

Political Science 240-03 (Honors): The International System

Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 – 12:15

Instructor: Lynda Kellam

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Course description

From the refugee crisis in Europe to the negotiations over Iran's nuclear program, the news is full of current events relevant to students of global politics. To prepare you to better understand these events, this course will introduce you to the primary theories and concepts of international relations. In the first half we will explore the events that have shaped our world and the theories and concepts that can help explain it. In the second half we will explore a few major issue areas including war, peace, human rights, the global economy, and more.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Identify the major actors in international politics and their objectives;
- Identify the key historical events, people, and places that have shaped contemporary international politics;
- Compare and contrast the main theories of international relations;
- Apply theories of international relations to predict and to explain outcomes;
- Investigate topics within international politics using the appropriate secondary research methods.

Required texts and tools

- All readings will be posted to Canvas (<http://canvas.uncg.edu>). You are expected to have access to your readings in class either in print or on a laptop/tablet. Phones are not sufficient for accessing your readings. If you do not bring the reading to class, I will deduct points from your grade.
- We will use Canvas frequently during the class. You must enable notifications in Canvas or check Canvas regularly to keep up with assignments. I will not email out reminders for every assignment.
- You will need to purchase access to the Statecraft Simulation (<http://statecraftsim.com>) by the second week of the course. It costs \$35 from the website and is required for the course.
- I will also post stories from various news sources such as *The Economist*, *The New York Times* and *the BBC* on my Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/LKpsc240>). We will use specific articles periodically in class.

Course requirements

Your grade will be based on the following components:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Research project	360 points
Reading quizzes	100 points
Map quizzes	100 points
Statecraft Simulation Memos	100 points
Simulation Manual Quizzes	30 points
Simulation Performance	10 points (plus extra credit possible)
Discussion posts (honors)	50 points
Book analysis	100 points

Total Points Possible:

1150 points

Exams: 300 points

You will take three exams, each worth 100 points. The exams will be a mix of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and essays.

Research project: 360 points

PSC 240 is a core course for upper-level Political Science classes where you are expected to have had practice researching and writing papers. More information to come, but the research project will be broken down into several parts:

- Refined topic – 10 points

- Annotated bibliography – 100 points
- Draft of Memo to the President – 50 points
- Memo to the President – 100 points
- Elevator Talk – 100 points

We will have a library research session during the semester with our class librarian, Jenny Dale (JEDALE2@uncg.edu). Feel free to contact her if you have questions about doing research.

Reading Quizzes: 100 points

You will have 10 reading quizzes worth 10 points each. These quizzes will be available on Canvas and must be finished **by 10:00 am on the date assigned**. You are welcome to use readings to answer the questions, but you may not take the quiz collaboratively. These reading quizzes will help you prepare for the exams and reinforce the concepts we will be learning in class.

Map quizzes: 100 points

Knowing our world and the location of its countries is fundamental to any understanding of world politics. During the semester we will have 5 map quizzes (on Europe, Africa, South America, Central America, and Asia) worth 20 points each. See Canvas for quiz dates and study maps.

Simulation Memos: 100 points

You will write 10 memos worth 10 points each connected to the Statecraft simulation. They are due every Saturday during the simulation at 12:00 pm on Canvas. Earlier in the semester these memos will help you prepare for the simulation. During the simulation you will be reflecting on your work. These memos must be 300 words in length and submitted to the appropriate week's Canvas discussion board. All of your team members will have access to your memo. In class we will talk about what should be in those memos. They are intended to help ensure that students are actively participating in and thinking about the simulation each week. I will not count late memos, superficial memos, and memos shorter than the required length.

Simulation Manual Quizzes: 30 points

Statecraft manual quizzes are worth 15 points each and will be submitted on Canvas.

Statecraft Simulation Performance: 10 points

All students will receive 10 points for not declaring first strike nuclear war on any other countries. Additional extra credit points can be earned based on the achievement of various goals and will depend on your group's participation in the simulation. A group that excels and hits all goals could **potentially earn up to 35 points extra credit**.

Honors Work:

Each week you will have one additional reading that explores the topic in more depth. You will respond to each of these extra readings in a discussion forum on Canvas (5 points for each 300-word response for 50 points). All responses are due by the Saturday at 12:00 pm of the week assigned. You will also turn in a Book Analysis on a key work in international relations based on your interests (worth 100 points). Finally, your Memo to the President will be 1500-2000 words. We will plan to meet periodically to check in on your progress in the class.

Attendance:

You have **3 unexcused absences without penalty**. After three absences, I will take off 10 points from your total points for each unexcused absence. Leaving early and arriving late count as absences. We will have time for simulation work on most Tuesdays. Attendance at those is required.

Grades

At the end of the semester I will divide your number of points by 1150 to get your letter grade. Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A	93% and higher;	B-	80-82.99;	D+	67-69.99;
A-	90-92.99;	C+	77-79.99;	D	63-66.99;
B+	87-89.99;	C	73-76.99;	D-	60-62.99;
B	83-86.99;	C-	70-72.99;	F	59.99 and below

Class Guidelines

Contacting me:

You have many ways to contact me. If you would like to discuss course content or have a question, you may visit my office (106C Jackson Library) or chat with me through iSpartan. I do not often check email from 5:00 pm – 8:30 am during weekdays, but I typically will respond to emails within 48 hours. **I will not** discuss grades through email.

Late work:

I do not accept late work and do not make up exams unless you have a documented emergency. Extensions will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

Student behavior:

No disruptive behavior will be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to cellphone use (including texting), inappropriate language, side conversations, and being disrespectful to your classmates. In addition, we will sometimes discuss topics that are politically sensitive or inflammatory, and I expect you to handle these discussions in a mature manner.

E-cigarettes and vaping are not allowed in the classroom buildings on campus. Take it outside if you feel the need.

Arriving to class late is disruptive and should be kept at a minimum. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, I will count you absent for that day.

Devices:

This is a cell phone free classroom. Students who keep their cell phones out in class consistently perform poorly on exams and reading quizzes, therefore it is in your interest to avoid your cell phone at all costs. If you have your cell phone out in class, I will deduct points from your grade (5 points/class).

You must bring a copy of your readings, paper, and pen/pencil to every class. While I allow laptops/tablets, do not rely on our wireless connection to access readings in class. It is better to download a local copy. I will post my slides after each class.

Recording of lectures and classroom discussions is not allowed. If you have a documented reason for recording, you must ask for permission in advance.

You may not use any cellphones or other digital devices during the in-class quizzes. You will receive an automatic **zero** on a quiz if you use or have out a cellphone or other digital device. ESL students with translators **must** have them pre-approved by me.

Students with Special Academic Needs:

UNCG seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for students who require accommodations. Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services in 215 EUC. For more information, see the ODS website (<http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>).

Academic Honesty/Integrity

I have high expectations of **student conduct** at UNCG and expect all students to abide by UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. I take any violations of this policy seriously. Please review the Academic Integrity Policy website (<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>).

You will submit research project assignments through Canvas. This system checks your papers against papers that have already been submitted, websites, article databases, and more for any plagiarism. If you submit work that is plagiarized you will be held in violation of UNCG Academic Integrity Policy.

General Schedule (See Canvas for specific readings and due dates)

Week 1 – January 12 & 14 – Introduction & Levels of Analysis

Week 2 - January 19 & 21 – History

Week 3 – January 26 & 28 – Theories of International Relations: Realism & Liberalism

- Statecraft Turn 0

Week 4 – February 2 & 4 - Theories of International Relations: Constructivism & Others

- Statecraft Turn 1

Week 5 – February 9 & 11 – Exam 1 and research project workshop

- No Statecraft Turn

Week 6 – February 16 & 18 – Levels of Analysis revisited & Foreign Policy Decision-Making

- Statecraft Turn 2

Week 7 - February 23 & 25 – Causes of Conflict

- Statecraft Turn 3

Week 8 - March 1 & 3 – International Organizations and the United Nations

- Statecraft Turn 4

March 7-11: Spring Break

Week 9 – March 15 & 17 – Peacekeeping/Humanitarian Intervention and exam 2

- Statecraft Turn 5

Week 10 – March 22 & 24 – International Law and Human Rights

- Statecraft Turn 6

Week 11 – March 29 & 31 – International Political Economy

- Statecraft Turn 7

Week 12 – April 5 & 7 – Development and Terrorism

- Statecraft Turn 8

Week 13 – April 12 & 14 – Environmental Challenges

- Statecraft Turn 9?

Week 14 – April 19 & 21 – The Future(s) and Exam 3

- Statecraft Turn 10?

Thursday, April 28 at 12:00 pm: Elevator Talks in classroom