COURSE INFORMATION

PSCI 3810: Introduction to International Relations
Summer 2016
3 credit hours

Professor / Instructor Contact Information
Dr. J. Michael Greig
Office: 158 Wooten Hall
Office phone: (940) 565-4996
Fax: (940) 565-4818
Email: greig@unt.edu (this is the best way to reach me)
Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-3:30

Materials – Text, Readings, Simulation Information


Additional readings available via the class Blackboard site

Course Description

The fundamental aim of this course is to equip the student with the conceptual tools necessary to understand the fundamental forces, processes, and actors at work in the international system. As such, this course will provide the student with a sufficient background to undertake upper-division international relations courses and, more importantly, to develop a broader understanding of international relations, in general. This course is not a current events course. Instead, we will focus upon the analysis and explanation of international relations. We will however, discuss events in the world today and use the background we develop in class to better understand what is happening.

Learning Objectives for the course:
1. Students will be able to describe the levels of analysis and apply them to the explanation of phenomena in the international system.
2. Students will be able to identify key actors in international relations and explain their role in the international system.
3. Students will be able to identify the major theoretical schools of international relations and describe their central theoretical arguments and assumptions.
4. Students will be able to discuss the role of power in explaining actor behavior in the international system.
5. Students will be able to explain the causes of conflict and cooperation in the international system.

Teaching Philosophy
My teaching philosophy is centered around three mutually reinforcing principles. First, I endeavor to teach my classes from a policy-relevant standpoint, emphasizing how students can impact the political world and how the political world impacts them. Second, I seek to engage the students in my classes by making them an active part of the learning experience. I do this through a reliance upon active learning tools such as simulations, discussions, group projects, and critical writing that involve students in the learning process in ways that move beyond traditional lecturing. Third, in my classes I seek to challenge the students by focusing upon an understanding of the dynamics and process of politics. In this respect, my classes are oriented around four key questions:

- How do things work?
- Why do they work this way?
- When does change occur?
- What forces promote these changes?

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS / ASSISTANCE
The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

- General information on Blackboard Learn: [http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/)
- Necessary plug-ins: [http://goo.gl/1lsVF](http://goo.gl/1lsVF)
- Internet Access with compatible web browser
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous chats)
- Word Processor

[‘Other related hardware or software necessary for the course’]

**Minimum Technical Skills Needed:**
- Ability to navigate webpages and use the Blackboard content delivery system
- Ability to watch streaming web videos inside and outside of Blackboard
- Ability to create files using commonly used word process formats and submit these assignments through Blackboard
ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information
This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas’ Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: https://learn.unt.edu

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: http://ams.unt.edu.

Student Resources
As a student, you will have access to:

- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.

- Blackboard’s On Demand Learning Center for Students and Blackboard Help for Students. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.

Being a Successful Online Student
- What Makes a Successful Online Student?
- Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

How the Course is Organized
This course is organized by units. We will cover several topics during each unit of the course. Materials for each topic will be located in a separate folder of the main content page on the course Blackboard page.

What Should I Do First?

Upon accessing the course, students should begin with the “Start here” module located on Blackboard. Students should first watch the introductory video for the course which will introduce course expectations and provide information on navigating the course. Students should then take the syllabus quiz on Blackboard. Each student must first pass the syllabus quiz before they will be given access to the remainder of the course. Finally, students make a post introducing themselves in the class discussion forum.

How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities
Each unit’s material will be available beginning at 8 am on the day in which the material is assigned. All course material (online reading assignments, chapter quiz, video lecture, exercises) will be located in a content folder for that unit’s topic on Blackboard. Students should begin each unit by completing the assigned reading and then watching the video lecture. After completing those activities, students should then complete any exercises or assignments posted for that unit. Finally, students should complete the topic quizzes for each topic within the unit.

Student Support
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at: Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940.565-2324  
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130  
Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm) for updated hours.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly/unit content area of the Blackboard course.

2. The student will read all supplementary, non-textbook material assigned in the course. These supplementary readings will be located in the content folder for each topic. All assigned readings for each topic should be completed before watching the online lectures.

3. The student will watch all online lectures. These online lectures will be located in the content folder for each topic.

4. The student will complete the assigned online quizzes for each topic after reading the assigned materials and watching the online lecture. Links to the quiz for each topic will be located in the content folder for each topic.

4. The student will respond to posted online course discussion and wiki questions using the Blackboard discussion/wiki tool.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Because this is an online course, we will use a variety of communication tools to facilitate the class. Although our course will not meet face-to-face, I am available to assist you in learning the course material and succeeding in the class. To this end, we will use the following tools through Blackboard:

*Announcements:* I will post course announcements on the class Blackboard page. Each time I post an announcement, it will also be distributed to your UNT email account. As a result, it is vital that you use and check your UNT email account. It is your responsibility to check the class Blackboard page on a regular basis to remain up-to-date on assignments and announcements.

*Office Hours:* I will hold office hours on Tuesdays from 12:30-3:30 pm. My office is located in Wooten 158. For those who cannot make it to campus, I will hold virtual office hours during this same period. We will use GoToMeeting software to conduct these virtual office hours. During virtual office hours, I will answer course questions in real time. Instructions and access to the GoToMeeting tool for virtual office hours is available on the class webpage on Blackboard.

*Primary Contact:* For questions or course concerns outside of virtual office hours, it is best to contact me via email (greig@unt.edu). When contacting me via email, please be sure to use your UNT email address so that I am certain to receive your message. When emailing me, please include your name in the email message and PSCI 3810 in the message subject.
Students can expect to receive a response to emailed questions within 24 hours of sending a message M-F during the periods in which the university is in session. Questions emailed during the evening or on weekends and holidays will be answered by the end of the next business day.

**ASSESSMENT & GRADING**

*Chapter quizzes* (10 points each, 140 points total) – After completion of each week’s course material, students will complete a quiz covering that week’s assigned reading and lecture materials. Once a quiz is begun, the student will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. Each student may take each quiz up to two times. The highest of the two scores earned on each quiz will count toward the student’s grade. The deadline for completing each chapter quiz is 8:00 pm on the last day assigned for that unit. These deadlines are:

- **Unit 1 (topics 1-4): June 15th**
- **Unit 2 (topics 5-9): June 27th**
- **Unit 3 (topics 10-14): July 7th**

No late quizzes will be accepted. After each quiz is graded and released, you may go back to the Assessments page and click “View All Submissions” to review your results.

Student learning outcomes to be assessed:

1. Students will be able to describe the levels of analysis and apply them to the explanation of phenomena in the international system
2. Students will be able to identify key actors in international relations and explain their role in the international system.
3. Students will be able to identify the major theoretical schools of international relations and describe their central theoretical arguments and assumptions.
4. Students will be able to explain the causes of conflict and cooperation in the international system.

Assessment method: Each quiz will consist of 5 multiple choice questions.

*Discussion forum/Wiki participation* (10 points per discussion forum assignment, 110 points total) – Throughout the course, students will be asked to respond to a question relevant to the week’s topic in the course discussion forum or asked to participate in creating class wiki on an assigned topic. In order to receive full credit for each discussion forum assignment, each student must substantively respond to that week’s assignment. Each assignment will be graded by a rubric which will be made available to students with each assignment. Failure to meet the requirements of the assignment will result in no credit for the week’s assignment requirement. The deadline for each discussion/wiki post is 8pm on the last date assigned for that unit. No late posts or wiki contributions will be accepted under any circumstances. These deadlines are:

- **Unit 1 (topics 1-4): June 15th**
- **Unit 2 (topics 5-9): June 27th**
- **Unit 3 (topics 10-14): July 7th**

Student learning outcomes to be assessed:
1. Students will be able to describe the levels of analysis and apply them to the explanation of phenomena in the international system.

4. Students will be able to discuss the role of power in explaining actor behavior in the international system.

5. Students will be able to explain the causes of conflict and cooperation in the international system.

Assessment method: Each discussion forum topic/wiki post will be assessed using the discussion forum rubric or wiki rubric posted on Blackboard.

*Exams* (250 points each, 750 points total) – There will be three exams in the course. Each exam is non-cumulative and will consist of multiple choice that will cover the assigned reading material, course exercises, and video lectures. Each exam must be taken between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm on the day assigned for the exam. Exams are closed-book, closed notes, and students may not consult with one another or use outside resources while taking the exam. Students violating this policy will be subject to receiving an “F” on the course and referral to university authorities for academic integrity violations.

Exams will be delivered remotely. Because Wi-Fi connections can sometimes cause exam crashes, students should take each exam using a wired internet connection. Makeups will be administered as an essay exam and will only be possible under extraordinary circumstances with medical documentation. After each test is graded and released, you may go back to the Assessments page and click “View All Submissions” to review your results. Exam dates are:

- Thursday, June 16th
- Tuesday, June 28th
- Thursday, July 8th

Student learning outcomes to be assessed:

1. Students will be able to describe the levels of analysis and apply them to the explanation of phenomena in the international system.
2. Students will be able to identify key actors in international relations and explain their role in the international system.
3. Students will be able to identify the major theoretical schools of international relations and describe their central theoretical arguments and assumptions.
4. Students will be able to explain the causes of conflict and cooperation in the international system.

Assessment method: Online-delivered, closed book, closed notes multiple choice and true/false questions.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points Possible for Semester = 1000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1000 points = A</td>
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<tr>
<td>800-899 points = B</td>
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Accessing Grades

Grades for all chapter quizzes, exams, discussion forum posts, and papers will be posted in the Blackboard gradebook. Quiz grades will be available immediately after the quiz is taken. Feedback on exam grades will be available shortly after each exam session closes. Discussion forum post and paper grades will be available within one week of completion of the assignment.

Discussion Forum Participation Expectations

In addition to meeting the substantive expectations for discussion forum posts, students are expected to observe proper etiquette in their discussion posts. Above all, this means that students are expected to treat one another and the instructor with respect and civility in all of their interactions on the discussion forum. To this end, students should follow their guidelines in their posts:

- **Be civil in your discussions.** This means that no name-calling, personal insults, or obscene language or material will be tolerated in the discussion forum. Disagreement can result in useful discussions, but only if the discussions are respectful.

- **Be on point.** Make sure that your discussion posts are on topic for the forum. This is not the place to discuss outside topics like entertainment, recipes, sports scores, personal issues, etc. Instead, make sure that your posts speak to the topic under discussion. It is especially helpful to make certain to give your posts titles that clearly describe what is talked about in the post.

- **Be engaged.** Make sure to participate frequently in the class discussion forums. Your participation is a valuable part of not only your own learning process, but also that of your colleagues.

- **Be tolerant.** Racist, sexist, homophobic, language and statements have no place in this course and will not be tolerated.

Posts that violate these rules will be deleted and will be given no credit. Consistent violation of these rules will result in dismissal from the course and referral to appropriate university authorities.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

**Unit 1: June 6-June 15 (Course Topics 1-4)**

**Topic 1: Theorizing about International Relations**
- **GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 1**

**Topic 2: Actors in International Relations – The State System**
- Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan”, Chapter XVII

**Topic 3: Actors in International Relations – Beyond the State: Non-State Actors**
- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 6, pages 192-209
- Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, vol.72 no.3 (Summer 1993), pp. 22-49. [JSTOR](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20045621)

**Topic 4: Actors in International Relations – Individuals and Decision-Making**
- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 4

**** Exam 1, Thursday June 16th ***
*** Exam covers topics 1-4 ***

**Unit 2: June 16-June 27 (Topics 5-9)**

**Topic 5 (Feb 10-Feb 16): Theories of International Relations – Power, Realism, & Neorealism**
- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 2
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, pp. 84-90
  [https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm)

**Topic 6: Theories of International Relations – Alternatives to Realism: Liberalism & Constructivism**
- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 3

**Topic 7: Why Are There Wars?**
- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 5

**Topic 8: Weapons of Mass Destruction**
• Goldstein, Chapter 6, pages 209-229

**Topic 9: Avoiding War Through Governance: Democracies and War**


*** Exam 2, Tuesday June 28th ***

*** Exam covers topics 5-9 ***

**Unit 3: June 28-July 7 (Topics 10-14)**

**Topic 10: Moving Beyond Anarchy: Achieving Cooperation in the International System**

- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 7, Chapter 10, pp. 354-369

**Topic 11: International Political Economy**

- GOLDSTEIN, Chapter 8 & 9

**Topic 12: International Development**

- GOLDSTEIN, Chapters 12 & 13

**Topic 13: The Environment and International Relations**

- Goldstein, Chapter 11

**Topic 14: Human Rights**

- Goldstein, Chapter 7

*** Exam 3, Friday July 8th ***

*** Exam covers topics 10-14 ***

Academic Integrity
The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT’s policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf. Violations of academic integrity in this course will addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

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 sixth class day (beginning by the second week of classes.)

Religious Holidays
In accordance with UNT Policy 15.2.5, students will be excused from class or other activities for the observance of religious holidays, for religions whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the absence.

Course Evaluations
The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

RESOURCES
UNT Portal: http://my.unt.edu

UNT Blackboard Learn Student Resources: Technical Support: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/

UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users: http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access

UNT Computing and Information Technology Center: http://citc.unt.edu/services-solutions/students

UNT Academic Resources for Students: http://www.unt.edu/academics.htm

Computer Labs: General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: http://www.gacl.unt.edu/

COURSE POLICIES

Instructor Responsibilities
Instructor responsibilities for the course include the following

- Helping students learn in a challenging and respectful environment
- Providing clear instructions for projects and assessments
- Answering questions about assignments and course content
- Clearly elaborating course expectations
- Providing and applying clear standards of evaluation of student tests, assignments, and quizzes
Late Work
Late assignments (including exams) will only be permissible under extraordinary circumstances and must include documentation verifying the circumstance that prevented the student from completing the assignment on time. Computer problems, internet connectivity issues, forgetfulness, and scheduling issues are not acceptable excuses for not completing assignments on time. Unexcused late assignments will receive a grade of “0”.

Class Participation
Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Blackboard to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board, chat or conference sessions and group projects.

Virtual Classroom Citizenship
The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper netiquette when interacting with class members and the professor.

Incompletes
Incompletes in this course will only give under very rare, exceptional circumstances beyond the control of a student in the course.

Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties
The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. Extensions for assignments, quizzes, or exams due to server unavailability or other university technical difficulties will communicated through Blackboard as soon as possible after service is restored.

Copyright Notice
Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Syllabus Change Policy
This syllabus is not a contract; I reserve the right to alter both dates and assignments. Any changes made will be announced on Blackboard.

UNT POLICIES

Student Conduct and Discipline: Student Handbook.
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Religious Holidays

In accordance with UNT Policy 15.2.5, students will be excused from class or other activities for the observance of religious holidays, for religions whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the absence.

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 a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be 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 coursework 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 any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://disability.unt.edu/services/request. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.
Add/Drop Policy
Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Add/Drop Policy.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:
Federal Regulation

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.