Introduction to International Relations
Blended Course
PSCI 3810.002
Spring 2012
MWF, 1–1:50 p.m.

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Office (Wooten Hall 145) Hours: M, 2–6

Course Description
This course introduces students to the study of international politics. No prior background in international relations is assumed. Students will acquire the basic analytic tools necessary to understand and explain a variety of international phenomena, including war, terrorism, globalization, environmental degradation, and human rights practices.

Blended Component
This course is referred to as “blended” by the Dept. of Political Science, because it combines in-class interactions with an online component. As described below, we will meet in-class on each Monday for discussion groups and on-line each Wednesday and Friday via chapter slides, audio/video assignments, and a discussion board.

Reading Materials
The following readings are required for the course:


2. Additional readings are available free via the UNT Library Electronic Resources (at [http://irservices.library.unt.edu/](http://irservices.library.unt.edu/) and accessible with your EUID and password) or are available publicly online.

UNT Blackboard
Student attendance, grades, etc., will be posted on the UNT Blackboard system. Additional information regarding upcoming course activities, adjustments to plans, etc., will also be posted on Blackboard and *students are responsible for this information*. It is recommended that students check their Blackboard account regularly for announcements and email internal to Blackboard.
Student Responsibilities

Monday: Participation in Discussion Groups (In Class)

Small-group discussions of assigned material will take place in our Wooten Hall classroom each Monday. Attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Participation means actively engaging the assigned material, not merely showing up in the classroom and sitting quietly. If you pursue the latter strategy, you will not receive credit for participation. Participation in Monday discussion groups contributes 30% to each student’s final grade. Improvement through the semester is rewarded.

Wednesday: Lecture Material

Students in the course begin covering a new chapter. Lecture slides corresponding to the material presented in the primary text will posted each Wednesday. Slides are to be used in conjunction with the text, not as a substitute. Additional material, e.g., online media, may also assigned each Wednesday. Students need online access to retrieve and engage this information.

Friday: Discussion Board (Online)

A discussion board will be available from Friday at 9 am until Saturday at noon via the UNT Blackboard system. Students must post at least 200 original words to at minimum 8 discussion boards available during the semester. Discussion posts should strive to bring the course material (e.g., textbook, online media, weekly discussions) to bear on an issue or question posted for a weekly discussion board, rather than advance an opinion or ideology. Courtesy and respect for student colleagues and their posts will be the order of the day. No retroactive posts will be allowed. Participation in discussion boards will contribute to 30% to a each student’s final grade.

Exams

There will be two exams, one midterm (Wednesday, Feb. 29) and one final (Monday, May 7). Each exam will be written in class and consist of several questions to which students will compose short answers. Each exam contributes 20% toward the student’s final grade, or a 40% total.

Corrections

I reserve the right to make corrections, adjustments, etc., to the course syllabus. For the most part, these changes are to correct errors or exigencies (e.g., weather), rather than reflecting any policy changes. Always check the syllabus on the Blackboard system for the most up to date version.

Calendar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>Intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Foundations (History): FLS Ch. 1</td>
<td>No Discussion Board</td>
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| 1/25 | Online  | Foundations (Interests, Interactions & Institutions: FLS Ch. 2)  
The Economist: “Videographic: India, Pakistan and Kashmir”  
FLS Simulation: “Prisoners’ Dilemma”  
| 1/27 | Online  | Discussion Board |
| 2/1  | Online  | War & Peace (Bargaining): FLS Ch. 3  
*FLS Simulation*: “Power”  
| 2/3  | Online  | Discussion Board  
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>References</th>
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| 2/8  | Online  | War & Peace (Domestic Politics): FLS Ch. 4  
*Frontline*: “Syria Undercover”  
*The Economist*: “Israel’s Settlement Building”  
*The Economist*: “A history of modern Sudan: A country divided?”  
[http://youtu.be/fj4hWU3VNr0](http://youtu.be/fj4hWU3VNr0)  
*The Economist*: “The Iranian revolution”  
[http://youtu.be/ew7u7jElzL0](http://youtu.be/ew7u7jElzL0)  
*The Economist*: “Papuans’ fight for independence”  
| 2/10 | Online  | Discussion Board |
| 2/15 | Online  | War & Peace (Int’l Institutions): FLS Ch. 5  
*Frontline World*: “Darfur: Genocide in Slow Motion”  
*Economist*: “African Union troops in Mogadishu”  
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
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<td>2/22</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Int’l Political Economy (Trade): FLS Ch. 6</td>
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<td><em>Khan University</em>: “American-Chinese Debt Loop”</td>
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<td><em>Khan University</em>: “Carry Trade Basics”</td>
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<td><em>FLS Simulation</em>: “Foreign Trade Policy”</td>
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<td>2/24</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/29</td>
<td>MIDTERM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>No Discussion Board</td>
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3/7 | Online | Int’l Political Economy (Finance): FLS Ch. 7
*PBS Newshour*: How Severe Is Europe’s Intertwined Debt Crisis?

3/9 | Online | Discussion Board


3/14 | Online | Int’l Political Economy (Monetary): FLS Ch. 8
*The Economist*: “The Exchange: Currency Wars”
*Khan University*: “Currency Exchange Introduction”
*Khan University*: “Currency Effect on Trade”
*FLS Simulation*: “To Dollarize or Not to Dollarize?”

3/16 | Online | Discussion Board

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<tr>
<td>3/19–23</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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| 3/28 | Online | Int’l Political Economy (Development): FLS Ch. 9  
  *Frontline World*: “Guinea Bissau: A Narco State in Africa”  
  *Frontline World*: “What happened to the project promoters called a ‘cargo of hope’ for Africans?”  
  *Frontline World*: “Tortillanomics: Food or Fuel?”  
  *The Economist*: “World Population”  
  [http://youtu.be/UAIv15fWFHg](http://youtu.be/UAIv15fWFHg)  
  *The Economist*: “Poverty and wealth in Angola”  
| 3/30 | Online Discussion Board | |

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<th>Medium</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 4/4   | Online | Transnational Politics (Networks): FLS Ch. 10  
[http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2008/10/my_daughter_the.html](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2008/10/my_daughter_the.html) |
| 4/6   | Online | Discussion Board  
| 4/9   |        |             |
| 4/11  | Online | Transnational Politics (Human Rights): FLS Ch. 11  
*Frontline World*: “A day in the life of a rape crisis center”  
*Frontline*: “Rules of Engagement”  
*The Economist*: “Bones and human rights”  
*The Economist*: “Burquas in France”  
*FLS Simulation*: “International Organization and International Law”  
| 4/13  | Online | Discussion Board  
| 4/16  | Disc.  |             |

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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| 4/18   | Online | Transnational Politics (Environment): FLS Ch. 12 | **Frontline World**: “Ghana: Digital Dumping Ground”<br>http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/ghana804/  
**Frontline World**: “Nuclear Aftershocks”<br>http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/nuclear-aftershocks/  
**The Economist**: “Designing the vertical farm: Inventing a new architecture”<br>http://www.economist.com/node/21013849  
**The Economist**: “On the trail of the tiger trade”<br>http://youtu.be/h1lrmbH34I  
**The Economist**: “Power from the earth”<br>http://youtu.be/lZP01QpTupQ  
**FLS Simulation**: “International Environmental Policy”<br>http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world-politics/simulations/12_ENVIRONMENTAL/ |
<p>| 4/20   | Online | Discussion Board              |                                                                          |
| 4/25   | Online | The Future: FLS Ch. 13        |                                                                          |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Online Discussion Board</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td><em>No Online Material</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td><em>No Discussion Board</em></td>
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| 5/7  | **FINAL EXAM** (10:30–12:30)**
Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others’ tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one’s own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty. Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is grade of “F” in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be the failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams. Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary course work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal a decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

Statement of ADA Compliance

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the second week of classes.