

## **POL SCI 20: World Politics**

### Spring 2019

*(Last updated May 15, 2019)*

**Instructor:** Professor Eric Min

**Email:** eric.min@ucla.edu

**Office:** Bunche Hall, Room 3254

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

or by appointment

**Class:** Royce Hall 190

Tuesdays/Thursdays

2:00 - 3:15 PM

#### Teaching Assistants:

Name	E-mail	Office Hours
Jessica Lee	hlee44@ucla.edu	Wednesdays, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Bunche 3288
Yana Otlan	otlan@ucla.edu	Wednesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Bunche 3288

#### Sections:

Day	Time	Location	TA
Thursday	5:00 - 5:50 PM	Haines Hall A74	Lee
Thursday	6:00 - 6:50 PM	Haines Hall A78	Lee
Thursday	7:00 - 7:50 PM	Haines Hall 110	Lee
Friday	2:00 - 2:50 PM	Public Affairs 1278	Otlan
Friday	3:00 - 3:50 PM	Public Affairs 2319	Otlan
Friday	4:00 - 4:50 PM	Public Affairs 2319	Otlan

## **Course Description and Learning Outcomes**

This course will introduce students to the study of world politics and the present-day international system. We will do so by exploring and answering a series of questions. For example, why is the world (currently) organized into a system of formally independent states? What explains why war or peace exists between or within these states? What factors influence openness to free trade versus protectionism, policies on human rights, severity of environmental pollution, or levels of economic development? How do treaties, international organizations, informal norms, and other tools of foreign policy affect these issues? Are they even effective? Can they deal with new and growing problems that lie ahead? Importantly, we will also learn about and apply the tools necessary to answer these questions in a rigorous and scientific way.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the origins and key actors of the international system
- Understand the incentives that these actors have when adopting specific policies, whether they involve war, trade, human rights, environment, and the like
- Apply these insights to past, current, and potential future international events
- Write a coherent, organized, and thoughtful piece based on evidence and logic

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, some materials we cover may feel challenging and technical. Please do not become overwhelmed if this is the case. We will address these materials during lecture and make time to discuss them further in sections and office hours.

## **Readings and Course Website**

The following textbook is required:

- Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. (Listed as “FLS” on the remainder of the syllabus.)

The UCLA Bookstore sells the fourth edition, which was *just* published. You may save money by purchasing the third edition or renting a digital copy for the quarter. You may also consider buying the second edition if necessary, but do not get the first edition.

Slides for the course will also be posted online the day before each lecture, on which you can take additional notes. I reserve the right to update slides between the time when they are posted on the CCLE site and when they are used in class. Most changes should be minor, and any updated versions will be placed online after lecture.

I will post all announcements and updates for lecture and sections on the CCLE site, so check it and your e-mails regularly.

## Course Requirements and Assessment

You will be assessed through the following, with these weights to your final grade:

- **Section attendance and participation (15%):** Sections meet once a week throughout the quarter and will feature discussion and/or activities connected to recent class readings. Students must attend and participate in sections. This is not only important to drive the section forward. Contributing to discussions is a useful skill for your upcoming classes at UCLA as well as all your future careers. If you must miss a section for university business or due to an emergency, you may arrange to write a two-page response paper to replace only one absence. There is no way to make up additional absences from section.
- **Midterm exam (20%):** The midterm will take place in class on *Tuesday, May 7*. It will cover all material up to the previous class. The exam will include multiple-choice and short answer questions. There will be no make-up midterms unless a student must be away from campus on university business or due to an emergency.
- **Analysis paper (30%):** You will write a single 7-to-8-page analysis paper on a contemporary international event or issue. This paper will give you a chance to apply some of the insights from class to the world. The assignment will be due on *Wednesday, May 29, at 6:00 PM*. More guidance on this paper assignment will be provided in a separate document, and you will discuss this assignment in greater detail with your TA during sections.
  - *Proposal (5%):* You will write a 1-page paper stating what contemporary event or issue you want to explain, as well as what points you may make about it. You are not expected to have a finalized plan—we will not even be done covering all the material yet. This is a chance to get valuable feedback before you get started with writing.
  - *Paper (25%):* The paper should be 7 or 8 pages excluding references.
- **Final exam (35%):** The final will be given on *Monday, June 10, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM*. The location will be announced later in the quarter. The exam will cover all material in the course with slightly more emphasis on materials explored after the midterm. The exam will include multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. There will be no make-up finals unless a student must be away from campus on university business or due to an emergency.

Remember that the Undergraduate Writing Center provides free feedback and support on writing. Go to <http://uwc.ucla.edu> to make an appointment.

## Grading Scale

Grades will be determined using the following scale, where  $x$  represents your grade:

Score	Letter	GPA	Score	Letter	GPA
$94 \geq x$	A	4.0	$74 \leq x < 77$	C	2.0
$90 \leq x < 94$	A-	3.7	$70 \leq x < 74$	C-	1.7
$87 \leq x < 90$	B+	3.3	$67 \leq x < 70$	D+	1.3
$84 \leq x < 87$	B	3.0	$64 \leq x < 67$	D	1.0
$80 \leq x < 84$	B-	2.7	$60 \leq x < 64$	D-	0.7
$77 \leq x < 80$	C+	2.3	$x < 60$	F	0.0

The  $x$  notation is meant to indicate that there will be no rounding of grades. If you get an 89.9, that is a B+.

In most cases, grades are not curved or adjusted in any way. Final grades will only be raised upward in order to ensure that at least 35% of the class gets an A or A-. If more than 35% of grades are an A or A-, no adjustments will be made. This policy will never cause your grade to go down; it will either help or not matter.

## Course Policies

**General Conduct:** Lecture attendance is encouraged but not required. That said, section attendance is required, and you should arrive at both lectures and sections on time. E-mails should be composed with proper punctuation and salutations. Messages that are unprofessional in nature may not receive a response. Written assignments should use professional language. Comments in class should be respectful of other students. Statements and disagreements, whether in lecture, section, or written work, should be expressed using evidence and reasoned arguments instead of hostility. Any statements or actions that harass or discriminate on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, and the like are unacceptable.

Faculty are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator—a *non-confidential* resource—should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

**Academic Accommodations Based on a Disability:** Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. Please do so within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information, visit <http://www.car.ucla.edu>.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Phones:** Laptops, and tablets are permitted for note-taking during this course. In exchange for trusting you to use these devices, I ask that you not use them as distractions. It is very strongly recommended that you turn off your Wi-Fi connection during class to eliminate that temptation. I maintain the right to change this policy for either individual students or the entire class if these tools become problems during lectures. Phones are not permitted and should be put away in silent mode.

**Academic Dishonesty:** As stated in the UCLA Student Conduct Code, violations or attempted violations of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions, or facilitating any of the above. See <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Individual-Student-Code> for more details. If you are ever unsure about whether something counts as academic dishonesty, chances are that it does, but always feel free to ask me as soon as possible. UCLA takes academic dishonesty very seriously and does not accept ignorance as a defense. Being caught for academic dishonesty not only affects your GPA, but will and must be reported to the Dean's Office and the Office of Student Conduct. This may lead to suspension, revocation of financial aid or scholarships, and/or dismissal. If you are having problems with coursework, there are clear and much better alternatives to academic dishonesty. Please come talk to me or consult the available student resources at <https://firstrttogo.ucla.edu/Resources-for-Students/Campus-Resource>.

**Late Work:** Late papers lose one full letter grade (10%) for each 24 hours they are submitted after the deadline. After 72 hours, papers will receive a zero.

**Make-up Exams:** There will be no make-up exams unless a student must be away from campus on university business or due to an emergency. The student must provide documentation.

**Regrading:** Regrade requests must involve a specific potential error. They cannot be general appeals for a second look, involve issues of illegible writing, or object to the form and/or content of the assignment or exam.

Requests for regrades should submit the issue to their TA. The request should (1) be submitted within 72 hours of the work being returned, (2) include the original graded work, and (3) come with a document at least one paragraph long but no longer than one page that presents the rationale. This document should not be used to provide a new or more developed response that was not evident in the original work. Any requests that do not follow these requirements will be rejected.

The work will be graded by another TA or Professor Min, and this new grade will be final. Keep in mind your grade may fall, stay the same, or rise.

**Office Hours:** On most weeks, I will have office hours on Wednesdays between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. I welcome and encourage you to attend my and/or your TA's office hours. If you cannot make these scheduled office hours, feel free to contact me so that we can try to find a time that does work.

**E-mails:** During the regular work week, I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours. I will not do so during the weekend unless it is a personal emergency. Your TAs will follow a similar policy. E-mails are only appropriate for briefs questions or comments. Anything more substantive should be discussed in person during office hours. Before sending a question about the course itself, review the syllabus to make sure that answer is not already provided.

**Other Personal Issues:** Life can throw surprises that make it hard to focus on schoolwork. If you are experiencing a personal problem that is affecting your participation in this class, come speak with me. Please do not wait until the end of the quarter or after the quarter to talk about issues that impacted your academic performance. If you are not comfortable talking about these issues with me, please consider reaching out to the other student resources on campus, most of which are listed at <https://firstrtogo.ucla.edu/Resources-for-Students/Campus-Resource>. Services exist to address counseling, student wellness, equity, sexual harassment, financial stress, and more. We all want you to succeed.

## Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Any and all changes will be posted online and announced in class.

### **Tuesday, April 2: Introductions, overview, and how we study world politics**

We will go over the syllabus and establish course expectations. We will then have a brief introduction to the study of international relations. What are the concepts, tools, and perspectives we can use to understand world politics?

- FLS, Introduction

### **Thursday, April 4: A ridiculously brief history of the global order**

Our current world did not appear out of nowhere, and it has not always looked like it does now. What are the origins of our modern international order? Why did we organize ourselves into states? Why is there no world government that wields power over everyone?

- FLS, Chapter 1

### **Tuesday, April 9: Interests and bargaining**

Each state has its own set of things that it wants from international politics. What exactly do states want? How do they interact with other actors to (try to) achieve these goals?

- FLS, Chapter 2

### **Thursday, April 11: War (part 1)**

War is incredibly deadly, enormously costly, and seemingly irrational. Why does it happen? Why can states not figure out a way to resolve these issues in a peaceful manner? Is there a rational way to explain why states engage in such extreme acts of aggression? When, why, and how do states decide whether to keep fighting or to terminate hostilities?

- FLS, Chapter 3

### **Tuesday, April 16: War (part 2)**

We will continue our exploration of war from the previous lecture.

- FLS, Chapter 3

**Thursday, April 18: Domestic politics and war**

The reasons for war we have covered so far do not account for political factors within each state. How do domestic interests and politics influence the likelihood of war or peace? Are democracies fundamentally different from non-democracies in how they deal with wars?

- FLS, Chapter 4

**Friday, April 19: Analysis paper proposal due**

You must submit your 1-page analysis paper proposal via Turnitin by 6:00 PM. Further details are provided in a separate document.

**Tuesday, April 23: International institutions and war**

There is no such thing as a world government or police to stop conflict, but plenty of institutions still attempt to prevent and manage it. What are these institutions, and how do they help address wars? What explains their successes and failures?

- FLS, Chapter 5

**Thursday, April 25: No lecture**

Professor Min will be away for a conference, so we will have no lecture on this day. Congratulations. Sections will still take place as regularly scheduled.

**Tuesday, April 30: Non-state violence from civil wars**

In recent years, more wars have taken place within states instead of between them. What are similarities and differences between interstate and civil wars? How well do explanations for interstate conflicts apply to intrastate ones? How do international factors shape these wars?

- FLS, Chapter 6 (up to “Terrorism: Why Kill Civilians?”)

**Thursday, May 2: Non-state violence from terrorism**

Increasing violence by non-state actors has not only come from civil wars, but also terrorism. What motivates terrorists to kill and behave in the ways that they do? What can be done to address these acts of violence?

- FLS, Chapter 6 (from “Terrorism: Why Kill Civilians?” to end of chapter)

**Tuesday, May 7: Midterm**

The midterm will take place in the same room and at the same time as normal lectures. It will involve a combination of multiple-choice and short answer questions.

**Thursday, May 9: Leaders and war**

We now know that both state-level and domestic political factors impact the likelihood of war. But decisions are ultimately made by individuals. How do the life experiences and personal characteristics of individual leaders at the top of the state's government affect whether or not they choose to use force?

*Note:* One of our TAs, Yana, will give this guest lecture. This material is not optional; it will be part of the final exam and can play a part in your analysis papers.

- Horowitz, Michael, Allan C. Stam, and Cali M. Ellis. 2015. *Why Leaders Fight*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 (pages 25-57).

**Tuesday, May 14: The economics and politics of international trade**

States trade goods and services with each other all the time. Why is trade so appealing? If it is so appealing, why do states often restrict it? What role do international institutions play in facilitating or impeding trade?

- FLS, Chapter 7

**Thursday, May 16: Movement of money and international financial relations**

Just as goods and services cross borders, so does money. How and why do actors make investments abroad? In what ways do these capital investments complicate international politics? What happens when migration does not just involve capital, but people?

- FLS, Chapter 8

**Tuesday, May 21: Currency and international monetary relations**

We use the term “money” casually, but states use different currencies to buy and sell with each other. How are international monetary relations managed, especially when no world government regulates them? What happens when a currency collapses, and what does that even mean?

- FLS, Chapter 9

**Thursday, May 23: Wealth, poverty, and development**

Some states are extremely rich, while others are incredibly poor. What helps to explain this? How do international politics influence the ways in which states can develop out of poverty?

- FLS, Chapter 10

**Tuesday, May 28: International law and norms**

As we have already seen, no world government exists to enforce any rules, but the international community still manages to imperfectly shape states' behaviors. How are these rules created, and why are they ever followed?

- FLS, Chapter 11

**Wednesday, May 29: Analysis paper due**

You must submit your 7-to-8-page final analysis paper via Turnitin by 6:00 PM. Further details are provided in a separate document.

**Thursday, May 30: Human rights**

The notion of human rights has deep historical (and Western) roots, and adherence to it varies widely around the world. What are the intellectual and legal origins of human rights? Why are they controversial? When and why do states promote or observe international human rights laws?

- FLS, Chapter 12

**Tuesday, June 4: Cooperating on the global environment**

Almost everyone values the health of Earth's environment, and urgency to act on this issue has only intensified. Why is it so difficult to work together on environmental issues, even when they risk existential consequences? What have international institutions accomplished in this arena?

- FLS, Chapter 13

**Thursday, June 6: Challenges to the international order and closing remarks**

The current international order is only about 75 years old, and history shows that no international order is permanent. What challenges lie ahead? How will world politics change in the face of growing issues like weapons of mass destruction, the rise of China, and the rise of nationalist populism? We will end the course with some “final” thoughts on the future of world politics.

- FLS, Chapter 14

**Monday, June 10: Final exam (11:30 AM - 2:30 PM)**

Please note that the day and time for the final exam are different from typical lectures. The final exam will involve a combination of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. The location will be announced later in the quarter.