

Introduction to International Relations
PS 230-003
Fall 2024

Course Time: MWF (8:00 am – 8:50 am)

Location: Slone Research Building, Room 303

Instructor: John Gantner

Office: 1606 Patterson Office Tower

Office Hours: MWF (9:30 am – 10:30 am), or by appointment

Email: JohnGantner@uky.edu

Other contacts: By request

Course Description

An introduction to world politics, with an emphasis on conflict and compromise at the international level but also considering domestic political interactions with global consequences. Students learn how social scientists analyze international relations in a variety of policy areas, including both military/defense and economic.

Course Objectives

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the background and characteristics of world politics
- Comprehend the various tools, theories, and explanations used by scholars to analyze world politics
- Encourage students to attempt making sense out of complex, international discussions

UKCore learning outcomes:

- Identify and use appropriate information resources to substantiate evidence-based claims.
- Demonstrate an understanding of methods and ethics of inquiry that lead to social scientific knowledge.
- Communicate complex ideas and conclusions in multiple formats to a variety of audiences

Course Pedagogy

The course will be taught using multiple instructional methods. These will include lecture, group discussion/work, and time to work through problems in class. It will be critical for students to attend all sessions to assure mastery of course content. All material for the course, including PowerPoint slides and review lectures, is available on the Canvas website.

Course Required Text and Materials

The required textbook for this course is:

Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. [*World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, Fifth Edition*](#). New York: W.W. Norton.

Other required readings include current events, for which the students will be quizzed throughout the semester. Any reliable news source satisfies this requirement. The University of Kentucky offers its students subscriptions to the [New York Times and Wall Street Journal](#).

Course Tasks and Grades

The following assignments will constitute points earned throughout the semester:

Participation and Attendance (10%)

Participation and attendance are required in this course to ensure the objectives are met throughout the semester. Each student will come into the class with the ability to miss three classes without any questions. After these, a percentage point will be deducted from the attendance grade until it is zero, after which the student will have lost 10% of their final grade.

An excused absence ([link](#)) allows the student to make up exams or assignments given during the absence. It is the responsibility of the student to get notes from the class and to compensate as much as possible for the absence. It is also the student's responsibility to work with the instructor in determining an appropriate time for make-up assignments. Students who do not complete missed work by the instructor's deadline will earn a zero for that assignment or assignments.

Current Events Quizzes (5%)

Over the semester, there will be periodic quizzes that aim to assess the students' understanding of current events. These will be short, timed quizzes due before class every other week—usually on Wednesdays. They will be a mix of matching, multiple choice, essay, and T/F questions.

Chapter Quizzes (10%)

Due every week on Friday (**at Midnight**), these are the baseline of the grading process. There will be 15 assignments—one for each chapter. The purpose of these assignments is to make sure that the students are keeping up with the readings and learning the material. They will have a 2-hour time limit (meant to encourage doing the work in one sitting). They are designed to be easy for those who are putting in the required time and effort. They are a great way to practice and prepare for exams.

Policy Recommendation (Writing) Assignments (25%)

There will be four Policy Recommendation, or Writing, Assignments throughout the course. These will have the students assigned a specific current event. The student will briefly analyze the history and current status of the event, and, **most importantly**, suggest an actionable policy recommendation for an international actor of the student's choosing. These assignments will require the use of American Political Science Association (APSA) style citations both in-text and bibliographic.

Exams (50%)

There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. Each will be a combination of identification, short answer, T/F, multiple choice, and essay questions. The exams **are designed** to test your familiarity with the lecture material, current events, and your

independent ability to apply what you have learned. Students will take the exams in-person during class time, or during the scheduled final exam time set by the University. These exams **will require** the Lockdown browser to ensure compliance with the University's rules on academic dishonesty.

Final Grade Distribution

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
E	Below 60%

Course Policies

Late Work

For the major written assignments in the course, there will be a one-letter grade per day late penalty (including weekends), up to half of the value of the assignment. This does NOT include the chapter quizzes. After one week, assignments will not be accepted.

Excused Absences

See [University Policy](#).

Missing an Exam

Make-up exams are permitted in extreme situations. If a student will be missing an exam for a university-approved reason (see previous link), they must provide written notice at least 1 week in advance of the exam. If they miss an exam due to an unexpected emergency (e.g., a serious personal or family health issue), notify the instructor with formal documentation and arrangements may be made.

Grade Grievances

If a student receives a grade lower than they believe is merited, they may request a re-grade by submitting a typed grievance, using the criteria outlined in the assignment as the basis of their argument. The grievance must be submitted within a week of the assignment's submission. If the instructor deems the grievances valid, a re-grade of the entire assignment will be undertaken, at which point the new grade will be final.

Contacting the Instructor

The syllabus and canvas are the students' first places for questions. If any questions remain, email the instructor or visit their office hours. Please email from your official university email account or through canvas. To protect your privacy, the instructor will only respond to emails that are sent from your university email address or canvas. Monday through Friday, responses can be expected within 24 hours.

Academic Policy Statements

A full list of UK academic policies is available at <https://provost.uky.edu/proposals/guidance-course-proposals/standard-academic-policy-statements>

Academic Offenses

UK policies on academic offenses are available at the following:

[Academic Offenses](#)

[Information on Plagiarism](#)

[Information on Cheating](#)

Resources

The university offers a variety of resources available at the [Office of Student Success](#).

Classroom Emergency Preparedness and Response

Please see the [link](#) for information related to emergency reporting and action.

Accommodations Due to Disability

In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please inform your instructor as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in a course, you must provide your instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754, via email (drc@uky.edu) or visit their website (<https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/disability-resource-center>). DRC accommodations are not retroactive and should therefore be established with the DRC as early in the semester as is feasible.

Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information

In accordance with federal law, UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, see Administrative Regulation 6:1 ("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment") (<https://regs.uky.edu/administrative-regulation/ar-61>). In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, see Administrative Regulations 6:2 ("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Harassment Under Title IX and Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct") (<https://regs.uky.edu/administrative-regulation/ar-62>). Complaints regarding violations of

University policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (Institutional Equity), which is located in 13 Main Building and can be reached by phone at (859) 257-8927. You can also visit Institutional Equity's website (<https://ieeo.uky.edu/>).

Faculty members are obligated to forward any report made by a student related to discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct to the Office of Institutional Equity. Students can confidentially report alleged incidences through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center (<https://www.uky.edu/vipcenter/>), Counseling Center (<https://www.uky.edu/counselingcenter/>), or University Student Health Service (<https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service/student-health>).

Reports of discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct may be made via the Institutional Equity's website (<https://ieeo.uky.edu/contact-us>); at that site, click on "Make a Report" on the left-hand side of the page.

Regular and Substantive Interaction

All credit-bearing courses must support regular and substantive interaction (RSI) between the students and the instructor, regardless of the course's delivery mode (e.g., in-person, hybrid, or online). Courses satisfy this requirement when course participants meet regularly as prescribed in SR 10.6, and the Instructor of Record substantively interacts with students in at least two of the following ways: provides direct instruction; assesses students' learning; provides information or responds to students' questions; and facilitates student discussions. Some exceptions allowed as per SACSCOC. For further information about the RSI requirement, see the Compliance Resources link on the Teaching, Learning and Academic Innovation Compliance page.

Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community (Governing Regulations XIV, <https://regs.uky.edu/governing-regulation/gr-xiv>). We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/gr14>). These identities include but are not limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender identity and expressions, ideas and perspectives, religious and cultural beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. We are committed to equity and justice and providing a learning and engaging community in which every member is engaged, heard, and valued.

We strive to rectify and change behavior that is inconsistent with our principles and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. If students encounter such behavior in a course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor of record and/or the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (<https://ieeo.uky.edu/contact-us>). Students may also contact a faculty member within the department, program director, the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, the department chair, any college administrator, or the dean. All of these individuals are mandatory reporters under University policies.

Other Policies

This syllabus is a guide to the course for the student. However, the instructor may, at their discretion, change content and requirements during the semester.

Course Schedule

Session/ Date	Topic	Read	Assignment(s)
Week 1: August 26-30	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction Chapter Quiz (8/30)
Week 2: September 2-6 No Class September 2 (Labor Day)	Chapter 1 What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction	Ch. 1	Chapter 1 Quiz (9/8)
Week 3: September 9-13	Chapter 2 Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions	Ch. 2	Current Events Quiz 1 (9/11) Chapter 2 Quiz (9/15)
Week 4: September 16-20	Chapter 3 Why Are There Wars?	Ch. 3	Policy Recommendation 1 (9/16) Chapter 3 Quiz (9/22)
Week 5: September 23-27	Chapter 4 Domestic Politics and War	Ch. 4	Current Events Quiz 2 (9/25) Chapter 4 Quiz (9/29)
Week 6: September 30- October 4	Chapter 5 International Institutions and War	Ch. 5	Chapter 5 Quiz (10/6)
Week 7: October 7-11	Chapter 6 Violence by Nonstate Actors: Civil war and Terrorism	Ch. 6	Current Events Quiz 3 (10/9) Chapter 6 Quiz (10/13)
Week 8: October 14-18	Chapter 7 International Trade	Ch. 7	Policy Recommendation 2 (10/14) Chapter 7 Quiz (10/20)
Week 9: October 21-25	Injury Time/Midterm	N/A	Current Events Quiz 4 (10/23) Midterm Exam (10/25)
Week 10: October 28- November 1 No Class October 28 (Fall Break)	Chapter 8 International Financial Relations	Ch. 8	Chapter 8 Quiz (11/3)
Week 11: November 4-8	Chapter 9 International Monetary Relations	Ch. 9	Current Events Quiz 5 (11/6) Chapter 9 Quiz (11/10)
Week 12: November 11-15	Chapter 10 Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations	Ch. 10	Chapter 10 Quiz (11/17)

Week 13: November 18-22	Chapter 11 International Law and Norms	Ch. 11	Policy Recommendation 3 (11/18) Current Events Quiz 6 (11/20) Chapter 11 Quiz (11/24)
Week 14: November 25-29 No Class November 27 and 29 (Thanksgiving Break)	Chapter 12 Human Rights	Ch. 12	Chapter 12 Quiz (12/1)
Week 15: December 2-6	Chapter 13 The Global Environment	Ch. 13	Current Events Quiz 7 (12/4) Chapter 13 Quiz (12/8)
Week 16: December 9-13 No Class December 13 (Reading Day)	Injury Time/Finals Review	Optional: Ch. 14	Policy Recommendation 4 (12/9)
Week 17: Final Exam	<u>Final Exam: Monday, December 16th, 8:00 am – 10:00 am</u>		