



Political Science, Lyon College

POL 205: WORLD POLITICS

FALL 2022

Lyon Building 200 — MWF 11:00-11:50

Instructor: Brendan Connell

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Office Hours: Tu 12-1; W 3-5; Th 12-1



Course Description

This course reviews the main issues and problems confronted by nation-states as they interact with each other in the international system. World politics operates under much different conditions than domestic politics. If a neighbor damages your property, you might decide to take that neighbor to court or the police. If you want to reduce crime or create jobs in your town, you might ask your government to pass legally binding laws that attend to those issues. But who does a state call if they are invaded, cheated, or taken advantage of? Who can states call to solve global problems, such as climate change or an international pandemic? In short, there is no all-encompassing “world government” to legislate and centrally enforce decisions in the international system. This state of anarchy makes world politics unique and forms the core of the many issues we will discuss in class.

Since this course is intended to provide an introduction to the field of world politics, the class is designed to cover a wide range of issues, including violent conflict, international law, human rights, international trade, global financial flows, migration, development, and environmental cooperation. Considering the diverse array of topics we will cover, this course stresses foundational concepts and fundamental theories over more in-depth analyses of subject areas which are provided in upper-level political science courses.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students understand core theories and empirical work driving international relations (IR) research and how these explain real-world phenomena.
2. Students possess an understanding of the authority and limits of major international organizations, including (but not limited to) the United Nations, International Criminal Court, World Trade Organization, and International Monetary Fund.
3. Students can assess global policy problems and offer their own solutions to how international cooperation can be achieved.
4. Students can think critically and fairly consider both sides of an argument based on empirical evidence prior to forming answers to a research question.
5. Students can communicate their ideas clearly and concisely through writing.
6. Students can communicate their ideas orally and through debate.

Required Materials

- **Textbook:** Frieden, Jeffrey, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2021. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (Fifth Edition). W.W. Norton. & Company: New York NY. **ISBN:** 9780393872231
- All other readings will be posted on Canvas.

Grading

Letter grades for the course are computed as follows: **A** = 90-100; **B** = 80-89; **C** = 70-79; **D** = 60-69; **F** = < 60.

Your grade for the course is comprised of the following criteria:

1) Exam 1	20%
2) Exam 2	25%
3) Attendance/Participation	10%
4) International Trade Competition	5%
5) In-Class Quizzes	10%
6) Op-Ed Paper	30% Total
Paper Outline	5%
First Draft	5%
Final Submission	20%

Exams (45% Total). There are two non-cumulative exams for this course. Exam 1 is worth 20% of your final grade while Exam 2 is worth 25% of your final grade. Both exams will consist of two parts. For the first part, you will be given a set of terms and be asked to define them in 2-3 sentences. For the second part, you will be given a choice of short response questions to answer in 1-2 paragraphs. Generally speaking, the exams will test your knowledge of key concepts as well as your ability to relate the concepts and course material to real world problems. I will distribute a study guide prior to each exam. The study guide will contain a complete list of terms and questions that may show up on the exam.

Attendance/Participation (10%). Attendance and participation are essential for doing well in this course. I take formal attendance every class with a sign-in sheet. More than two unexcused absences will result in a lower attendance grade. In addition, the quality and quantity of your participation is factored into this portion of your grade. Generally speaking, students that attend class but do not participate can expect to receive a “C” for this portion of their grade.

International Trade Competition (5%). During normal class time on Monday, October 10th, all students will participate in a group exercise where they will compete against other teams in a simulated game of international trade. Your grade for this assignment will be based on effort and participation rather than performance per se, but I will be awarding extra credit points to “winners” of the game. I will provide more concrete instructions as we get closer. If students do not attend lecture this day, they will be responsible for making up the assignment outside of normal class time. Please reach out to me beforehand if you foresee any problems attending class on this day.

In-Class Quizzes (10%). Throughout the semester, I will administer six unannounced quizzes at the beginning of class. These quizzes are intended to be brief (3-5 minutes) and will test you on the required readings for that day and/or material from the previous class. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Additional time for quizzes will not be granted to students who arrive late to class.

Op-Ed Paper (30% Total). Each student will prepare and write their own opinion piece on a contemporary problem or issue in world politics. You may choose any topic to write on as long as it qualifies as an international issue. This is a multi-step assignment with three different submissions and due dates:

- Paper Outline (5% of Grade; Due Friday, Sept 9)
- First Draft (5% of Grade; Due Friday, Nov 4)
- Final Submission (20% of Grade; Due Friday, Dec 2)

Please refer to the assignment sheet for in-depth instructions on writing the op-ed paper and outline. The intention of this paper is to develop your ability to make an argument on a relevant topic in world politics while also promoting clear and concise writing. At the conclusion of the semester, students will ideally have an opinion piece that they can submit to a news outlet, magazine, blog, or some other online venue. **The word limit for the paper is 1,000 words.** Failure to abide by this word limit will result in a lower grade (i.e., a 10 percentage-point penalty). Late papers and outlines will also be penalized 10 percentage points for each day late.

Course Technology

The learning management system (LMS) we will utilize throughout the semester is Canvas. All course material (e.g., syllabus, assignment instructions), non-textbook readings, grades, and class slides will be posted on Canvas. Students will also use Canvas to submit all writing assignments. **Please let me know if you have trouble accessing Canvas at any point throughout the semester.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: “FLS” refers to your textbook. Unless otherwise noted, readings for the week should be completed before Monday’s class.

Week 1 (Aug 17 & 19): Introduction and the Foundations of World Politics

Key Questions: What makes world politics different from studying domestic politics? What makes cooperation harder or easier to achieve for states?

 Readings:

- Course Syllabus
- FLS, Chapter 2

Week 2 (Aug 22 & 24 & 26): The Puzzle of War

Key Questions: If violent conflict is so costly, why do states sometimes prefer war over peaceful dispute resolution? What types of factors affect bargaining between states?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 3

Week 3 (Aug 29 & 31 & Sept 2): The Domestic Origins of Conflict and Peace

Key Questions: How do domestic politics shape international bargaining? Are democracies less likely to go to war than autocracies?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 4
- Brooks, Risa, Jim Golby, and Heidi Urben. “Crisis of Command: America’s Broken Civil-Military Relationship Imperils National Security.” *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2021.

 Optional Material:

- “Restart the Cold War” from *Canadian Bacon* (1995) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETNSVEumyJk>

 Important Dates:

- Drop Deadline on Aug 29th

Week 4 (Sept 7 & 9): Civil War and Terrorism

**No Class September 5th (Labor Day)*

Key Questions: What causes citizens to take up arms against their own government? Is there a logic to terrorism?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 6

 Assignments Due:

- Op-Ed Paper Outline Due Friday, September 9th**

Week 5 (Sept 12 & 14 & 16): Alliances, Global Governance, and War

**No Class September 16th (Away at 2022 APSA Conference)*

**Please watch short lecture video posted on Canvas*

Key Questions: Can international institutions prevent war? Has NATO expanded too much?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 5
- Mearsheimer, John. "Why the West Is Principally Responsible for the Ukrainian Crisis." *The Economist*. March 19, 2022.

Week 6 (Sept 19 & 21 & 23): Weapons of Mass Destruction

Key Questions: What is the difference between "hard" and "soft" international law? Why do states acquire (and sometimes get rid of) nuclear weapons?

 Readings:

- FLS, pp. 492-498 & pp. 618-629
- Hagel, Chuck, Malcolm Rifkind, Kevin Rudd, and Ivo Daalder. "When Allies Go Nuclear: How to Prevent the Next Proliferation Threat." *Foreign Affairs*. February 12, 2021.

Week 7 (Sept 26 & 28 & 30): From Sovereign Rights to Human Rights

Key Questions: What makes something a "human right"? How should international institutions be designed to promote human rights abroad?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 12
- Exam 1 Study Guide

 Important Dates:

- Exam 1 in Class on Friday, Sept 30th**

Week 8 (Oct 5 & 7): Making Sense of International Trade

**No Class October 3rd (Fall Break)*

Key Questions: If free trade is so good, why do states sometimes engage in protectionism? Who favors and who opposes free trade?

 Readings:

- FLS, pp. 306-335

Week 9 (Oct 10 & 12 & 14): Trade Wars and Global Trade Governance

Key Questions: Why do “trade wars” occur? How do international institutions structure and govern global trade?

 Readings:

- FLS, pp. 336-355
- International Trade Competition Instruction Sheet

 Important Dates:

- International Trade Competition in Class on Monday, Oct 10th**

Week 10 (Oct 17 & 19 & 21): The Virtues and Hazards of Global Capital

Key Questions: What causes states to promote or discourage foreign investment? What are the advantages and disadvantages of different types of foreign capital?

 Readings:

- FLS, pp. 364-396

Week 11 (Oct 24 & 26 & 28): International Monetary Cooperation

Key Questions: Why do some countries have fixed exchange rates while others have floating exchange rates? Why not just have one “global” currency?

**No Class October 28th (Away at 2022 IPES Conference)*

**Please watch short lecture video posted on Canvas*

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 9

 Optional Material:

- “Paddy’s Dollars” from *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia* (2009) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyxxE1AcUSM>

Week 12 (Oct 31 & Nov 2 & 4): Development & the North-South Divide

Key Questions: Why are some countries poor and some countries rich? Is globalization compatible with economic development in the Global South?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 10

 Optional Material:

- “Sir Archibald Mappsalot III” from *The Daily Show* (2013) <https://www.cc.com/video/kovgs5/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-sir-archibald-mappsalot-iii>

 Assignments Due:

- Op-Ed Draft Due Friday, November 4th**

Week 13 (Nov 7 & 9 & 11): International Migration & Refugee Policy

Key Questions: Why do most voters oppose open immigration policies? What explains the lack of international cooperation on refugees?

 Readings:

- FLS, pp. 397-402

- Norman, Kelsey P. "Rich Countries Cannot Outsource Their Migration Dilemmas." *Foreign Affairs*. January 5, 2022.

Week 14 (Nov 14 & 16 & 18): Global Environmental Cooperation

Key Questions: What factors have made environmental cooperation difficult to achieve at the global level? What does the "ideal" international environmental regime look like?

 Readings:

- FLS, Chapter 13

Week 15 (Nov 21): Post-Pandemic World Politics

**No Class November 23rd & 25th (Thanksgiving Break)*

Key Questions: How has the COVID-19 pandemic shaped/changed world politics?

 Readings:

- Drezner, Dan. 2020. "The Song Remains the Same: International Relations After COVID-19." *International Organization* 74: E18-E35.

Week 16 (Nov 28 & 30 & Dec 2): Course Review & Wrap-Up

Key Questions: What are the most challenging issues facing states in the international system today?

 Readings:

- Exam 2 Study Guide
- Reading TBA

 Assignments Due:

- Final Op-Ed Paper Due Friday, December 2nd**

 Important Dates:

- In-Class Study Session on Friday, December 2nd**
- Exam 2 Date & Time TBA**

Course Number and Section: POL 205-01

Course Title: World Politics

Course Meeting Days/Times: MWF 11-11:50AM **Semester/Year:** Fall 2022

Professor's Information

Name: Brendan Connell

Office Location: Lyon Building 318

Office Hours: Tue 12-1; Wed 3-5; Thu 12-1

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Phone Number: 870-307-7533

Standard Policies

Honor Code

All graded work in this class is to be pledged in accordance with the Lyon College Honor Code. The use of a phone for any reason during the course of an exam is considered an honor code violation.

Class Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class periods for the courses in which they are enrolled. They are responsible for conferring with individual professors regarding any missed assignments. Faculty members are to notify the Registrar when a student misses the equivalent of one, two, three, and four weeks of class periods in a single course. Under this policy, there is no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences, except that a student may make up work missed during an excused absence. A reminder of the college's attendance policy will be issued to the student at one week, a second reminder at two weeks, a warning at three weeks, and notification of administrative withdrawal and the assigning of an "F" grade at four weeks. Students who are administratively withdrawn from more than one course will be placed on probation or suspended.

Academic Support

The Morrow Academic Center (MAC) helps students who want to improve grades by providing peer-led services including Supplemental Instruction (SI), tutoring, the Writing Center, and academic coaching as well providing 24-hour, online tutoring for all subjects through Tutor.com. A schedule of peer-led services is available at lyon.edu/mac and Tutor.com is accessed through courses in Schoology. Contact Donald Taylor, Director of Academic Support, at 870-307-7319 or donald.taylor@lyon.edu for more information about MAC services.

Technology Support

For general technology support, you can contact the IT department by emailing support@lyon.edu or by calling 870-307-7555. For assistance with classroom-related technologies, such as the learning management system (LMS), you can request support using the methods above, or you can contact sarah.williams@lyon.edu directly for assistance. Your course content will be accessible digitally using either the Schoology or Canvas LMS. Both LMS platforms will use your myLyon credentials for your student login.

- For Canvas, login at lyon.instructure.com
- For Schoology, login at lyon.schoology.com

Disabilities

Students seeking reasonable accommodations based on documented learning disabilities must contact Interim Director of Academic Support Donald Taylor in the Morrow Academic Center at (870) 307-7019 or at donald.taylor@lyon.edu.

Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

Lyon College seeks to provide all members of the community with a safe and secure learning and work environment that is free of crime and/or policy violations motivated by discrimination, sexual and bias-related harassment, and

other violations of rights. The College has a zero-tolerance policy against gender-based misconduct, sexual assault, and interpersonal violence toward any member or guest of the Lyon College community. Any individual who has been the victim of an act of violence or intimidation is urged to make an official report by contacting a campus Title IX coordinator or by visiting www.lyon.edu/file-a-title-ix-report. A report of an act of violence or intimidation will be dealt with promptly. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of the law. For more information regarding the College's Title IX policies and procedures, visit www.lyon.edu/title-ix.

Mental & Behavioral Health

Lyon College is dedicated to ensuring each student has access to mental and behavioral health resources. The College's Mental and Behavioral Health Office is located in Edwards Commons and is partnered with White River Health System's Behavioral Health Clinic. The office is committed to helping the Lyon community achieve maximum mental and behavioral wellness through both preventative and reactive care. A full-time, licensed, professional counselor provides counseling, consultations, outreach, workshops, and many more mental and behavioral services to Lyon students, faculty, and staff at no cost. The Mental and Behavioral Health Office also provides access to White River Health System's services and facilities, including medication management and in-patient and out-patient care. To make an appointment, contact counseling@lyon.edu.

College-Wide COVID-19 Policies for Fall, 2022

- The College does not require masks in instructional and meeting spaces inside academic buildings. However, if instructors require masks in their classroom, lab, or studio, then students and guests must comply with that requirement.
- Vaccines are strongly encouraged for all faculty, staff, and students. Vaccines are not mandated for Lyon College community members, although there may be specific courses involving interactions with vulnerable, external populations where a vaccine may be required.
- The College will continue to offer symptomatic testing for students, faculty and staff.

Details specific to this course may be found in the subsequent pages of this syllabus. Those details will include at least the following:

1. A description of the course consistent with the Lyon College catalog.
2. A list of student learning outcomes for the course.
3. A summary of all course requirements.
4. An explanation of the grading system to be used in the course.
5. Any course-specific attendance policies that go beyond the College policy.
6. Details about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable student collaboration on graded work.
7. A clear statement about which LMS is being used for the course.