Course Description

This self-paced course will introduce you to the core concepts and theories in the field of international relations within political science today. The textbook and other course resources on Canvas will expose you to a wide variety of current substantive puzzles in international relations. Why are there wars? What is “international political economy” and why are some countries rich while others are poor? Will free trade and capitalism help fix this problem or deepen this divide? Will the world keep improving human rights generally? Why does the world fail to stop genocide or massive refugee crises? Why do most countries have a hard time cooperating to prevent global environmental problems? The primary text for this class takes the position that no single theoretical paradigm, such as realism, liberalism, constructivism or other approach applies equally well to war, political economy, human rights or the environment, but all paradigms need to be understood to analyze these issues fully. This course very quickly provides a brief history and framework for understanding international relations. Then major theories are introduced to provide interpretive frameworks for understanding what is happening in the world. Then major issues of security, economics, international law and human rights, the environment and other transnational issues are presented and analyzed using the theoretical lenses.

Required Text:


-Do NOT purchase older versions of the textbook because it will not adequately prepare you for the chapter quizzes.

Evaluation

You will have to complete 8 quizzes and then the final exam (if you choose this option) by Friday, August 19th at 8 pm (PST), or you can choose to write a final research paper (7-10 pages) instead of taking the final exam, which you will submit through Canvas (which will be checked by Vericite for plagiarism.) The research paper should be completed also by Friday, August 19th at 8pm), but can also be submitted early, with extra research, to be eligible for up to 5% extra credit if completed extremely well, by Wednesday, August 15th by 8pm. There will be paper guidelines available on Canvas to help guide an excellent final research project if you would like to pursue this option. Throughout the term you may proceed at your own pace on the quizzes, but you will be urged to complete approximately two chapters per week to remain on pace to complete this fast-paced intensive course. However, if you choose to take the final essay exam instead of writing a research paper, then the completion of the final exam will happen on Friday, August 17th. I will e-mail the final exam to you at 8:00am on Friday, August 17th, and it must be completed by 8:00pm on the same day. It will consist of approximately 4-5 essay questions, drawn from a
list of essay questions (so everyone will not have the same exam), and you will need to submit your completed essay exam (of 8-12 pages) through Canvas (and it will be checked by Vericite for plagiarism).

**QUIZZES** - All quizzes will be taken on-line via CANVAS. The quizzes are the last item in the module for each chapter. It is highly suggested that you work your way through all of the items and exercises for each chapter and then take the quiz after you have read the chapter and done all of the chapter exercises and reviews for that chapter. Fifty percent (50%) of your grade for the class will be based on these 8 chapter quizzes, all taken online via CANVAS. You will have 45 minutes to take each quiz, and you may re-take each quiz once, and the highest grade will be recorded for each quiz. There are 25 questions per quiz, but your second attempt will have all different questions. You must complete all 8 quizzes before you take the final exam.

**FINAL EXAM or Research Paper** – The final exam (worth 50% of your grade) must be completed on Friday August 17th, between 8:00am and 8:00pm (PST). You will have only this ONE chance to take this final exam. The final exam will be based directly on the material of each chapter, especially the video exercises provided online, and the other discussion questions about each chapter. Preparing for the quizzes (including all of the practice quizzes) will help prepare you for the final exam. If you cannot take the final exam on August 17th, you will need to choose the Research Paper option (worth 50% of your grade in lieu of the final). This option will require you to follow closely the research paper guidelines on Canvas, including conducting research using the library, and writing up a critical analysis based on course materials and your own research. Completing a research paper instead of the final exam will allow you to complete the course fully at your own pace before Friday August 17th at 8:00pm. The research paper option also potentially allows you to do a better final project for this class, demonstrating deep engagement.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 - 110</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A---</td>
<td>90 - 93</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C--</td>
<td>70 - 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B--</td>
<td>80 - 83</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Technological Requirements:**

- You will need regular access to a computer with web access.
- **No incompletes** can be given for this course due to its web-based nature. If you do not complete a quiz for any reason, you will receive a “0.” If you have trouble accessing any quiz, please contact me immediately.
- All quizzes and the final exam (or paper) must be completed by 8:00 pm, Friday, August 17, 2018.
- PS 205 cannot be repeated for credit – the traditional lecture course PS 205 and the independent study/distance education course PS 205 are treated as the same course by the Registrar’s office.
- Please email me directly with any questions from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and I will respond within 24 hours. My office hours on campus are Tuesdays, 10am-
1:00pm, PLC 820. You may come see me in person!

**Class Web Sites:**

- **CANVAS** This web site is the main web site used for this class. All class information will be run through this website.
- **Chapter Quizzes and Final Exam**—all due Friday August 17th at 8 pm.

The chapter quizzes can be found in CANVAS as the last item within each set of modules for each chapter. It will be best for you to read the chapter, then work your way through each of the items under that chapter in order. After studying the chapter materials, including studying the video exercises and taking the practice quizzes and reviewing the flashcards several times, then you will proceed to attempt the chapter quiz. You will immediately get feedback on your quiz. Then you should review any missed items again, and review generally, and then attempt the chapter quiz again. Your highest grade will be recorded. You need to take one quiz for each chapter, but you do not have to take it twice if you are satisfied with your first attempt. Again—you will be given 45 minutes to take each chapter quiz. After completing the test, please make sure you press the submit button about 30 seconds before the 45 minute time limit because it takes the system about that long to process your quiz. You have two attempts to take each quiz. You will receive the highest grade. You are not required to take the quiz two times. NOTE: you must finish the quiz within the time allotted or you will not get a grade. If for some reason you lose a connection, or do not finish, you can use your second attempt to take the quiz again.

PLEASE NOTE: It is a violation of the UO Student Conduct Code to open the required textbook or other materials during a quiz, collaborate or consult with another person during a quiz, share questions or answers with others, print out the quiz, or use a quiz or quiz answers provided by another person, or to pay another person or organization to assist you in taking these quizzes. If you engage in any of these activities even once, your grade for all the quizzes will be a zero, which will make it essentially impossible to pass the class.

Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations
Chapter 2: Realist Theories
Chapter 3: Liberal and Social Theories
Chapter 4: Conflict, War and Terrorism
Chapter 5: Trade and Finance
Chapter 6: International Organization, Law and Human Rights
Chapter 7: North-South Relations
Chapter 8: Environment and Technology

**Learning Outcomes:** This class will provide students with a basic introduction to understanding the causes of international conflict and cooperation in security, economics, human rights and the environment, as well as better understanding theoretical approaches to the study of conflict and cooperation internationally. This course will help students develop the critical skills of identifying, describing and defining basic factual information and analytical concepts concerning the international political system, and the multitude of transnational actors. Students will also learn to analyze political issues and phenomena using political science concepts and theories.