

**University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**  
**Department of Political Science, Public Administration and Nonprofit Management**  
**Introduction to International Relations**  
**POLS 2420, Sec 0, CRN 46684**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2014**  
**MWF 9:00 to 9:50AM, Hunter Hall 303**

**Instructor:** Vasabjit Banerjee

**Office:** Fletcher Hall, 417-I

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10AM to 11AM; Thursday 10AM to 11AM; and, by appointment

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**Course Catalog Description:** An examination of the theoretical, historical and behavioral causes of war and peace. Focus on the role of power, sovereignty, and international law on world politics. On demand.

**Course Objectives:** International Relations is characterized a rapidly changing field of study. Traditionally, the primary actors have been: states like the United Kingdom and Mexico and International Organizations, such as the United Nations. At present, however, large Multinational Corporations such as Microsoft and Siemens, Nongovernmental Organizations such as the World Wild Life Fund and the Hezbollah, ethnic groups like the Zulus and the Shona, and religious groups such as Muslims and Christians, are playing an increasingly important role. Consequently, scholars have developed insightful theories that explain why and how these actors interact with one another, as well as predict the outcomes of these interactions.

**Learning Objectives:** This course aims to introduce students to theories of International Relations. The course also prepares students to use such theories to understand the interests of states (and societies within them), as well as the functioning of international organizations.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 2013. **(WP)**

Drezner, Daniel W.. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011. **(TIPZ)**

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

**1. Discussions**

Due to the moderate size of the class, you shall be graded on your participation in class, especially on topics and group exercises that may be provided by me. Be-aware that I am judging you regarding your knowledge of the assigned readings for that particular class, how well you connect it with prior readings, and your ability to construct new insights.

**2. Attendance**

You must endeavor to attend all classes. I do not take attendance, although I reserve the right to do so. **However, there will be four surprise quizzes worth 1/3 of the total points, to reward both preparedness and attendance.** Furthermore, at the end of a thematic set of readings, I shall mention their order of importance for the final exam and the surprise quizzes.

Sickness and family emergencies must be reported prior to a class or within 24 hours of the missed class; proof of cause will be required.

### 3. Classroom Conduct

Ask yourself, "is my behavior acceptable in a business meeting?" If it is unacceptable there, then it is unacceptable in our class. Unacceptable behavior includes: sleeping in a class or putting one's head down on the desk, reading newspapers or magazines, doing homework for other classes, using telephones, being on social media, and conducting conversations that interfere with class activities.

### 4. Assignments

You must do your assigned readings for the classes.

You must appear for the Final Exam.

You must make the two assigned presentations.

You must submit the three assigned papers.

The assigned papers must be: typed; in 12-point font size; Times New Roman in font style; double spaced; Page Numbered; with 1-1.25 inch margins; proofread for spelling and grammatical errors; and, stapled. They must also include, at the top right hand corner of the first page: the student's name; my name; the course number; assignment title; and the date the assignment is turned in.

Written by: Charles Chaplin

Written for: Vasabjit Banerjee

Course: Introduction to International Relations, POLS 2420

Assignment: Paper 1 – "Insert your Title Here"

Date: Month/Day/Year

### 5. Academic Integrity

"To plagiarize means to take someone else's words and/or ideas (or patterns of ideas) and to present them to the reader as if they are yours. Plagiarism, then, is an act of stealing." (From *Plagiarism* in the UTC Students Handbook, Pg. 4-6). This offence will result in an automatic F (or 0 Points) on the particular project, and the docking of a full letter grade at the end of the semester (from A to B, B to C, and so on). It may also result in you failing the course and being reported to the administration. Please consult the online Students Handbook: <<http://www.utc.edu/dean-students/pdfs/academics.pdf>> .

### 6. Students with Disabilities

Students with visual, hearing, physical, and/or learning disabilities that may require modification of the curriculum, instruction, or assessment should contact me. Modifications and accommodations will be made after the student has presented documentation indicating qualification for services from the Disability Resource Center (Tel.: 425-4006; Room 102, Frist Hall). For more information on students with disabilities, go to their website at: <http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or <http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>.

#### **EVALUATION:**

Class Participation	20 Points
Participation and Preparedness	
Surprise Quizzes: 4 x 20 Points	80 Points
Presentations: 2 x 15 Points	30 Points
Scenario Days: 2 x 10 Points	20 Points
Papers	
Paper 1	25 Points
Paper 2	25 Points
Paper 3	50 Points
Final Exams	50 Points
Total	300 Points

#### **REQUIRED SCENARIO DAYS**

You are required to submit a 1 – 1.5 Page write-up on the given topic and prepare to talk in class on the scenarios. I shall lead the discussion. Fifty percent of the grade will be based on the write-up and fifty percent on class participation.

##### **Scenario I:**

We are all members of a new country, West Phalia. We just declared ourselves independent and now must figure out what a new state should do. We are also recognized by a few countries. What international concerns should we prioritize: security, trade, or something else?

Secondly, while dealing with important matters of a new state (like designing a flag and picking a national anthem), we notice the growing military in our neighbor, appropriately named East Phalia, in which we were once part of a united Phalia. How should we respond to East Phalia? Should we build up our military in a similar fashion, appeal to potential allies or international organizations, or something else? Would your suggestions differ based on our geography (if we were landlocked vs. bordering a major body of water vs. being an island)? Similarly, what historical or intelligence would potentially influence your decision?

##### **Scenario II:**

Which is a bigger threat to international security—terrorism or the proliferation of nuclear weapons? As resources are limited to fight either threat, what areas do we give primary importance? Should our policy focus on international coordination or going it alone? What types of terrorist attacks or nuclear issues can we

envision? Where are the potential hotspots? Finally, are there potential backlashes to any actions you suggest?

## **REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS**

The topics of the first and second presentation are that of your first and second assigned papers. The presentation must demonstrate Clear Ideas, Supporting Evidence, and Organization.

The use of technology, such as PowerPoint, and charts and graphs is encouraged. You shall present for 3-4 Minutes. I shall not hesitate to stop you if you go over the allotted time.

## **REQUIRED PAPERS**

During the first four weeks of classes, I shall have 15 minute modules on paper writing. Prior results indicate that following my instructions and understanding the concepts leads to significant increases in students' grades for papers.

### **Paper 1: The Interests of and Threats to a State**

#### **Minimum Length: 4 Pages**

First choose a state. Second, select the top three domestic and/or international interests (such as economic development, democratization, peace between warring groups) of that state or society and the top three domestic and/or international threats to these interests.

Subsequently, explain the importance of the selected interests and threats, that is, why they matter more than others. Do empirical research outside of assigned readings and cite at least four different articles/chapters/books in your paper.

### **Paper 2: International and Nongovernmental Solutions to the Top Threat and the Top Interest**

#### **Minimum Length: 4 Pages**

First, choose the topmost (out of the three you presented in Paper 1) interest of the state you selected and the topmost threat (out of the three you presented in Paper 1).

Second, explain how you would resolve this threat: by using one or more International Organizations (for example, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO) and/or Regional Organizations (for example, AU, EU, and ASEAN) or Nongovernmental Organizations (Greenpeace, CRY, WWF). Do empirical research outside of assigned readings and cite at least four different articles/chapters/books in your paper.

### **Paper 3: Effects on Other Interests and Threats; and Complete Paper Submission**

#### **Minimum Length: 12 Pages**

First explain whether and how your chosen solution to the topmost threat to the topmost interest that you chose in Paper 2 affects the two other interests and threats that you selected in Paper 1. Second, explain whether and how you would resolve these issues.

The Final Paper must integrate Papers 1, 2, and 3 into a coherent article. Hint: after your summary Introduction, your first section should be based on Paper 1, the second section on Paper 2, and the third section on the new query for Paper 3, which will be followed by the Conclusion.

## **CLASSES:**

### **First Week: Introduction to International Relations**

Monday, August 18

Introductions and Syllabus Reading

Wednesday, August 20

WP: Introduction, xix-xxxiii, and Chapter One: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction

Friday, August 22

TIPZ: Ch. 1, Introduction to the Undead, and Ch. 2, The Zombie Literature

### **Second Week: The Common Factors of World Politics**

Monday, August 25 and Wednesday, August 27

WP: Ch. 2, Understanding Interests, Interactions and Institutions

Friday, August 29

TIPZ: Ch. 3, Defining a Zombie, and Ch. 4, Distracting Debates about Flesh-eating Ghouls

### **Third Week: Conflicts and Realism**

~~Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)~~ and Wednesday, September 3

WP: Ch. 3 Why are There Wars?

Friday: September 5

TIPZ: Ch. 5, The *Realpolitik* of the Living Dead

### **Fourth Week: Conflicts and Liberalism**

Monday, September 8 and Wednesday, September 10

WP: Ch. 5, International Institutions and War

TIPZ, Ch. 6, Regulating the Undead in a Liberal World Order

Friday, September 12

Scenario I

### **Fifth Week: Conflicts and Domestic Politics**

Monday, September 15 and Wednesday, September 17

WP: Ch. 4, Domestic Politics and War

### **Friday, September 19**

TIPZ: Ch. 7, Domestic Politics: Are All Zombie Politics Local, and Ch. 8, Bureaucratic Politics: The “Pulling and Hauling” of Zombies

**Sixth Week: New Wars and Terrorism**

Monday, September 22 and Wednesday, September 24

WP: Ch. 6, Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

Friday, September 26

Paper I Presentations

**Seventh Week: Economic Aspects of International Relations I: Trade**

Monday, September 29 and Wednesday, October 1

WP: Ch. 7, International Trade

Friday, October 3

Paper I Presentations

**Eighth Week: Economic Aspects of International Relations II: Development**

Monday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 8

WP: Ch. 10, Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations

Friday, October 10

Paper I Presentations

**Ninth Week: Economic Aspects of International Relations III: Financial and Monetary**

Monday, October 13; Wednesday, October 15; and, Friday, October 17

WP: Ch. 9, International Monetary Relations, and Ch. 8, International Financial Relations

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13: PAPER I, DUE

**Tenth Week: Transnational Politics I**

~~Monday, October 20 (Fall Break)~~ and Wednesday, October 22

WP: Ch. 11, Transnational Law and Norms

Friday, October 24

Ch. 8: The Social Construction of Zombies

**Eleventh Week: Transnational Politics II**

Monday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 29

WP: Ch. 12, Human Rights

Friday, October 31

Paper II Presentations

**Twelfth Week: Transnational Politics III**

Monday, November 3 and Wednesday, November 5

WP: Ch. 13, The Global Environment

Friday, November 7

Paper II Presentations

**Thirteenth Week: Prospects for International Relations I: Irrationality and the State**

Monday, November 10 and Wednesday, November 12

TIPZ: Ch. 9, We're Only Human

And Chapter 10, Conclusion

Friday, November 14

Paper II Presentations

**Fourteenth Week: Reviewing the Paradigms**

Monday, November 17; Wednesday, November 19; and Friday, November 21

WP: Ch. 14, The Future of International Politics

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17: PAPER II, DUE

**Fifteenth Week: Wrap Up**

Monday, November 24; ~~November 26; November 28 (Thanksgiving Break)~~

Scenario II

**Sixteenth Week: Examination Review**

Monday, December 1

TBA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1: PAPER III, DUE

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, December 3: 8-10AM**