

# **INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

POLI 211, Spring 2009

301 Sewall Hall

11:00-11:50 MW plus discussion section

Course Web Page: [www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds/poli211.html](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds/poli211.html)

## **INSTRUCTORS:**

Professor Ashley Leeds

230 Baker Hall, (713) 348-3037

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web: [www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds)

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:30 pm, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant Yoshi Kobayashi

233 Baker Hall, (713) 348-2417

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Office Hours: Thursday 3:00-4:00 pm, Friday 2:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant Carla Martinez Machain

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Wednesday 9:45 am-10:45 am, or by appointment.

## **COURSE CONTENT:**

This course will expose you to many of the problems and issues of world politics and the main theories that scholars believe explain the events we witness. We will discuss the nature of the international system, the causes and effects of international conflict, and the difficulties faced by countries in establishing international cooperation. In addition to the traditional focus on war and peace, we will consider political dimensions of the international economy, the role of international organizations, the worldwide trends toward democratization and economic interdependence, and prospects for global development. The purpose of this course is to provide a theoretical and historical basis for analyzing and understanding international politics. It is not primarily a current events or a history course, but current and historical events will be discussed. You will be encouraged to develop your analytical skills and to clarify your own views regarding policy options in world politics. The course should prepare you for more advanced classes in international relations and help you to think critically and analytically about current events. You should leave this course feeling that you are a more informed citizen of the world.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE:**

This course is structured in two parts. On Monday and Wednesday mornings, the entire class will meet together for lectures related to assigned readings. Each student will also attend one of seven

smaller discussion sections scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. During the discussion sections, students will discuss current events and debate policy options. The discussion sections are scheduled as follows:

SECTION	DAY/TIME	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION
Section 1	Wed. 4:00-4:50 pm	Leeds	414 Fondren Library
Section 2	Thu. 4:00-4:50 pm	Kobayashi	414 Fondren Library
Section 3	Thu. 5:00- 5:50 pm	Martinez	414 Fondren Library
Section 4	Thu. 7:00-7:50 pm	Martinez	114 Baker Hall
Section 5	Fri. 11:00-11:50 am	Kobayashi	146 Wiess College
Section 6	Fri. 11:00-11:50 am	Martinez	207 Hanszen College
Section 7	Fri. 1:00-1:50 pm	Kobayashi	414 Fondren Library

### **EVALUATION:**

Grades will be determined in the manner described below. The Rice University Honor Code applies to all written assignments for this course.

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	60-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	0-59	F

### **10% -- Participation in Discussion Sections**

Because this is a large introductory course, discussion sections are your best opportunity to engage in active discussion of current issues with your peers. In order for the experience to be beneficial for everyone, we need full participation. As a result, attendance and participation in discussion sections are required. Your participation in class discussions contributes to the quality of the course for your colleagues; your comments help to create the course. Participating in class discussions by asking questions, answering questions, and offering opinions is one of your responsibilities as a student in this course, and this is reflected in your final grade.

No outside knowledge of international relations or political science scholarship, of history, or of current events will be necessary for effective participation. Discussion of other scholarship, history, and current events will certainly be welcome when it is relevant, but careful reading of the materials assigned for this course, attention to major news stories relating to international politics, and concentrated thinking about the ideas raised in class will be a sufficient basis from which to contribute profitably to class discussion.

During class discussions, classroom etiquette is vital. Please recognize that our classroom includes people with various life experiences, different perspectives, and divergent strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking, and speak to the instructor if you are offended by something that is said in class.

This portion of your grade will be based both on your attendance and the quality of your contribution to discussion in your section. Obviously, you cannot participate in discussion if you are not present. Thus, regular attendance is expected and will not raise your participation grade. If you do not attend, however, your participation grade will be reduced; consistent attendance is a prerequisite for effective participation. Attendance will be taken at each discussion period. You must attend the section for which you are registered unless you have prior permission from the instructor to attend a different discussion section during a given week. Each student may miss one session during the semester without penalty. In other words, if you miss no more than one meeting of your section, you will have attended 100% of the class sessions for the purpose of grade calculation. At the end of the semester, each student will receive a grade on a scale of 1-100 for the quality of his or her contribution to discussion. This grade will be multiplied by the percentage of classes attended to determine the final grade for class participation. Students with more than one unexcused absence will find that not attending class reduces their participation grades.

Here are some illustrative examples. Mary Smith participates regularly in her discussion section and has no more than one unexcused absence. Her grade for participation is 95%, and her grade for attendance is 100%. Her participation and attendance grade is an A, 95%. Her sister Sherry Smith also participates effectively in discussion when she attends. She earns a 95% for participation, but has attended only 70% of her section meetings. Her grade for participation and attendance is 66.5%, a D. Mary's best friend, Alice Jones, always comes to class, but is very shy and contributes to discussion only rarely. She earns a 75% for participation, but attends 100% of the meetings. Her grade for participation and attendance is a C, 75%. Finally, Mary and Sherry's cousin Laura Smith also participates rarely and has missed a number of class meetings. She earns a 75% for participation and a 60% for attendance. Her resulting grade for participation and attendance is an F, 45%.

As you can see, doing well on this portion of your final grade requires both attending class and participating in discussion. If you find that you are uncomfortable speaking in class, please speak to the instructor as soon as possible. Students are welcome to discuss their performance in class discussions with the instructor at any time during the semester.

Attendance will not be taken at the lectures on Monday and Wednesday, but most students find that attending lectures significantly enhances their understanding of the course material and provides for a much more fulfilling experience. The readings listed for each day on the syllabus should be completed before class begins. Even when material is presented in lecture format, your active participation is very important. Always feel free to ask questions and state your opinions in a way that invites discussion.

### **24% -- *Analytical Papers* (2 @ 12% each)**

The discussion sections will be devoted to contemporary policy debates in world politics. Each week we will discuss four to five readings that present different points of view or discuss different aspects of a common problem; the topics relate to theories we discuss in class. All students are required to complete the assigned reading before their discussion section each week and to arrive prepared to discuss the issue. In addition, twice during the semester, each student must turn in an analytical paper of no more than five pages (typed, double spaced, and in prose with proper grammar and spelling), in response to a question based on the readings. The paper questions will be posted on the course website ahead of time. Each student may choose the two issues that he or she wishes to write on, but papers on a given issue are due at the beginning of the class period in which the issue is discussed. Late papers

will not be accepted.

The questions will require you to make an argument. Your paper should not merely summarize the assigned readings. At the same time, however, you will be expected to address issues raised in the readings, and we do expect you to cite the relevant articles in your paper. In grading these papers, we will evaluate the following: (1) Does the student demonstrate an understanding of the assigned readings? (2) Does the student offer an insightful analysis of the readings? Does the student see ways in which different pieces fit together and/or contrast with one another? (3) Does the student make a compelling argument in response to the question posed? (4) Is the paper well organized, coherent, clear, and concise? Is the writing grammatically correct and stylistically appropriate?

Planning is crucial to writing a good essay. Your papers are limited to five pages, so it is important for you to determine what information is relevant. Each paper should include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The introduction should introduce the topic, capture the interest of the reader, and explain what you intend to accomplish in the text. The introduction should include a thesis statement that states your argument succinctly. In the body of the essay, you should present your argument logically and provide evidence to support it. Each paragraph should address a single point and include a beginning, a middle, and an end. The paper should flow from one paragraph to the next with clear transitions; a paragraph should always be related to the previous and the following paragraph. The conclusion should summarize and reinforce the argument and explain what you believe that you have proven. It is often helpful as well to draw out the implications of your argument for future trends, for policy options, and/or for groups of people.

Very few people, regardless of their level of experience, write excellent essays in one draft. Editing is very important. You are strongly encouraged to reread and revise your work. It is often beneficial to ask another person to read your essay as well. Look carefully for weaknesses in your argument and for places where you do not explain your point clearly. Avoid excessive reliance on direct quotations; paraphrase where possible. Check for continuity and clear transitions, and remove awkward phrasing. Most computer programs help you to check grammar and spelling. Papers with several grammatical and spelling errors will be penalized. Rice provides an On-line Writing Lab (Rice OWL) for those who feel they will benefit from consultation regarding their writing assignments. You can request assistance at <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~riceowl/index.htm>. Having good ideas is very important, but being able to express them well is also crucial. Your paper grades will reflect both the points that you make and the way in which you convey the information.

It is essential that you provide appropriate citations when reporting the ideas of others. Plagiarism is a crime and a violation of Rice University Honor Code. For an explanation of plagiarism, every student should read the publication provided by the Rice Honor Council entitled "Academic Fraud and the Honor System". It is available on the World Wide Web at <http://honor.rice.edu>. You must offer acknowledgement whenever you reference an author's ideas, whether or not you are quoting an author directly. If you have any questions about the circumstances under which citations are required or about the extent to which your work must be independent and distinguishable from your reference sources, please be sure to ask for assistance.

While you may choose to write on any two topics, we recommend that you hand in your first paper early enough in the semester to receive feedback before completing the later paper. We will do our very best to return graded papers within one week after they have been turned in.

## **66% -- Exams (3 @ 22% each)**

There will be three one hour in-class exams during the semester. Each exam will cover material from approximately one third of the course. The exams will require you to demonstrate knowledge of material from readings, lectures, and class discussions. Further information regarding the structure of the exams will be conveyed before the exams, but most likely they will involve some combination of multiple choice questions and essay questions.

In evaluating your exam answers, your instructors are trying to determine what you know and understand and how well you can form and present an argument. If you leave out “obvious” points or logical connections or do not define important terms, we cannot be sure if you understand the material. Please keep this in mind in writing your essays.

Exams may be made up only in the case of medical excuse or verified emergency; make-up exams may differ from those taken at the scheduled exam time. In order to be eligible for a make-up exam, you must obtain permission from Dr. Leeds *before* the exam is held unless this is physically impossible. The exams are tentatively scheduled for **Monday, February 16, Wednesday, March 25, and Wednesday, April 15.**

### ***Questions About Grades:***

We will do our best to make assignments clear and to provide plenty of information about how grades are determined; an answer key will be returned with each exam. If you receive a grade on an exam or assignment that you think is inappropriate given the requirements of the course, we encourage you to discuss it with us as soon as the question arises. During the week after an exam or assignment is returned, you are welcome to return your work to Dr. Leeds with a written explanation of what aspects you would like reviewed, and she will regrade those portions. Be aware, however, that grades can be adjusted both up and down in regrading. Only Dr. Leeds can change grades; while Yoshi and Carla will be happy to discuss your work with you, they are not empowered to adjust grades. Once a week has passed after the return of the assignment, no further grade changes will be allowed.

### **SPECIAL PROVISIONS:**

Students with documented disabilities who require special accommodations should meet with Dr. Leeds and express their needs during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities must also contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center. The Department of Political Science is happy to do whatever we can to assure each student full and rewarding participation in classes.

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT:**

Most students attend office hours only immediately before exams or after grades are returned. These are times when long lines form. We are very happy to answer questions about exams, but we also encourage you to use our office time throughout the semester to discuss the course. Because this is an introductory course, we cover a broad range of material in a short time. As a result, there may be topics that you wish were covered in more detail. It is important to us that this course enriches your

educational experience. I hope that you will feel free to visit during our office hours whenever you think discussion on an individual basis would be helpful. Take responsibility for your learning and ask for individual attention when you need it. Dr. Leeds will hold office hours Monday and Wednesday from 2:00-3:30. Yoshi will hold office hours Thursday from 3:00-4:00 and Friday from 2:00-3:00. Carla will hold office hours Tuesday from 11:00-12:00 and Wednesday from 9:45-10:45. If you cannot attend office hours, we will make appointments to meet with you at other times.

## **REQUIRED READING:**

We will be using a brand new textbook for this course that has not yet been published:

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. Forthcoming. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Students in this class are authorized to read and print the textbook from the Norton website. The URL is: [www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world\\_politics\\_ebook/](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world_politics_ebook/) and the universal registration code is PHDL-FXXL. Upon your first visit, you will be asked to register and create your own password, which you can use to access the site for the remainder of the semester.

Readings for discussion sections will be made available on electronic reserve at Fondren Library. We will provide you with a user name and password to access these materials from any Rice computer or from a remote connection that allows you access to WebCat.

We also encourage you to keep up to date on current events by reading articles relating to foreign policy and international relations in a major news media source. Two good sources are *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. They have substantial coverage of international events, and you can subscribe to either at a very reasonable student rate. A major weekly news magazine, such as *The Economist*, will also provide strong coverage of international events. You will also find that many news organizations provide news on the World Wide Web, free of charge. We have provided links to a number of these pages at [www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds/poli211.html](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~leeds/poli211.html).

## **DISCUSSION AND READING SCHEDULE:**

Readings listed for each day should be completed *before* the class meeting.

### **Week 1:**

*Mon.* 1/5 Introduction to Course: Read syllabus thoroughly

*Wed.* 1/7 Studying International Relations: Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (FL&S) Introduction

*No discussion sections*

### **Week 2:**

*Mon.* 1/12 The Development of the Current International System: FL&S Chapter 1

*Wed.* 1/14 Thinking About International Politics: FL&S Chapter 2

*Discussion:* Introduction to Sections and Discussion of Current Events

**Week 3:**

*Mon.* 1/19 No class: Martin Luther King Day  
*Wed.* 1/21 Why War? FL&S Chapter 3  
*Discussion:* U.S. Foreign Policy

**Week 4:**

*Mon.* 1/26 War, continued: FL&S chapter 4  
*Wed.* 1/28 War, continued: no new reading  
*Discussion:* Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation; Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Week 5:**

*Mon.* 2/2 International Institutions and War: FL&S chapter 5  
*Wed.* 2/4 International Institutions continued: no new reading  
*Discussion:* Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

**Week 6:**

*Mon.* 2/9 International Law: no new reading  
*Wed.* 2/11 Review  
*Discussion:* International Criminal Law

**Week 7:**

*Mon.* 2/16 1<sup>st</sup> Exam  
*Wed.* 2/18 No class due to International Studies Association Annual Meeting  
*Discussion:* U.S.-China Relations

**Week 8:**

*Mon.* 2/23 International Trade: FL&S chapter 6  
*Wed.* 2/25 International Trade continued: no new reading  
*Discussion:* International Trade and the Growth and Distribution of Income

**Week 9: Spring break****Week 10:**

*Mon.* 3/9 International Financial Relations: FL&S chapter 7  
*Wed.* 3/11 International Monetary Relations: FL&S chapter 8  
*Discussion:* Energy Security and Financial Crisis

**Week 11:**

*Mon.* 3/16 Development: FL&S chapter 9  
*Wed.* 3/18 Development continued: no new reading  
*Discussion:* Promoting Health Internationally

**Week 12:**

*Mon.* 3/23 Review  
*Wed.* 3/25 Exam #2  
*Discussion:* Human Rights

**Week 13:**

*Mon. 3/30* Transnational Networks: FL&S chapter 10  
*Wed. 4/1* Human Rights: FL&S chapter 11  
*No discussion sections (Spring Recess)*

**Week 14:**

*Mon. 4/6* The Environment: FL&S chapter 12  
*Wed. 4/8* The Future: FL&S chapter 13  
*Discussion: Environmental Cooperation*

**Week 15:**

*Mon. 4/13* Review  
*Wed. 4/15* Exam #3  
*No discussion sections*