work or Don't Work (continued)**

- Readings: BDM, Ch7; Appendix p. 491-493
- Recitation: Review Ch7 (help with the Homework2)
- **\*\*Homework2 distributed on Mar. 28\*\***

**Week 12 (April 4) – Global Warming: Designing a Solution**

- Readings: BDM, Ch8
- **(April 7) – Free Trade or Fair: The Domestic Politics of Tariffs**
- Reading: BDM, Ch10; Appendix p. 493-496
- **\*\*Homework2 due\*\***

**Week 13 (April 11) – Free Trade or Fair: The Domestic Politics of Tariffs (continued)**

- Reading: BDM, Ch10; Appendix p. 493-496
- Recitation: Review Ch8 and 10

**Week 14 (April 18, 21) – Globalization: International Winners and Losers**

- Readings: BDM, Ch11; Appendix p. 496-501
- **\*\*Homework3 distributed on April 18\*\***

**Week 15 (April 25) – Foreign Aid, Poverty, and Revolution**

- Readings: BDM, Ch12; Appendix p. 501-504
- Did U.S. aid win hearts and minds in Afghanistan? Yes and no. By Renard Sexton. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/01/06/did-u-s-nonmilitary-aid-win-hearts-and-minds-in-afghanistan-yes-and-no/?utm\\_term=.3c1a42b93cdc](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/01/06/did-u-s-nonmilitary-aid-win-hearts-and-minds-in-afghanistan-yes-and-no/?utm_term=.3c1a42b93cdc)
- Recitation: Review Ch11 and 12 (help with the Homework3)
- **\*\*Homework3 due on April 28 (online submission only)\*\***

**Week 16 (TBA) – \*\*Final Exam\*\***