

# POL 130 : Introduction to International Relations

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Class Duration : 13th May - 9th June 2024

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Website: [purdue.brightspace.com](http://purdue.brightspace.com)  
Class Hours: Asynchronous online

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## Course Description

Hello, and welcome to POL 130 - Introduction to International Relations!

The aim of this class is to introduce students to the building blocks of International Relations and the foundational attributes of the Global World Order. This course is expected to provide a general, introductory - but not elementary - overview of themes unique to the landscape of IR. Since this course will run for only four weeks, it will be accelerated and relatively intense. To do well in this class, I expect you to spend a couple of hours outside of class time viewing lectures, working on readings, watching videos, and working on assignments. As an International Relations researcher myself, I have two goals - 1) provide a "road map" of the field and 2) spark an initial interest in IR which you can develop further in advanced classes.

Thank you for signing up for this course! I look forward to discussing course material, reading your thoughts, and getting to know all of you.

## Learning Objectives

- Identify key International Relations theories and how they relate to one another
- Explain the emergence of the modern global system of nation-states and the position of non-state actors
- Describe how differences in political interests, identities, and material circumstances affect international cooperation and conflict
- Employ research, writing, and information literacy skills to create a cogent argument
- Outline the emergence and patterns of the Modern World Order
- Summarize contemporary debates and topics in the field

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## Required Materials

*The Globalization of World Politics* edited by John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. You can get it as an e-book on Oxford University Press Online or purchase a copy on Amazon. There are also additional readings which will be posted directly onto Brightspace.

## Citations

As you should expect in every class in college, plagiarism is forbidden. For that reason, it is very important to cite your essays correctly using whatever citation format you want (besides MLA since that is rarely used in college). If you need any help with citations, first refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), found [here](#). If that doesn't help, send me an email or come to my office hours and I will be glad to help.

## Academic Honesty

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, Student Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972].

## Accessibility and Accommodations

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu) or by phone: 765-494-1247.

## Course Requirements and Evaluation

The grades in this course will be based on an intro/exit survey, mid-term exam, weekly reflections, and a final paper.

## Late assignment policy

Unless discussed prior to the assignment deadline, all late assignments will receive a ZERO. If an unforeseen circumstance occurs, please let me know immediately so that possible arrangements can be made.

- (5%) *Intro Survey*. The intro survey is designed to understand what you are expecting in this course and to see what you would prefer to spend more time covering.
- (40%) *Reflections*. These reflections are designed to bring together all the material you learned for each theme of the class, such as lectures, reading material, and videos. There is no specific prompt for these reflections. However, it must have these four components -
  - 1) What did you find most interesting in this week's content?
  - 2) What is something new that you learned in this week's content?
  - 3) What questions did the course material raise that you would like to explore further?
  - 4) How is this information relevant to our lives?

I expect them to be **650-750** words. If you are using any course material or outside sources, make sure to cite them. It may be in any citation format as long as it is consistent. This is an exercise aimed to help you practice writing cogent arguments, so be thoughtful and intentional in your response. There is no right answer in these reflections. I am looking for you to share your opinion and be able to justify it efficiently. These will be due **each Friday**.

- (30%) *News Coverage*. As a part of this class, I hope to instill a habit of following the news. Each week, you will review any four news articles of your choice and answer these three questions - 1) What did you learn from this article? 2) Was this an example of unbiased news coverage? 3) Do you think this is a credible source of news? Why?

I expect these write-ups to be at least **300 words**. Make sure to include the title and link to the news articles you are reading. These will be due **each Sunday**.

- (25%) *Final Paper*. This paper is supposed to be 4-6 pages (double - spaced) long. The instructions for the final paper are uploaded on Brightspace. Feel free to email me if you have questions.

## Grading scale

The Grading scale is as follows:

A	94 and higher
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and lower

## Assignment Due Dates

While each assignment has a due date, I highly encourage students to get ahead on their work and submit as early as possible. If there are personal issues which prevent you from making timely submissions, please email me!

## Course Structure

The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

### Week 1, 05/13 - 05/19: Historical Context and Foundational Theories of International Relations

- **Required Reading:**

- Textbook Part One: International relations in a global era
- Textbook Part Three: Theories of world politics

- **Watch:**

- Introduction lecture video
- Lecture video on International relations in a global era

- **Listen:**

- How Can I be successful in this class?
- Realism
- Liberalism
- Constructivism

- **Due:**

- Intro survey due by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on 5/19 found under "Quizzes"
- Weekly Reflection due by 11:59 pm (EST) 5/17 found under "Assignments"
- News Coverage due by 11:59 pm (EST) 5/19 found under "Assignments"

### Week 02, 05/20 - 05/26: Part 1 -Level of Analysis: System, State, Individual

- **Required Reading:**

- Part Four Structures and Processes
- Slides on "Levels of Analysis"

- **Listen:**

- Levels of Analysis
- Levels of Analysis Part 2

**Week 02, 05/27 - 06/02:** Part 2 - State Vs Non - State

- **Watch:** –
- Introduction to non-state actors
- Contemporary non-state actors and their impact on global politics
- **Listen:**
- Rise of Big Tech
- **Due:**
  - Weekly Reflection due by 11:59 pm (EST) 5/24 found under "Assignments"
  - News Coverage due by 11:59 pm (EST) 5/26 found under "Assignments"

**Week 03, 05/27 - 06/02:** Issues and International Organisations

- **Required Reading:**
  - Textbook Part Five International Issues
  - Health as a Transnational Issue
- **Watch:** –
- Sky Kunkel - Introduction to UN Peacekeepers
- Lecture on What are International Organisations?
- What Are NGOs?
- How can I write like a social scientist? Tips to ace your final paper
- **Due:**
  - Weekly Reflection due by 11:59 pm (EST) 6/31 found under "Assignments"
  - News Coverage due by 11:59 pm (EST) 7/2 found under "Assignments"

**Week 04, 06/03 - 06/09:** International Political Economy, Human Rights, and Transnational Issues

- **Required Reading:**
  - Textbook Part Five International Issues (we will revisit these topics)
- **Watch:** –
- International Political Economy Lecture Video
- The Environment and International Relations
- How to use Zotero Citation Machine

- **Listen:**
- Introduction to Human Rights
- **Due:**
- Weekly Reflection due by 11:59 p.m on 7/7 found under "Assignments"
- News Coverage due by 11:59 p.m on 7/9 found under "Assignments"
- Final Paper due by 11:59 pm on 7/9 found under "Assignments"

## Nondiscrimination Statement

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. More details are available on our course Brightspace table of contents, under University Policies.

## Emergency

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website on Brightspace. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

## Mental Health/Wellness Statement

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#). Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time. If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc. sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is completely free and can be done on BoilerConnect. If you have any questions, please contact Purdue Wellness at [evans240@purdue.edu](mailto:evans240@purdue.edu).

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

## Basic Needs Security

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Considering the significant disruptions caused by the current global crisis as it related to COVID-19, students may submit requests for emergency assistance from the [Critical Needs Fund](#).