

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2016
SYLLABUS

| PSCI 3300: International Relations -- 3 Hours | |
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| Department of Social Sciences | School of Liberal Arts and Science |
| Instructor: | Walt Borges |
| Office: | Founders Hall 2.221 |
| Office Phone: | 972-338-1552 |
| Email: | walter.borges@untdallas.edu |
| Office Hours: | To be announced after first class session |
| Course Format/Structure: | Face-to-face lecture and discussion |
| Classroom: | Founders 2.336 |
| Class Days & Times: | T Th 1-2:20 pm |
| Course Catalog Description: | Alternative theories of the observed behavior of nation states, international and transnational organizations and multinational actors, with explorations of the use of cooperation and coercion to resolve conflicts. |
| Prerequisites: | Completion of the core American Government sequence: PSCI 1040 and either PSCI 1050, 1060 or 1070; if prerequisites are not met, you must obtain the permission of the instructor. |
| Co-requisites: | None |
| Required Text: | Drenzer, Daniel W. 2015. <i>Theories of International Politics and Zombies</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Mingst, Karen A. and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft. 2013. <i>Essentials of International Relations, 6th ed.</i> New York: W.W. Norton. |
| Recommended Texts and References: | Additional readings will be assigned and accessed through online library resources, library reserve, or on the course website. |
| Access to Learning Resources: | UNT Dallas Library: (Founders Hall) phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library e-mail: Library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: (Building 1) phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com |
| Course Goals or Overview: | |
| 1 | This course surveys the major theories and concepts that govern relationships and behaviors among nation-states, international regimes and transnational organizations. The course reviews the principles of sovereignty and anarchy and cooperation, competition, conflict and coercion as strategies to secure national goals in the international arena. |
| 2 | Examples in the course will be drawn from situations involving the foreign policy of both the United States and other countries. Students are expected to read several international news sources (they can be in one language or in several) to collect different perspectives on these situations. The situations pertinent to the course will be determined by the professor after consultation with the students. |

Learning Objectives/Outcomes – At the end of this course, students will be able to:

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| 1 | Communicate effectively about international relations theories and concepts using appropriate terminology for the field of international relations. (Communications Skills) |
| 2 | Demonstrate critical thinking by comparing, contrasting and critiquing concepts of sovereignty and anarchy as the basis for state behavior in the international system; (Critical Thinking) |
| 3 | Analyze, compare and evaluate competing international relations theories and research relating to the behavior of nation-states, international regimes and transnational organizations; (Critical Thinking) |
| 4 | Coherently analyze and write about the concepts of coercion and cooperation in resolving conflicts among international actors; (Critical Thinking, Communications Skills) |
| 5 | Analyze and write about the importance of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, religion and class in international conflict and cooperation; (Social Responsibility and Cultural Diversity) |

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following forms of assessment to determine student proficiency and grades:

Grading Matrix

| Instrument | Measures SLO | Weight (%) | Aggregate |
|---|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Short papers (3) | 1,2,3,4,5 | 20 | 20 |
| Mid-Term Exam | 1,2,3,4,5 | 15 | 35 |
| Final Exam | 1,2,3,4,5 | 20 | 55 |
| Research Paper | 1,2,3,4,5 | 20 | 75 |
| Portfolio (minimum of 8 articles, 12 maximum) | 1,2,3,4,5 | 20 | 95 |
| Participation | 1,2,3,4,5 | 5 | 100 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL: | | | |

UNT Grade Determination

A = 90% or better

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60%

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule, including additional readings and activities, will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. may be added.

| Week | Topics | Related SLO | Readings | Assignments |
|-------|---|------------------|---|---|
| 1-2 | Anarchy - A World Without Order | 1,2 | Mingst: Chapters 1 & 2 Drezner 37-38 | |
| 2 | Power, Principle and Legitimacy of the State | 1,2,3 | Mingst ch 5 Drezner pp 1-36 | 1 st paper due T Sept. 6 |
| 3 | Theories: Realism, Liberalism, Radicalism and Dependency, Constructivism. | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 3 Drezner 37-94 | |
| 4 | An international system? | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 4 | |
| 5 | Individuals and foreign policy: Do people matter? | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 6 Drezner 95-152 | 2 nd paper due Th Sept 27 |
| 6 | Cooperation and Security | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 7 | |
| 7 | MIDTERM (In class Oct. 5) | 1,2,3,4,5 | | |
| 8-9 | Conflict: aggression and war | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 8 | |
| 9 | Deterrence and other games | 1,2,3,4,5 | Axelrod and Schelling (Blackboard) | 3 rd paper due Th Nov 20 |
| 10-11 | International political economy | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 9 | |
| 10-11 | Interdependence and globalization | 1,2,3,4,5 | | |
| 12 | Individuals revisited: Human rights and humanitarian interventions | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 10 | Research Paper due T Nov. 22 |
| 13-14 | Transnational issues, the global commons and governance | 1,2,3,4,5 | Mingst ch 11 Drezner on superheroes (BB) | Portfolio due Th Dec. 1 |
| 14-15 | Threats and issues | 1,2,3,4,5 | | |
| TBA | FINAL EXAM (TBA) | 1,2,3,4,5 | | |

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance): The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untdallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Founders Hall, room 204. (UNTD Policy 7.004)

Student Course Evaluation (CoursEval): Student evaluation of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas, providing information for the university, accreditation agencies, the state higher education agency and the instructor. A short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students. Your comments help me improve my teaching and to figure out what works for students and what doesn't. Please complete the survey when you are notified that it is available.

Assignment Policy:

Assignments come in several flavors. 1. At least five readings will be assigned, with associated quiz questions that focus on reading mastery and critical thinking. These will be handed out at the start of classes and may be submitted at any time, up to the deadline noted in the syllabus. **Late assignments will be penalized 20 percent per day late.** 2. **I do not accept emailed assignments.** If you are unable to hand in the assignment, you may send in an email file to show you had completed the work, but if you do not present a hard copy by the next class, your grade for that assignment is zero. 3. Chapter quizzes, public affairs quizzes and in-class assignments will be given without notice. You are required to keep up with your reading. At least one quiz grade will be dropped, so **there are no quiz make-ups.** 4. Format and citation requirements will be included on written assignments and posted on Blackboard. An American Political Science Association citation sheet provides details of bibliography and citation form, and it is posted on the class pages on Blackboard under the Writing folder.

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity: You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity (Policy 7.002) at http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. In addition, all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers and written assignments must include the following statement: "*On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.*"

Bad Weather Policy: Campus facilities will close and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information please refer to <http://www.untdallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is substantially in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <http://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>

I will monitor attendance for the first five weeks in order to identify those who may be in peril of failing the class. However, you will be treated as responsible adults for most of the semester: You miss class at your own peril, and frequent class absences will cost you participation points. Details of attendance policy will be discussed in class during the first session.

Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic nature of this course makes it difficult for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation is essential to your ability to demonstrate proficiency in the subject.

If you must miss a single, isolated class, you need not notify the instructor, but it becomes your responsibility to obtain notes of the missed class from your colleagues. I do not post the notes of my lectures. Before you ask the professor what was missed, you should have reviewed notes for the missed class.

In the case of extended absences due to illness or crises, you are expected to inform the instructor as soon as possible about the extent of your absence, preferably before the absence occurs. You may be required to produce written evidence of the reasons for your absence.

In all cases, missing exams and other assignments requires a good-faith effort on your part to inform the instructor of your absence beforehand. Unless you have a rock-solid reason for missing the test, you will not be permitted to make it up.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate. (UNTD Policy 7.001)

CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICIES:

- **Do not attempt to communicate with the professor through the Blackboard mail function.** I do not check it and I will not respond. Communicate through my official university e-mail listed at the top of this syllabus. I communicate with you by responding to whatever e-mail address you use to send your message. General notices are posted as announcements on Blackboard and/or as email to your official university address. Failure to check your email is no excuse for missing changes in test dates or assignments.
- **Students are expected to attend class**, since much of the material is not drawn from the text or readings. Most students discover this about the time of the first midterm. The university wants instructors to take attendance (see above), so you are required to sign an attendance sheet with your initials. After the first five weeks of the course, students who have missed two classes or more will be contacted by Student Services about those absences. Attendance does not enhance your grade, but failure to attend will lead to lower grades as much of the course material is not in the books. Missing class will also mean missing pop quizzes based on the current affairs readings.
- **For each two absences, you will lose one point off your participation grade, which is five percent of your final grade.** If you show up to class late, do not expect to have the opportunity to sign the attendance sheet. Your attendance is required at the start of class, so plan accordingly.
- **If you enter late, you are expected to do so as unobtrusively and quietly as possible** Entering class late is sometimes unavoidable.. Please take a seat on the fringes of the class and do not disrupt the lecture by taking a front row seat. Do not attempt to hand in homework while the lecture is going on. If you must leave class, do so quietly.
- **Cell phones must be turned off unless they are being used to record the class or presentations.** Texting, tweeting and other uses are not permitted. If I determine you are using your phone for purposes other than class, you will be required to keep the phone turned off for all future classes. See below.

- **Students who are found to be using their computers for activities other than note-taking will be banned from using the computer in class for any purpose** Computers are a useful tool for taking notes in class, but these machines are often used for a number of other purposes such as emailing, web-surfing, game-playing etc. Note-taking on a computer is permitted in class, but secondary uses are not. See above.. If we should have a guest speaker, everyone will go computer-free for that session.
- **Read the assigned material before class..** The readings have two purposes. First, the text serves to refresh your memory of those distant government classes you once took in middle and high school. Second, the text will introduce you to the themes of collective action dilemmas and principal-agent problems that are endemic to representative democracies. Other readings and assignments will address specific political behavior characteristics, policy problems, and procedural anomalies that are not addressed in the text, so make sure you complete those on time.
- **Participate frequently in discussions in class or ask relevant questions..** Participation will make the instructor's calls on borderline grades easier to make. If you don't want to share your opinion, that's okay, but be prepared to ask a few questions. Don't worry about appearing uninformed or unaware: I was a reporter for 25 years and I know it is better to ask the obvious or dumb question than to assume you know the answer. The failure to ask the obvious question is often why journalists get things wrong.
- **There are no 'right' answers to many of the issues we will discuss**, and you will not be graded on your opinions. However, please take into account that opinions supported by facts are more persuasive than opinions supported by more opinions. Make your arguments accordingly.
- **Flaming or intimidating fellow students will not be tolerated.** Students are expected to be considerate of others. This means silencing cell phones, arriving on time, not leaving early and being respectful of others during discussion and debate. Opinions and arguments are fair game; the speaker is not. Listening courteously is a real world skill, and I have a commitment to civil discourse that I will enforce.
- **Do not regard lecture outlines as substitutes for being in class.** I will post outlines of the lecture presentations (without images and charts) on the class Blackboard page. But you will find that much of what I explain and emphasize is not laid out in detail in the outline.

You will not have access to the actual presentations outside of class. There are several reasons for this:

- 1) One-time use of images and charts for teaching is fair use under current legal rulings, but were I to allow you permanent access to those images, I would have to secure formal permissions for every image.
- 2) Some students substitute post-lecture PowerPoint downloads for attending class or note-taking. Others substitute verbatim regurgitation of PwrPt material on tests and quizzes instead of conducting thoughtful analysis. Studies show that note-taking does enhance student performance, so please develop that skill.
- 3) There is potential for an ownership dispute over course content posted online. The presentations constitute my work product, virtually all of which was assembled before I began teaching at UNTD. Many universities are now enamored with online courses, and many attempt to claim legal ownership of all work prepared by individuals employed at the school or posted on university websites, whether or not the content was compiled on university time or published during university employment. My lecture material and formats were compiled by me outside the UNTD environment after years of study, reading and research. The knowledge and formats in the PowerPoints existed before I began teaching these courses. Previous presentations were adjusted to fit UNT course requirements.