



## **Introduction to International Relations**

Syllabus for POL 365

Ole J. Forsberg, Ph.D.

*University of Tennessee*

Office Location:	McClung 1013	Class Time:	12:20 – 1:10 MWF (004)
Office Phone:	(865) 974-2261		8:00 – 8:50 MWF (010)
Office Hours:	10:00 – 11:30am TR	Classroom:	HSS 217 (004)
Instructor email:	oforsber@utk.edu		HSS 218 (010)

### **Course Description**

In the field of Political Science, there are no fewer than six subfields: American Political System, Law and Legalism, Normative Theory, Methodology, International Relations, and Comparative Politics. The two introductory courses you took, POL 101 and POL 102, gave broad brush strokes over all of these topics. This course delves into international relations more deeply. It offers what amounts to broad brush strokes of the entire IR subfield.

The underlying theme for this year's course is 'explanations of history'. That is what IR offers all: explanations of what has happened, theories through which we can better understand the world around us and our place in that world.

### **Primary Texts**

The *required* book for this course:

Nau, Henry R. 2006. *Three Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, and Identities*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. (ISBN: 1-933-11646-3)

The *recommended* book is:

American Political Science Association. 2001. *Style Manual for Political Science*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association. (ISBN: 1-878-14733-1)

The required book is available from the UT Bookstore and from neighboring bookstores. It will be used extensively in the class, so it would behoove you to get them. The Nau text will serve as our primary textbook.

The Style Manual is optional. It appears as though the APSA is readying itself to publish an updated edition. As such, the bookstore has limited copies of the current edition. In lieu of having you purchase the entire style manual, I have distilled the necessary portions into a document called APSA References, accessible from the website. This document provides examples of reference lists so that you format them correctly.

## **Class Policies and Expectations**

### *Taking Notes*

Note-taking is an essential part of any course, and in particular of any course that is introductory in nature. Not only does the act of taking notes reinforce the material in question (it is not merely read and heard, but physically reproduced), it creates a record essential to preparation for quizzes and exams. If you are forced by circumstance to miss class, you will be expected to catch up on all missed notes. Make friends in the class; they will be there if you miss a day.

### *Attendance*

Attendance will be checked daily, on way or another. As participation is such a large part of your grade, it is very important that you show up for class and participate. Your participation indicates that you have read the assignment, applied it to the current world situation, and have grappled with some of the more obvious themes. I would strongly urge you to come to class with deep questions on the readings.

### *Behavior*

All students are at all times expected to be attentive, to take part in class discussions, and above all else to be courteous and sensitive towards their fellow students. Impropriety will not be tolerated. Further, emotionally charged subject material may be dealt with in this course (ethical, bioethical, religious, political, etc.); such material requires maturity and openness to views which may conflict with ones own. Under no circumstances will racial, religious, or ethnic slurs be accepted in this course.

### *Writing*

All assignments need to follow the style sheet for this class. All writings reflect you and your ability (thus, plagiarism will be *strongly* punished). Make sure that *you* are satisfied with your finished product. Your grade partially depends upon how well you write.

The University of Tennessee does have a Writing Center located in the Humanities (and Social Science) building. If you are unsure about your abilities, please make extensive use of them.

### *Disabilities*

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, contact the Office of Disability Services. Their phone number is (865) 974-6087. Also, as soon as reasonable, inform me of their response.

### *Athletics*

Notify me as soon as possible if there is a conflict between an athletic performance and a class requirement. If notice is not made in a timely manner, no adjustments will be made. As an athletic calendar already exists, such notice should be forthcoming within the first week of classes. In any case, last-minute notification will not be accepted. It is your responsibility. Club athletics do not count as excused absences.

### *Cheating, Plagiarism, & Academic Dishonesty*

Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the course and will be dealt with according to those rules outlined in Hilltopics (pages 11, 12, 14, and 41 in the 2005/06 version). If you have yet to read the relevant sections, I strongly urge you to read them now.

### *Making-up Quizzes and Exams*

Quizzes and in-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances. If you miss a test, you must speak to me on the day of return to arrange for a time and place to take the make-up test. If you fail to do this, you may receive a zero for the test. The make-up test may be different than the original test.

### *Preparation and Participation*

Welcome to college. You are expected to have not only done the homework, but also all of the readings. Furthermore, you are to have thought deeply about the readings. Your participation grade will be the sum of your daily participation scores. While you do get some points merely for being there, you can only get full points for the day if you contribute to the discussion. This contribution can, most assuredly, consist of questions you have of the readings. This contribution can also consist of you answering my questions thoughtfully when they are posed during the class.

### **Evaluation**

Your grade will be based on your performance in the class. There are three scheduled exams, Oct 6, Nov 6, and Dec 4. Each exam is worth 100 points towards your total grade. Participation, based on attendance and involvement, totals 200 points. Of those 200 points, half reflects your participation in the Tuna Wars activity. There will be several unscheduled quizzes testing your knowledge of the readings and of current events. Finally, homework assignments also contribute to the total grade. There are a few to be assigned during the semester. Homework values tend to be 20 points each. Expect the total points assigned during the semester to be around 650.

### **Grades**

Grades will be posted to the website at intervals throughout the semester. They will be based on the following percentage scale:

90 – 100%	A
88 – 90%	B+
80 – 88%	B
78 – 80%	C+
70 – 78%	C
60 – 70%	D

You are responsible for keeping track of your grades and ensuring that what I have posted is correct.

## **Brief Course Outline**

1. What is International Relations?
2. Games in IR
  - a. The Prisoner's Dilemma
3. Three Perspectives on International Relations
  - a. Realist
  - b. Liberal
  - c. Identity
4. Explanations of Historical Events
  - a. Thirty-Year's War
  - b. Treaty of Westphalia
  - c. Council of Europe
  - d. The Great War
  - e. The League of Nations
  - f. The Atlantic Charter
  - g. World War II
  - h. The United Nations Charter
  - i. The Cold War
  - j. Post-Cold War World
5. Globalization
  - a. Pax Britannica
  - b. Pax Americana
  - c. Definitions of Globalization
  - d. Causes of Globalization
  - e. Trade and Investment
  - f. Development
  - g. Foreign Aid
6. Conflict
  - a. Ethnic
  - b. Religious
  - c. Nationalist
7. Environmentalism
  - a. Human Ecology
  - b. Resource Scarcity
  - c. Global Climate Change
8. Global Governance
  - a. State vs. Sovereignty
  - b. The United Nations, ICC, and ICJ
9. The Democratic Peace

## **End Matter**

### *Changes and Supremacy*

I reserve the right to alter anything on this document. Should it become necessary to change the syllabus, an announcement in class will be made that the new syllabus is posted on the class web site. In the event of a discrepancy between this printed syllabus and the website's syllabus, the website will take precedence.

### *Class Website*

All classroom documents can be found at the classroom website. This website will also contain supplemental notes and documents. Anything posted to the website will be assumed read by every member of the class. Its address is: <http://web.utk.edu/~oforsber/>.