

PSC 231: an Introduction to International Relations Spring, 2017

This course satisfies the UNLV International or Foreign Culture requirement. PSC 231 provides an overview of International Relations, which will include investigating topics such as Power, War, International Systems, and the Future of IR. Additionally, we will learn about IR theories that seek to explain the phenomena we see in international politics.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the concepts of International Relations;
2. To explore the history of analyzing international politics systematically;
3. To become familiar with how non-state actors have, and continue to, effect international politics;
4. To examine how globalization, countries, and individuals interact; and to give thought to what international politics might look like in the future.

Required Books:

Mingst, Karen A and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft. 2017. *Essentials of International Relations 7th ed.* New York: W.W. Norton.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. 2003 *The Prince*. (George Bull Translation). New York: Penguin Group

Additional readings will include book chapters and articles that I have uploaded to Webcampus.

Grading: Midterm Exam 1	100	A	400-360
Midterm Exam 2	100	B+	359-348
Final Exam	100	B	347-332
Group Project	50	B-	331-320
Quizzes	50	C+	319-308
		C	307-292
		C-	291-280
		D	279-240
		F	< 240

Course Expectations:

Midterms and Final (100 pts each): There will be 2 midterm exams that will cover the first 2 sections of the course material, and a final exam that will cover the entire course. Anything from the textbook, readings, powerpoints, and classroom discussion could appear on an exam. Exams will be done via Webcampus, and they will be open source (open notes, book, powerpoints, internet, anything but another person). The midterm and final will have a time limit, and once they are begun they must be finished in one sitting.

Quizzes (50 pts): There will be 6 quizzes during this course, and the lowest score will be dropped. Quizzes will be unannounced, and they will include questions that relate to **that day's readings**. Questions will not be overly technical, but students will need to have read the assigned material in order to do well on them. Unless a student has an excused absence (official university excuse, doctor's excuse, etc.) the day of a quiz, he/she **will NOT** be allowed to retake it.

Group Project & Presentation (50 pts): Students will be expected to work within a group on a given topic of their choice, and then present their research to the class. Groups will analyze an IO or NGO, and then present to the class in a 15-20 minute presentation followed by a 15-20 minute discussion. For the presentation, students will be expected to be **professional** in appearance (no t-shirts, ballcaps, shorts, or sandals). Students won't need to show up in suits and ties, but professional appearance will be required (button-up shirts, polo shirts, nice jeans/blouses, etc.). The point of this is to prepare students for public speaking in professional contexts.

Student Behavior: Students will be expected to act appropriately. This means a few things such as not being routinely tardy to class, respecting other students and the instructor, and turning in assignments on time.

Communication/Office Hours: All e-mails should be through UNLV's rebelmail system. I will only send e-mails to those officially listed on MyUNLV. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of this policy. Office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus, and students should feel welcome to drop by and discuss any course-related issues they may have. I will be more than happy to go over any writing assignments or topics. Office hours **should not** be used as an opportunity to negotiate higher grades. Unless a mistake is found, I will not increase a student's grade regardless of the reasons he/she attempts to give. Grades are given on class performance, and not office hours negotiating skills.

Incompletes will not be given in all but the most extreme situations (eg. extending hospital stays, death of an immediate family member, etc.). I will require proof of any situation, and I reserve the right to deny an incomplete to any student and for any reason.

Plagiarizing/Cheating will not be tolerated. Any student found to be plagiarizing or cheating will be removed from the course and given an **F**. I will actively seek to have the harshest penalties possible given to any student who tries this. We have software that can track plagiarism (for the memoranda), so it is best not even to try this.

Recording Devices will not be permitted in class. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Dictionaries are welcome in class, and can be used while taking exams.

Drinks will be permitted in class as long as they do not become a distraction for other students.

No Food is permitted in class. I know this is during lunch time, but eating during class will not be tolerated. Coffee/Water/Redbull/anything non-alcoholic is permitted. Students will be expected to clean up any messes that are made, and to throw away any empty drink containers. Failure to act appropriately may lead to a ban on all drinks.

E-Cigarettes are **PROHIBITED**.

Outside Visitors are not permitted to attend classes (exceptions can be made for prospective students).

Course Calendar: WC=Webcampus

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan-17	Syllabus	none
Jan-19	What is IR? How Does the World Work?	Thucydides (WC)
Jan-23	Machiavelli	The Prince (Introduction, Letter)
Jan-26	Establishing Rule	The Prince (I-VII)
Jan-31	Cont.	The Prince(VIII-XI)
Feb 2	Use of Force, When to be Nice	The Prince (XII-XVIII)
Feb-7	How to be Forward-Thinking	The Prince (XIX-XXVI)
Feb-9	Approaching IR in Modern Days	M-A Chapter 1
Feb-14 & 16	Historical Context and IR Theory	M-A Chapters 2 & 3
Feb-21 & 23	The State & The Individual	M-A Chapters 5 & 6
Feb-28	Midterm Exam 1	CLASS CANCELLED FOR MIDTERM EXAM
March-2	The International System	M-A Chapter 4
March-7 & 9	International Organizations & NGOs	M-A Chapter 7 Web Campus Readings
March-14 & 16	International Economic Systems & IPE	M-A Chapter 9 Web Campus Readings
March-21 & 23	War	M-A Chapter 8 Web Campus Readings
March-28	Midterm Exam 2	CLASS CANCELLED FOR MIDTERM EXAM
March-30	Transnational Issues in Current IR & Human Rights	M-A Chapters 10 & 11
April-4	The Future of IR	Web Campus Readings

April-6	CLASS CANCELLED	
April-11 & 13	SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS	
April-18 & 20	Group Presentations	
April-25 & 27	Group Presentations	
May-2 & 4	STUDY WEEK	
May-7-10	Final Exam (will be cumulative)	

University Policies:

Academic Misconduct— Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)— **Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy— Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library statement:

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.