

# INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political Science 102, Fall 2020  
(Provisional Draft – Subject to Change)

## Course Information

**Lectures:** Pre-recorded

**Discussion Sections:** Virtual/Synchronous

## Teaching Assistants

**Instructor:** Sumin Lee<sup>2</sup>

**E-Mail:** [sumin.s.lee@rutgers.edu](mailto:sumin.s.lee@rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday at 12pm

## Professor Contact Information

**Instructor:** Michael Kenwick<sup>1</sup>

**E-mail:** [michael.kenwick@rutgers.edu](mailto:michael.kenwick@rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 3:30pm

**Instructor:** Jayme Schlesinger<sup>3</sup>

**E-mail:** [jayschle@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:jayschle@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday 1:30 PM

## Approach to Online Instruction

As detailed in full below, this course will leverage a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Each week, pre-recorded lectures will be posted online—you should complete these lectures the same week they are posted. Every other week, you will be responsible for attending online discussion sections. Quizzes, papers, and exams will all be proctored and submitted online. There will be an introductory, full-class section hosted on Thursday September 3 (8am), where we will discuss the syllabus and host a Q&A about the class structure.

Online instruction is suboptimal, especially for large courses. For many students (and instructors) it can be alienating, and temptations to procrastinate will be particularly strong. We will seek to overcome these shortcomings by encouraging you to consistently engage with your instructors and your fellow students throughout the course.

## Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the theories, concepts, and ideas used in social science efforts to understand international politics. As such, it stresses theory and inference and uses historical examples and contemporary events only as illustrations to illuminate behavior in larger classes of events. We will begin the overview with the dominant theoretical paradigms in international relations and study the causes and consequences of military conflict and war. We will then explore major issues in international political economy. We will conclude the semester with a discussion of contemporary issues, including human security, environmental issues, and border politics.

## Course Objectives

This course aims to improve understanding of contemporary international relations. By the end of the course, students should:

- Gain introductory knowledge about some international relations theories and have a basic understanding of the assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses of these approaches.
- Become familiar with the major substantive issues in international relations, including international security, international political economy, human rights, and environmental politics.
- Apply a scientific approach to better understand and analyze contemporary problems in international relations.
- Communicate these skills effectively in writing.

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<sup>1</sup> He/Him/His

<sup>2</sup> She/Her/Hers

<sup>3</sup> She/Her/Hers

This is a core curriculum course, satisfying SCL-2 goals.



## Required Material

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York. W.W. Norton & Company.

InQuizitive Software

\*The eBook and software can be bought together for \$40 on Norton's [website](#)

## Pre-Recorded Lectures

Every week, Canvas will be populated with one or several pre-recorded mini-lectures (approx. 5-35 minutes). Although these lectures will sometimes clarify and expand upon concepts from the reading, they will also contain additional information that you will be responsible for understanding.

## Grading Scale

- A = 89.5-100
- B+ = 84.5-89.49
- B = 79.5-84.49
- C+ = 74.5-79.49
- C = 69.5-74.49
- D = 59.5-69.49
- F = 0-59.49

**Note:** These cut-points already round up to the nearest grade. Requests to further round grades at the end of the semester will be denied.

## Grade Composition

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following five components:

- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (30%)
- Policy Analysis Paper (25%)
- Section Participation (15%)
- Chapter Quizzes (10%)

## Assignment Categories

### *Exams (50% total)*

There will be two open-book, online exams proctored through Canvas. Exams will cover material in both the textbook and pre-recorded lectures. The midterm exam will be posted on Canvas at 8am on **October 23** and must be submitted by 5pm on that day. You may take the exam at a time of your choosing, but you must complete it within 90 minutes of the time you start. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in an area with a reliable internet connection during that time. The final exam will be identical in terms of time and structure, but will be cumulative and feature content from the entire semester. The date of the final exam is yet to be determined by the University at the time of writing this.

### *Policy Analysis Paper (25%)*

All students must complete one paper assignment during the semester. In it, you will be asked to apply the concepts covered in lecture and reading to contemporary foreign policy issues and theoretical debates.

Two paper prompts will be distributed over the course of the semester, one in the first half of the course relating to war and another in the second half relating to political economy. *You must choose between these topics and may only submit one paper assignment.* Late papers will be penalized 5 percentage points for every day late.

### *Participation (15%)*

Every other week, students and their TAs will meet online in “small” group sections. The precise curriculum will vary from meeting-to-meeting, but section is broadly a place to ask questions and clarify materials covered in class. A student’s grade in section will be determined by their attendance and active participation in class. Students are encouraged to avoid spending every section with a blank screen and muted mic. Frequent tardiness may lower your participation grade. Because we would like to facilitate open communication, discussion sections will not be recorded.

### *Quizzes (10%)*

For each chapter, you will be responsible for completing the associated quiz proctored through the Inquizitive software that comes with the textbook. As you’ll see, the quizzes deliver a series of interactive questions. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will also be a syllabus quiz during the first week of the course.

## **Office Hours**

Professor Kenwick, Sumin, and Jayme will host online office hours each week, starting at the times listed at the beginning of the syllabus. The sessions will end after one hour **or** after there are no students remaining in the session. You can attend anybody’s office hour sessions (not just your personal TA).<sup>4</sup>

## **Email Policy**

Given the large number of students enrolled in this class and demands of online teaching, we must minimize the use of email as a means of communication about the coursework. Questions about the subject-matter are best asked either during office hours or discussion sections. You are also welcomed to ask any general questions in discussion boards on Canvas. Generally, emails are only appropriate for personal matters, and here your primary contact is your TA. When emailing Professor Kenwick, please also cc’ your TA.<sup>5</sup>

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Don’t do it. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and are treated as such by both the university and the instructor. All assignments will be ran through plagiarism checkers which will compare your work to that of other students and materials available online. Be aware that the instructor is apt to impose the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes but is not limited to issuing an automatic failing grade for the course. If students have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, or other matters of academic integrity, please consult the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

## **Special Needs and Wellness Services**

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<sup>4</sup> You may also email your instructor during that one-hour window if you find that the session had already ended due to inactivity.

<sup>5</sup> This policy is restrictive out of necessity. Each TA is responsible for 100 students, while Professor Kenwick has approximately 300 students. During ordinary semesters this is not problematic, but with online courses there is a risk of drowning in a deluge of emails.

Many of us face personal challenges or have psychological needs than can interfere with our personal lives. Rutgers offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times.

**COVID-19 Hardship**

Virtually every member of the Rutgers community is being affected by COVID-19. If you and your family are facing financial difficulties resulting from Covid-19 or if you are trying to do your semester's work without a computer, Rutgers might be able to help. Email deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance getting appropriate technology. For other financial aid hardships visit <http://financialaid.rutgers.edu>

**Just In Case Web App** (<http://codu.co/cee05e>)

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty.

**Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Students with disabilities are welcomed in this class and will readily receive necessary accommodations. Doing so requires students provide the instructor with a letter of accommodation from the above office. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Scarlet Listeners**

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline.

**Section Information**

<b>Section 1</b> Instructor: Sumin Lee Time: Wednesday 2:50-4:10pm	<b>Section 2</b> Instructor: Sumin Lee Time: Tuesday 2:50-4:10pm
<b>Section 3</b> Instructor: Jayme Schlesinger Time: Tuesday 4:30-5:50pm	<b>Section 4</b> Instructor: Jayme Schlesinger Time: Thursday 1:10-2:30pm
<b>Section 5</b> Instructor: Sumin Lee Time: Tuesday 1:10-2:30pm	<b>Section 6</b> Instructor: Jayme Schlesinger Time: Wednesday 1:10-2:30pm
<b>Section H</b> Instructor: Schlesinger & Kenwick Time: Monday 2:50-4:10	

**Schedule**

**Week 1** Sep 1 - Sep 4

**Topic:** Introduction, Theoretical Frames, and History

**Reading:** FLS, Introduction (xxiv – xxxvii)

**Quiz:** Canvas Quiz on Syllabus

No Sections

Introductory Session: Thursday, Sep 3 at 8am<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The 8am time is set because it is our officially designated lecture time.

- Week 2** Sep 7 - Sep 11  
**Topic:** Theoretical Frames and History, Part II  
**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 1 (1-39)  
**Quiz:** FLS Chapter 1 (Due Sunday by 10pm)  
 No Sections
- Week 3** Sep 14 - Sep 18  
**Topic:** Interests, Interactions, and Institutions - International Security and War, Part I  
**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 2 (42-80) & Chapter 3 (88-117)  
**Quiz:** Chapter 2 (Due Sunday by 10pm)  
**Sections Meet**
- Week 4** Sep 21 - Sep 25  
**Topic:** International Security and War, Part II  
**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 3 (118-137) & Game Theory (82-87)  
**Quiz:** Chapter 3 (Due Sunday by 10pm)  
 No Sections
- Week 5** Sep 28 - Oct 2  
**Topic:** International Institutions and War II  
**Reading:** FLS Chapter 5 (186-224)  
 \*Note we're reading ch. 5 before 4. How strange!  
**Quiz:** Chapter 5  
**Sections Meet**  
**Paper Option #1 due on Oct 2 by 10pm**
- Week 6** Oct 5 - Oct 9  
**Topic:** Foreign Policy  
**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 4 (166-183)  
**Quiz:** Chapter 4  
 No Sections
- Week 7** Oct 12 - Oct 16  
**Topic:** Civil War and Terrorism  
**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 6 (236-293)  
**Quiz:** Chapter 6  
**Sections Meet**
- Week 8** Oct 19 - Oct 23  
**Topic:** Exam Prep!  
**Reading:** None (Prep for your exam)  
**Quiz:** None (Prep, prep, prep)  
 No Sections  
**Midterm Exam (Posted Oct 23, 8am; Due Oct 23, 5pm)**
- Week 9** Oct 26 - Oct 30  
**Topic:** International Trade  
**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 7 (294-344)  
**Quiz:** Chapter 7  
**Sections Meet**
- Week 10** Nov 2 – Nov 6  
**Topic:** International Financial Relations<sup>7</sup>  
**Reading:** Chapter 8 (346-383)  
**Quiz:** Chapter 8  
 No Sections
- Week 11** Nov 9 – Nov 13  
**Topic:** International Monetary Relations  
**Reading:** Chapter 9 (386-421)

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<sup>7</sup> More interesting than it sounds.

**Quiz:** Chapter 9

**Sections Meet**

**Week 12** Nov 16 – Nov 20

**Topic:** International Law

**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 11 (462-493)

**Quiz:** Chapter 11

No Sections

**Paper Option #2 due Nov 20 by 10pm**

**Week 13** Nov 23 – Nov 25 (TG Week)

**Topic:** Human Rights

**Reading:** Chapter 12 (498-537)

**Quiz:** Chapter 12

**No Sections (due to TG week)**

**Week 14** Nov 30 – Dec 4

**Topic:** The Environment

**Reading:** FLS, Chapter 13 (540-581)

**Quiz:** Chapter 13

**Sections Meet**

**Week 15** Dec 7 – Dec 10

**Topic:** Future Challenges

**Reading:** TBA

No Sections

**Final Exam:** Time to be announced by RU