

PS 3306-001: International Relations
Spring 2023
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM
LH 303

Instructor: Dr. Yen-Hsin Chen

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Office hours: Monday 2PM-3PM, Wednesday 9:30AM-12:30PM, Tuesday & Thursday 11 AM-2 PM, or by appointment

Course Description

PS 3306 International Relations is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of international politics. This involves understanding the core concepts of international relations (IR), the pertinent actors, and characteristics of the world political system.

Course Learning Objectives

Students will be expected to learn about broad schools of thoughts, power relations, system dynamics, human rights, political economy, and the basics of conflict and conflict management. Achieving this goal will involve an understanding of basic geography and current events, which will be regularly visited in order to apply the concepts and ideas to the current period. At the end of the course, students should be able to analyze international events and drawing on the theoretical explanations provided in the class.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

Marketable Skills

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

- identify and articulate the major concepts and approaches utilized in one of the social or behavioral sciences.
- evaluate and interpret relevant scientific or textual evidence and formulate conclusions based on that evidence.
- identify and articulate the limitations of the approaches (e.g., theories, models, methodologies) within one of the social or behavioral sciences.

Assignments and Grading

Short Essay/Short Paper (20% of your grade, 5% for each):

Students are required to submit 4 short essays over the course of the semester. Each essay is required to be at least **2** but no longer than **3 double-spaced pages** in length. Short essay has to be related to an international news item. The news source can be from a particular media outlet (e.g. CNN or ABC or FOX News) or government-run source (e.g. XinHuaNet of China), but should not be blogs.

In each short essay, students will summarize the article and show evidence of students' independent thoughts. Further, students could focus on a particular theme, such as regional military issues, international conflicts, or territorial disputes. Each short essay will be turned in on Blackboard. Thus, please do not email your papers to me or leave them in the department office or my mailbox.

Policy Proposal/Semester Paper (20% of your grade):

One policy proposal will be required for this class and will focus on teaching students how to integrate current events and what we have learned in class. One of the most valuable skills you can learn in university is how to find properly sourced information and integrate it into arguments, and this paper will be the place to demonstrate that. Students will analyze an IR-related event of their choosing using a concept, theme, or theory presented in the course. For example, students might analyze an international cooperation/institution, the crisis of the Korean peninsula, or international inequality. Please notice that students must establish a clear argument and defend it with references to appropriate readings. Any argument that rests on a point of fact must be backed up by an appropriate citation.

A good paper will: **1) identify the issue; 2) review our current solution(s); 3) provide a proposed solution; 4) implementation.** This paper requires the use of no less than 5 scholarly articles. This paper is required to be at least 8 double-spaced pages, and no more than 10 pages. Further details will be provided on a separate handout in the future.

Please remember that I do not accept late papers except for very special situations. Also, please do not email your paper to me or leave it in the department office or mailbox except for special situations. A student's paper will be judged not on the length but on the quality of its argument. More specifically, students should present a reasoned, analytically sound, and empirical valid argument in their paper. It is due on **April 25th**. Students will lose 10 points for every calendar day your paper is late. Also, students will be presenting their policy proposal in class.

Exams (60% of your grade, 30% for each exam):

Two closed book exams will be given during this course. Exams will include multiple choice questions as well as short essays on topics covered in the course. The midterm exam will be held in class on **March 7th**. The final exam will be held on **May 15th**.

Quiz (Extra credit):

A number (to be determined by the instructor) of unannounced quizzes will be given occasionally. The score of the quizzes will be added to your grade as extra points.

Grade Scale

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading scale:

Points	Letter Grade
100- 90.0	A
89.9-80.0	B
79.9-70.0	C
69.9-60.0	D
59.9 or less	F

Assigned Reading

The required text for this course is:

James M. Scott, Ralph G. Carter, and A. Cooper Drury. 2022. *IR: Seeking Security, Prosperity, and Quality of Life in a Changing World Fourth Edition*.

ISBN: 9781544381619

Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters before coming to class. Should class need to be canceled due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, the material scheduled for the missed class will be covered the next time the class meets. All additional readings will be on the Blackboard and through the Library website.

Attendance and Participation

I do not take attendance, but I expect that you will attend all class meetings. Also, I will occasionally give pop quizzes as extra points, so coming to class regularly will improve your chances of being successful in this course.

Classroom Rules

All students must treat the instructor, the other students, and the classroom setting with respect. Please come to class on time, stay for the entire class, turn off cell phones during class, and refrain from potentially disruptive activities such as talking with friends or passing notes. These policies are put in place to facilitate a learning environment in the classroom that allows all students to focus on the lecture and class discussion. It is also important to show respect for alternative opinions and points of view during class discussions. Thus, you should listen when either the instructor or a fellow student is speaking to the class, and refrain from using insulting language and gestures, no matter how vehemently you may disagree with your classmates. Please note that I reserve the right to stop discussion at any time.

Tentative Course Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule of topics and reading assignments for the course. Thus, items on this syllabus are subject to change per the discretion of the instructor. If I deem it necessary to make changes and/or modifications in the schedule, I will make an announcement in class.

A. In the following weeks we will be talking about what is international relations and why it is important to everyone.

Week 1 (1/19): Introduction to International Relations (IR)

- Chapter 1

Week 2 (1/24): Actors in International Relations

- **First short essay due on 1/26**
- Chapter 2

Week 3 (1/31): Major Theories of IR

- Chapter 3

Week 4 (2/7): Major Theories of IR

- Chapter 4

B. In the following weeks we will be talking about international conflicts and what we have done to prevent them from happening.

Week 5 (2/14): Conflicts and IR

- **Second short essay due on 2/14**
- Chapter 5

Week 6 (2/21): Conflict Management

- Chapter 6

Week 7 (2/28): Conflict Management and Review

- Chapter 6
- Review section, 3/2

Week 8 (3/7): Midterm Exam and Peace Building and Institutions

- **Midterm exam, 3/7**
- Chapter 7

Week 9 (3/14): Spring Break!

C. In the following weeks we will be talking about international political economy

Week 10 (3/21): Economic Security and Trade

- **Third short essay due on 3/21**
- Chapter 8

Week 11 (3/28): Economics: Sanctions and Foreign Aid

- Chapter 9

Week 12 (4/4): International Development and Inequality

- Chapter 10

D. In the following weeks we will be talking about human rights issues.

Week 13 (4/11): Human Rights

- **Fourth short essay due on 4/11**
- Chapter 11

Week 14 (4/18): New Actors? Transnational Advocacy Networks

- Chapter 13

Week 15 (4/25): Future Directions

- **Policy proposal due on 4/25**

Week 16 (5/2): Students In-class Presentation

- Students presentation
- Review section, 5/9

Final Exam on May 15th, 8AM - 10AM (Monday)

Other Course Policies & Resources

Academic Integrity

Intellectual development requires hard work. Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/> In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.

Course Blackboard Resources

There are several resources on the course Blackboard page. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class.

Blackboard Technical Support

SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support Online Support Desk Contact Info: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

SUSR Library Services

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Classroom Climate of Respect

This class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Commitment to Diversity

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.