

# International Relations

PSC 204-002 | Fall 2018 | 3 Credit Hours

Lecture

Ms. Erin Little

## Contact Information

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### UA Campus Directory:

- Ms. Erin Little (<https://www.ua.edu/directory/?i=eklittle#listing>)

## Prerequisites

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### UA Course Catalog Prerequisites:

No prereqs found

## Course Description

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### Course Description and Credit Hours

Survey of the evolution of the modern state system and the basic forces in international relations.

This course is designed as an overview of theories, concepts, and issues underlying the modern international system. We will primarily focus our attention on globalization - its meaning and impact on international relations into the 21st century. Globalization has transformed the way we conceptualize security and international stability, bringing human security-related issues to the forefront in understanding the forces guiding international politics. Through this lens, we will discuss the theories, structures, and processes which comprise the modern international system.

The course will be divided into two sections. The first section leading up to the midterm exam will provide foundational knowledge of theoretical and historical perspectives in international relations. The second section to conclude the course will be devoted to applying this knowledge to modern structures and processes in the international system and relating these processes to some of the major global debates facing world leaders into the present day. A few examples of global debates we may discuss include the use of drones in modern warfare, the current Syrian refugee crisis facing Western nations, and the legality and effectiveness of humanitarian intervention.

## Required Texts

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### Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- REVERON / HUMAN SECURITY IN A BORDERLESS WORLD (Required)

- REVERON (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) HUMAN SECURITY IN A BORDERLESS WORLD (RENTAL)

## Student Learning Outcomes

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By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the seminal theoretical paradigms in international relations
- Demonstrate how human security frames how we conceptualize international stability
- Identify the primary structures that define the international system
- Understand the principle debates and constraints that shape relations between states in the early 21st century
- Cite examples from a diverse set of cases to illustrate these structures and debates

## Other Course Materials

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Baylis, J., Smith, S., and Owens, P. 2014. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 6th edition. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press

Electronic resources will be provided throughout the semester.

## Outline of Topics

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### Part I: Theoretical and Historical Foundations in IR

Week 1 (Aug. 22, 24): Syllabus Overview and Introduction to Globalization and Security

- *Read Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 1*

Week 2 (Aug. 27, 29, 31): Marxist theories in IR

- **Aug. 29, 31: APSA Conference - NO CLASS**

Week 3 (Sept. 3, 5, 7): Realism and Liberalism

- **Sept. 3: LABOR DAY - NO CLASS**

Week 4 (Sept. 10, 12, 14): The Neo-realism/Neo-liberalism debate, Social constructivism & Poststructuralism

Week 5 (Sept. 17, 19, 21): Post-colonialism and Gender in IR

Week 6 (Sept. 24, 26, 28): The evolution of international society and history 1900-99 & Post-Cold War Era

Week 7 (Oct. 1, 3, 5): Post-Cold War Era (cont.) and Midterm Exam

- Optional Review Session Oct. 3
- **Midterm Exam, October 5th** (*theoretical paradigms chart due with exam*)

## **Part II: Structures, Processes, Issues, and Debates in IR**

Week 8 (Oct. 8, 10, 12): The Changing Character of War

- *Read Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 5 & 7*

Week 9 (Oct. 15, 17, 19): International regimes and Environmental security

- *Read Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 4*

Week 10 (Oct. 22, 24, 26): - Nuclear non-proliferation

- **Oct. 26: MID-SEMESTER STUDY BREAK - NO CLASS**

Week 11 (Oct. 29, 31, Nov. 2): International Political Economy (IPE) & Global trade and finance

- FILM - *The Big Short*
- *Read Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 3*

Week 12 (Nov. 5, 7, 9): Poverty, Development, and Hunger

- *Read Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 6*
- **Nov. 9: PSSI Conference - NO CLASS**

Week 13 (Nov. 12, 14, 16): - SIMULATION ACTIVITY

Week 14 (Nov. 19, 21, 23): Simulation Follow-Up

- Nov. 19- Review of simulation
- **Nov. 21-23: THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS**

Week 15 (Nov. 26, 28, 30): PRESENTATIONS

Week 16 (Dec. 3, 5, 7): Where do we go from here?

- PRESENTATIONS (continued, if necessary)
- *Read Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 8*

- Optional Review Session Dec. 7th

December 10: **FINAL EXAM** (*on Blackboard, 8:00am to 10:30am*)

## Exams and Assignments

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### EXAMS

There will be two exams in this course, constituting a total of 45% of your grade. The midterm exam will be held on **Friday, October 5th**. The final exam will be held on **Monday, December 10th, from 8:00am to 10:30am**. Details about the exams will be announced during optional review class sessions prior to each exam.

### ASSIGNMENTS

During the first half of the course until the midterm exam, students will be expected to compile a comprehensive chart of the seminal theoretical paradigms in international relations, to be handed in with the midterm. This chart should include basic identifying themes and characteristics of each theory, along with examples of scholars associated with each paradigm. This assignment will constitute 15% of the final grade.

Following the midterm, you will have two assignments to complete. The first is your active participation in a week-long simulation we will conduct in-class. We will discuss details concerning this simulation closer to the scheduled week. Failure to attend class or contribute to the activity will negatively impact your grade. This simulation will constitute 15% of the final grade.

The last assignment will require you to engage with external literary material. I will provide a list of potential books - primarily autobiographies - prior to the midterm for your review. We will be discussing international relations through the lens of human security in this course; these autobiographical selections will each narrate an individual's personal experiences related to a particular violation of human security, a particular international or civil conflict, or another particular international issue. After the midterm, you will be asked to select one book. Read the autobiography, and research supplemental information concerning the international conflicts or issues discussed, which may include other books, reputable news articles, academic journal articles, or similar. At the end of the semester, you will give an oral presentation on what you learned. A detailed rubric including expectations for this presentation will be provided closer to the scheduled assignment. This presentation will constitute 15% of your grade.

## Grading Policy

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Class attendance and participation is vital to this course. Material discussed in class will appear on both the midterm exam and the final, regardless of whether it appears in the assigned readings.

Participating in class by asking questions, making thoughtful comments, and adding new information is important for everyone's continuing education. Discussions are intended for the mutual benefit of all students; disrespectfulness will not be tolerated. Removal from the classroom for any reason will be treated as an absence. Please email me the text of the poem "Desiderata" by 9am on 8/22 for 1 bonus point added to your final grade. Students are expected to come to class prepared to answer questions, make comments and enter into the discussions.

The grading policy for this course is outlined below:

10% - Attendance and participation

15% - Assignment #1: Theoretical paradigms chart

15% - Assignment #2: Simulation activity

15% - Assignment #3: Presentation

20% - Midterm Exam

25% - Final Exam

The University of Alabama grading scheme will be followed: 99-100 = A+, 92-98 = A; 90-91 = A-; 88-89 = B+; 82-87 = B; 80-81 = B-; 78-79 = C+; 72-77 = C; 70-71 = C-; 68-69 = D+; 62-67 = D; 60-61 = D-; less than 60 = F.

## Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

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Students who miss exams or coursework due to observance of religious practice, documented (by a doctor or health clinic/hospital) sickness, or death of a relative or close friend should contact me by email or during my office hours to schedule a make-up. I reserve the right to reject the option of a make-up for missed exams and coursework due to any reason not listed above.

## Attendance Policy

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Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Absences will only be excused for the following, discussed with me in advance: observance of a religious practice, documented (by a doctor or health clinic/hospital) sickness, or death of a relative or close friend. More than three cumulative absences without an above listed excuse will affect students' attendance and participation grades. Three unexcused absences are permitted without penalty. However, the fast-paced nature of this course and the use of supplemental materials in class, which will also appear on exams, will make it more difficult for students to do well in this course without being present.

## Notification of Changes

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The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

## Statement on Academic Misconduct

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Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Code of Academic Conduct (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/code-academic-conduct/>) provided in the Online Catalog.

# Statement On Disability Accommodations

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Contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/>) as detailed in the Online Catalog.

## Severe Weather Protocol

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Please see the latest Severe Weather Guidelines (<http://catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/severe-weather-guidelines/>) in the Online Catalog.

## Pregnant Student Accommodations

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Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy>).

## Religious Observances

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Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines ([http://provost.ua.edu/uploads/3/9/7/6/39760652/oa\\_guidelines\\_for\\_religious\\_holiday\\_observance.pdf](http://provost.ua.edu/uploads/3/9/7/6/39760652/oa_guidelines_for_religious_holiday_observance.pdf)).

## UAct Statement

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The UAct website (<https://www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/>) provides an overview of The University's expectations regarding respect and civility.