

# International Relations

PSC 204-050 | Summer 2019 | 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>)

Office hours: MWF 11am-12pm, ten Hoor 322

Email: [eklittle@crimson.ua.edu](mailto:eklittle@crimson.ua.edu)

## 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 to expose students to global perspectives concerning the structures, issues, and theories that motivate international behavior. We will discuss several theoretical paradigms which provide the foundation for modern international relations, such as Realism, Liberalism, and Social Constructivism. Amid these lectures, we will also discuss related structures and issues that highlight current sources of conflict or collaboration within the international system. Some examples include nuclear non-proliferation and the Iran Nuclear Deal of 2015, climate change, and poverty and development. We will supplement these lessons with discussions on readings which highlight cultural and historical issues using individual narratives.

## Required Texts

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### Required Texts from UA Supply Store:

- NONE / NO TEXT REQUIRED (Required)

# Student Learning Outcomes

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- Students evaluate key theories in the study of international relations
- Students understand the primary global issues which motivate international conflict and cooperation
- Students integrate core material with individual narratives from global environments
- Students communicate their understandings of key issues in international relations
- Students simulate an international crisis environment

## Other Course Materials

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Electronic texts will be made available on Blackboard for use in quizzes and for presentation/discussion days (see more details under Assignments).

## Outline of Topics

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Week 1 (May 29-31):

- (W) Introduction to International Relations
- (RF) *The Big Short* and International Political Economy (IPE)

Week 2 (June 2-7):

- (M) Realism & the Cold War Era
- (W) Nuclear Non-Proliferation
- (F) Liberalism & the Neo-Realism/Neo-Liberalism debate
- (TR) Presentation/Roundtable

Week 3 (June 10-14):

- (M) International Regimes, the UN, and Nationalism
- (W) Social Constructivism
- (F) Environmental Regimes & Gender in IR
- (TR) Presentation/Roundtable

Week 4 (June 17-21):

- (M) Post-colonialism
- (W) Poverty, Inequality, Development, and Hunger
- (F) Post-structuralism
- (TR) Presentation/Roundtable

Week 5 (June 24-26)

- (M) Changing Character of War
- (WF) Simulation

**Final Exam** will be available online through Blackboard from 2-4:30pm on **Thursday, June 27th**.

## Exams and Assignments

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### Assignments

You have 3 assignment grades in this course. The first is the theoretical paradigms chart. Throughout the course, we will discuss tenants and scholars associated with core theories in international relations. You will be provided a template (available through Blackboard) and must complete each field in the chart for full credit. You do not have to use the template, as long as you include all required information (i.e., a bulleted list or outline with headings is acceptable).

The second assignment is a presentation. The first week of class, you will select a reading to present and a day to present on. All presentation days are Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning June 4th. We will start the class with your presentation, and then spend the rest of the class in a roundtable discussing the relevance of the reading to our ongoing lectures in international relations, and any other additions from your own knowledge or questions you may have. **Even if you are not presenting, you will be expected to read the selection assigned for that day. This will factor into your participation grade.** For details on grading your presentation, see the rubric on Blackboard. As a general guideline, you will be given up to 15 minutes to present on your reading, and may use any technology or supplemental resources.

The third assignment is a 2-day simulation activity. Each student will act as a country. You will be placed in an international crisis situation and asked to resolve the issue. You will be graded primarily on your active participation in this activity.

### Exam

We will only have one exam in this course. It will be open-note and available online through Blackboard during the scheduled exam time (Thursday, June 27th, from 2-4:30pm). The exam will include 30 multiple choice questions and 4 short answer questions.

## Grading Policy

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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. 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:

30% - Attendance and participation

15% - Assignment #1: Theoretical paradigms chart

15% - Assignment #2: Presentation

15% - Assignment #3: Simulation Activity

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/3/9/7/6/39760652/0aa\\_guidelines\\_for\\_religious\\_holiday\\_observance.pdf](http://provost.ua.edu/uploads/3/9/7/6/39760652/0aa_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.