

# **Introduction to International Relations (SOSC1000G)**

**Instructor: Sunhee Park**

**Office: Room 2356**

**Class Hours: 16:30-17:50 (Tuesday, Thursday)**

**Class: Room 5583**

**Office Hours: 14:30-15:30 (Wednesday)**

## **Course Description**

This class is designed to introduce representative theories of international relations to students and help them develop an analytical perspective on major issues in international security and international political economy. To this end, the class is divided into three sections.

In the first section, we will review the process of formation and change of the international order, centering on Western Europe, and focusing on important historical events. The second section will introduce representative theories that explain international relations, namely, Realism, Liberalism, Marxism. The third section will examine international security, international political economy, and international organizations, which are the core topics of international relations research. Furthermore, it will also address specialized topics such as state death and a rising China.

## **Learning Outcomes**

After taking this course, student should be able to:

1. Explain the main concepts in international relations
2. Explain the key theories in international relations
3. Analyze international events using diverse theories from international relations; think analytically about international events

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures, documentaries, presentation, discussion

## **Grading**

1. First and second examination (40%): The first exam will comprise 20% of the final grade. This will cover the materials up to main theories. The second exam will comprise 20% of the grade and cover the materials from the first exam. Both exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answers.
2. In-class pop quiz (10%): Some classes will start with a short in-class quiz (multiple choice and/or short answers) to check your understanding of the material covered during that week. The lowest of these pop-quiz scores will be dropped.  
\*\*How to prepare: Prepare by reading the lecture notes that are posted on the afternoon before class.
3. Group discussion (20%): In some classes, you will discuss a topic given prior to the class. You are expected to study the topic before the class and meet with your group during the class. After the group discussion, you will present a group opinion (and discuss/debate with other groups). The lowest of these group discussion scores will be dropped.
4. Presentation (30%): The details will be determined after the add/drop period.
5. Class attendance and participation: An extra 5 percentage points will be given for perfect attendance after the Add/Drop period. Students who miss class due to a valid medical excuse should present documentation to the instructor. A maximum of 5 percentage points will be awarded to students who contribute actively to class discussions.

A+: 97~ ; A: 93~97; A-: 90~93

B+: 87~90; B: 83~87; B-: 80~83

C+: 77~80; C: 73~77; C-: 70~73

D: 60~70; F: ~60

## **Course Materials**

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds (BSO). 2021. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Third International Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Non-textbook materials necessary for class will be uploaded to Canvas.

## **Notice**

- 1) Lecture notes: Lecture notes will be posted to Canvas on the afternoon before class.
- 2) Cheating and plagiarism: If cheating or plagiarism is detected for any assessments, the student will be given a score of zero on that assessment and will be barred from inputting the course evaluation.  
Rule of thumb: To avoid plagiarism, nothing should be copied and pasted unless it is a properly cited quotation.
- 3) Late assignment submission: If an assignment is submitted after the deadline, 3 percentage points will be deducted for every 12-hour delay in assignment submission. (e.g., 0–12 hours: 3 points deducted/ 12–24 hours: 6 points deducted/24 – 36 hours: 9 points deducted, etc.).
- 4) Additional exams: In principle, there are no additional exams.
- 5) Syllabus: This syllabus lays out the future lesson schedule and lesson policy. The schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If there are any changes, students will be notified in class.

## **Course Schedule**

Week 1. Introduction to Course

- Reading: BSO Introduction

## **Section 1: World History**

Weeks 2-4

World History 1: The Establishment of the Modern International Order and the Cold War

- Reading: BSO Chs. 2-3

World History 2: International Order after the Cold War

- Reading: BSO Ch. 4
- Documentary

## **Section 2: International Relations Theories**

Weeks (4)5-7. Theories of International Relations: (Neo)Realism, (Neo)Liberalism, Marxism  
(+ Rational Choice Theory\*\*\*)

- Reading: BSO Chs. 6-8, Additional Reading
- Documentary
- Special Topic 1: State Death\*\*\*

Week 7(8): First Exam

## **Section 3: Main Topics in International Relations**

Weeks 8(9)-11

Topic 1: International Security

- Reading: BSO Chs. 12, 14
- Documentary

Topic 2: International Political Economy

- Reading: BSO Chs. 13, 22

Topic 3: International Organizations

- Reading: BSO Chs. 16-17

Special Topic 2: Rising China\*\*\*

Possible Addition: Third-party Intervention\*\*\*

Reading: BSO (Non International Edition) Ch. 32

Week(s) 12(-13): Presentation

Week 13: Second Exam

\*\*\*: Might not be covered, depending on progress of lectures.

Reading will be provided.