

# South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

## POLS 250: Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2024

### I. Basic Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Mary E. Witlacil (she/her/hers)

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### II. Tentative Course Schedule

Weekly reading list subject to change. Whenever changes must be made to the reading list, these will be done with at least one week notice.

All readings can be found on D2L or in:

- John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens, eds., *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, 9th Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023).

Please check the weekly schedule on D2L, as the readings are subject to change.

### Section I. Theoretical Foundations & Key Concepts in I.R.

At the most basic level, International Relations is the study of states and other actors that exist at the international level. States are clearly defined, internationally recognized geographic territories that maintain sovereignty and political autonomy, and exercise 'a monopoly on the use of force' within their territories. States can exercise force to defend their resources, which creates the possibility for tension and conflict on the international stage. For this reason, any study of states is also a study of power, economics, security, military, agents, organizations, and how each of these elements intersects with and complicates the others.

#### Orienting Questions:

1. What is international politics?
2. What is a state, why do states exist, and how does a state come into existence?
3. Is there a power vacuum at the international level? If so, what—and, more importantly, *who*—fills this power vacuum?
4. Which theories are orthodox and which theories are heterodox in IR? Which of these theories best describes international politics?

#### Week 1: Introductions & Key Concepts in International Relations

- Monday August 26: **Introduction to the Course**
  - Syllabus and Introductions
- Wednesday August 28: **States & Statehood**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Introduction (p. 5-18).
  - Peggy Hoyle, "Somaliland: Passing the Statehood Test," *IRBU Boundary and Security Bulletin* 8, no. 3 (2000): 80-91.
- Friday August 30: **Sovereignty & Self-Determination**

- Onyeonoro S. Kamanu, "Secession and the Right of Self-Determination: An O.A.U. Dilemma," *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 12, no. 3 (1974): 355-376 (21pp).

## Week 2: NO CLASS

- Monday September 2: **Labor Day:** No Class
- Wednesday September 4: **APSA:** No Class
- Friday September 6: **APSA:** No Class

## Theoretical Foundations of International Relations

### Week 3: Orthodox Theories in IR: Realism & Liberalism

- Monday September 9: **Realism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 9: "Realism," (pp. 132-146).
  - **Recommended:**
    - Hans Morgenthau. "A Realist Theory of International Politics," in *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 7th edition. (Boston: McGraw-Hill Education: 2005): pp. 3–18.
- Wednesday September 11: **Liberalism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 7: "Liberal Internationalism," (pp. 103-115).
  - **Recommended:**
    - Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry. 1999. "The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order." *Review of International Studies* 25(2):179–196.
- Friday September 13
  - **Friday Activity 1**

### Week 4: Heterodox Theories in IR: Constructivism & Marxism

- Monday September 16: **Social Constructivism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 13, "Social Constructivism," (pp. 194-212).
  - **Recommended:**
    - Renee Fossett, "Mapping Inuktitut: Inuit View of the Real World," in Jennifer S.H. Brown and Elizabeth Vibert, eds., *Reading Beyond Words: Contexts for Native History* (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 1996), pp. 74-92 (18pp)
- Wednesday September 18: **Marxism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 8, "Marxist Theories of International Relations," (pp. 116-131).
  - **Recommended:**
    - Robert W. Cox. 1981. "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory." *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10(2):126–155.
- Friday September 20: **M Day!**
  - **Friday Activity 2**

### Week 5: Heterodox Theories in IR: Feminism & Postcolonialism

- Monday September 23: **Feminism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 10, "Feminism," (pp. 147-161).

- Carol Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals,” *Signs* 12 No. 4 (1987): 687-718.
  - **Recommended:**
    - Sarah Smith, “Introducing Feminism in International Relations Theory,” in *E-International Relations Foundations*, (2018), (pp. 1-4).
- Wednesday September 25: **Postcolonialism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 11, “Postcolonial and Decolonial Approaches,” (pp. 162-178).
  - **Recommended:**
    - Kelebogile Zvobgo and Meredith Loken. 2020. “Why Race Matters in International Relations.” *Foreign Policy*.
    - Sheila Nair, “Introducing Postcolonialism in International Relations Theory,” in *E-International Relations Foundations*, (2017): pp. 1-5.
- Friday September 27:
  - **Friday Activity 3**

## Section II: Institutions, Norms, and Conflict

Beyond the state, institutions, international organizations, norms, and threat of conflict govern the international arena. Institutions include both international organizations, but also international law. Unlike state laws, international law is often not binding, and does not have the same mechanisms for punishment or sanctions. This is why constructivists would argue that the international arena is governed more by social and political norms rather than by international laws. Liberal institutionalists would argue that international harmony is maintained by liberal organizations that compel peace through trade, diplomacy, and/or mutual reliance. By contrast, realist scholars would argue that the threat of conflict and war is what compels compliance to the international order. In this section we will learn about international organizations, norms, humanitarianism, and conflict.

### Orienting Questions:

1. If international laws often lack “teeth,” what is the purpose they serve?
1. Are the threat of conflict and the fear of mutual destruction what sustains international peace?
2. Is humanitarian intervention ever justified and to what end?

### Week 6: International Organization and International Law

- Monday September 30: **International Organizations**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 20: “International Organizations in World Politics,” (pp. 308-322).
- Wednesday October 2: **International Law**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 19: “International Law,” (pp. 293-307).
- Friday October 4:
  - **Friday Activity 4**

### Week 7: War & Security

- Monday October 7: **War**
  - Kori Schake, “What Causes War?” *Orbis* 61, no. 4 (2017): pp. 449-462.

- *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 14: “War & World Politics,” (pp. 213-227).
- Wednesday October 9: **Security**
  - Steve Smith, “The Contested Concept of Security,” in *Critical Security Studies and World Politics*, (DeGruyter, 2005): pp. 27-62.
  - Simon Dalby, “Reframing climate security: The “planetary” as policy context,” *Geoforum* 155 (2024): pp. 1-8.
  - **Recommended:**
    - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 15: “International & Global Security,” (pp. 228-243).
- Friday October 11
  - **Friday Activity 5**

### Week 8: Human Security & Gender Insecurity

- Monday October 14:
  - **No Classes: Indigenous People’s Day**
- Wednesday October 16: **Human Security?**
  - Roland Paris, “Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?” *International Security* 26 No. 2 (2001): pp. 87-102.
- Friday October 18: **Gender Insecurity**
  - Valerie M. Hudson, Mary Caprioli, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Rose McDermott, and Chad F. Emmett, “The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States,” *International Security* 33 No. 3 (2009): pp. 7-45.

### Week 9: Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention

- Monday October 21: **Human Rights**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 32: “Human Rights,” pp. 505-520.
- Wednesday October 23
  - **Readings: Humanitarian Intervention**
    - Eric A. Heinze, “The Morality of Intervention in International Theory,” in *Waging Humanitarian War: The Ethics, Law, and Politics of Humanitarian Intervention* (SUNY University Press: 2009): pp. 15-32.
  - **Recommended:**
    - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 33: “Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics,” pp. 521-536.
- Friday October 25
  - **Friday Activity 6**

## Section III. International Political Economy

Globalization, trade, debt, and inequality mark international political economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Beginning with the emergence of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, developing countries could borrow money, based on conditional terms, in order to develop their economies. The assumption at the core of this arrangement, is that development according to a particular standard is a desirable thing. Unfortunately structural adjustment policies—the terms upon which international organizations would lend to developing

countries—often wreaked more havoc than the benefits they accrued. In this section, we will learn about how international trade compels diplomatic relations, and how development can result in poverty and systemic inequality.

### **Orienting Questions:**

1. How does trade between states compel diplomacy and in what ways can trade relations sour?
2. Who decides the standards of development and who benefits from these standards?
3. What are the consequences of development and international trade relations gone awry?

### **Week 10: Globalization & Its Discontents**

- Monday October 28: **Political Economy & Global Trade**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 16: “Global Political Economy,” pp. 244-259.
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 28: “Global Trade and Global Finance,” pp. 441–455.
- Wednesday October 30: **Everyday IPE & Social Reproduction**
  - Juanita Elias and Adrienne Roberts, “Feminist Global Political Economies of the Everyday: From Bananas to Bingo,” *Globalizations* 13, no. 6 (2016): 787-800.
- Friday November 1
  - **Friday Activity 7: MANDATORY:** In-Class Peer-Review Session

### **Week 11: Development – Poverty, Inequality, and Hunger**

- Monday November 4: **Poverty & Inequality**
  - Andrew Heywood and Ben Whitham, “Poverty, Development, and Inequality,” in *Global Politics*, Third Edition (Bloomsbury Press: 2023) pp. 457–476 (only read until the section titled: “Development and the Politics of Aid”).
- Wednesday November 6: **Hunger & Development**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 27: “Poverty, Hunger, and Development,” pp. 425-440.
- Friday November 8
  - **Friday Activity 8**

### **Week 12: Development – Debt & Aid**

- Monday November 11: **Sovereign Debt, Poverty, & Inequality Continued**
  - Andrew Heywood and Ben Whitham, “Poverty, Development, and Inequality,” in *Global Politics*, Third Edition (Bloomsbury Press: 2023) pp. 476–490 (read from “Development and the Politics of Aid” until the end).
  - Jerome Roos, “Introduction: The Sovereign Debt Puzzle” in *Why Not Default?: The Political Economy of Sovereign Debt*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press: 2019), pp. 1-20.
- Wednesday November 13: **Why don’t countries default?**
  - Jerome Roos, “Why do Countries Repay their Debt?” in *Why Not Default?: The Political Economy of Sovereign Debt*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press: 2019), pp. 21–39.
- Friday November 15
  - **Friday Activity 9**

## Section IV. Contemporary Issues in Global Politics

If scholars have learned anything since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is that borders have become increasingly permeable to myriad “threats.” From global pandemics, climate change, and mass migration, to international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and pollution—state borders are vulnerable to innumerable environmental, security, population, and health risks. In this section, we will discuss global environmental politics and climate change, as well as global health in a post-pandemic world. In the final two weeks of the semester, you and your classmates will be able to vote to learn about WMDs, terrorism, or migration.

### Orienting Questions:

1. If borders are porous then why are they necessary?
2. What are the ways in which non-military risks can become security threats when they move to the international scale?
3. Can we, as students of international politics and citizens of South Dakota in the United States, make small efforts toward big change in international politics? If so, what might these efforts look like?

### Week 13: Global Environmental Politics

- Monday November 18: **Global Environmental Politics**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 24: “Environmental Issues,” pp. 377-293.
- Wednesday November 20: **Climate Security**
  - Simon Dalby, “Environmental Security and Climate Change,” in *Oxford Encyclopedia of International Studies* (Oxford University Press: 2010) pp. 1-25.
- Friday November 22: **APT: No Class**

### Week 14: Global Health & Flex Day

- Monday November 25: **Global Health**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 25: “Global Health,” pp. 394-408.
- Wednesday November 27: **Flex Day!**
- Friday November 29: **No Class – Fall Break**

### Week 15: Flex Week – Vote on Topics!

- Monday December 2: **Flex Day!**
- Wednesday December 4: **Flex Day!**
- Friday December 6
  - **Friday Activity 10: Review Session & End of Semester Wrap-Up**

## III. Flex Week Topics:

- **Nuclear Deterrence & the Proliferation of WMDs**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 3: “The Rise of Modern International Order,” pp. 39-53.
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 30: “Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” pp. 473–487.

- **Terrorism**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 29: “Terrorism and Globalization,” pp. 465-472.
- **Migration**
  - *Globalization of World Politics*, Chapter 26: “Refugees and Forced Migration,” pp. 409-424.