

POL 101, Introduction to International Relations
Department of Political Science and International Relations, Fall 2018

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor:	Prof. Bernd Bucher	
Instructor's Email	bbucher@fus.edu	
Office Hours:	Monday, Thursday	14:00 – 15:00h,
	Wednesday	15:00 – 16:00h
Class location	MV Classroom 1	
Class meeting times	Mondays & Thursdays 11:30 - 12:45	

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides the basic tools necessary for analyzing international relations (IR). After a brief introduction to the history of IR, the course will focus on the main schools of thought in IR theory. In a third step, we will take a look at questions of international organization before simulating a diplomatic negotiation on the crisis in North Korea.

III. RATIONALE

This course is not only central for those majoring in IR, but counts towards the major in social justice and sustainability.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals for this course include the following:

- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Practice synthesizing information from classroom discussions, reading assignments and individual research.
- Further develop and apply a relevant analytic and methodological skill set.
- Acquire a theoretical repertoire to explore and understand issues related to social justice and sustainability
- Develop professional skills such as conflict resolution, advocacy, policy design and assessment, as well as proficiency in relevant software packages.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the main concepts and theories in IR. Upon completion of this class, students should be familiar with the major schools in IR theory and with some of the major scholarly debates on contemporary issues. Students should have developed the ability to critically discuss historical and contemporary developments in a theoretically guided fashion.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Please purchase:

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, eds. (2014) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to international relations* (sixth edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press [GWP].

All other readings / materials will be made available on moodle.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed on the basis of a variety of assignments, with a particular emphasis on the acquisition of analytical and critical thinking. Thus active participation will figure strongly into the overall grade.

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Quiz Part I	10%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Situation Presentation (resentation, handout, reference list)	15%
Opening statement	5%
Position paper	15%
Final essay	20%
Overall participation	20%

XIX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Examinations are given letter grades according to the following numerical scale:

A: 94-100	B+: 88-89	C+: 78-79	D+: 68-69	F: 0-59
A: 90-93	B: 84-87	C: 74-77	D: 64-67	
	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63	

The course grade is an average of examination letter grades according to the following grade points:

A: 4.0	B+: 3.3	C+: 2.3	D+: 1.3	F: 0.0
A-: 3.7	B: 3.0	C: 2.0	D: 1.0	
	B-: 2.7	C-: 1.7	D-: 0.7	

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Regular attendance is required. Each student will be allowed two absences during the course of the term. If you miss class three to four times, your overall participation grade will drop by one letter grade. Being absent five times or more will lead to a failing grade here. The roll is called at the beginning of each session.

Please note:

The use of electrical devices is strictly forbidden during class.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199):
<http://www.fus.edu/files/FUS-academic-catalog-2018-2020.pdf>

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Please refer to moodle for details. Here you will also find the required readings.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Part I Historical Developments and Deterrence

Week 1

Monday Introduction
 Thursday 19th and 20th century history of IR
 Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 3.



Week 2

Monday The Cold War, deterrence and MAD
 Thursday After the Cold War and more contemporary challenges
 Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapters 4 and 5.

Week 3

Monday The UN system and the non-proliferation regime
 Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 26.
 Thursday Part 1 Quiz (roughly 30 minutes T/F, MC, short answer questions)

Part II The 'Grand Theories'

Week 4

Monday Classical Realism
 Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 6.
 Thursday Creating security and international organizations
 The persistence of NATO from a realist perspective
 Course Reading:
Waltz, Kenneth (2000) Structural Realism after the Cold War, International Security 25(1): 5-41. Read pages: 18-28.



Week 5

Monday Liberalism and the democratic peace
 Course Reading:
The Globalization of World Politics, chapter 7.
 Thursday Creating security and international organizations
 The functions of international organizations from a liberal perspective



Week 6

Monday The English School
 Course Reading:
Bull, Hedley (1977) The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics, London: Macmillan.
 Please read pages: 8-20, 24-27, 40-52, 53-57, 65-76.
 Thursday Discussion: Will China lead? The Role of China from an English School Perspective



Week 7

Monday

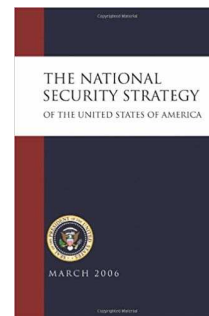
Theories in practice
Reading and comparing US National Security Strategies (NSS)
(2006, 2015, 2017)

Course Reading:
NSS 2006, 2015, 2017.

Please refer to moodle for these readings and bring them to class

Thursday

Theories in practice cont.



Week 8

Monday

Recap

Thursday

Mid-term

(50 minutes - only part 2, T/F, MC, short answer questions)

Week 9 and 10 ACADEMIC TRAVEL

Part IV

The North Korea Crisis

Week 11

Monday

North Korea and nuclear proliferation from a documentary perspective

Thursday

Under the Sun / The propaganda game

North Korea and nuclear proliferation cont.

Week 12

Monday

Functions and challenges of diplomacy and international negotiations

Thursday

Simulation briefing and **situation presentations**

(10 minute presentations, handout, reference list)

Week 13

Monday

The Six Party Talks Simulation

Please prepare short '**opening statements**' in which you outline your delegations view on the talks. These opening statements are of a strategic nature and aimed at achieving the goals you actually have. They set the tone of debate, so carefully consider the approach you take. Opening statements should not be longer than 3 minutes.

Assignment deadline: Position Paper

Please remember that the 'position paper' outlines the actual position of your delegation. It is therefore not for the eyes of your counterparts from other states!

Thursday

Simulation cont.



Week 14

Monday	Simulation cont.
Thursday	Simulation de-briefing

Week 15

Monday	Theory and Practice in International Relations
Thursday	Recap

Final Essay:

Building on the theoretical knowledge you have acquired in this course and what you have learned about the North Korea crisis, discuss the prospects for creating conditions of peace in the region. Explicitly situate your argument in one of the grand theories we have discussed.

The essay should consist of 2000 words, including a title page and a reference list. Details will be discussed in class.

This will be a turn-it-in assignment.

Assignment deadline: During the finals week, specific day TBA.

XIV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to moodle for details on the specific readings for class.

XV. Situation Briefing and Simulation Details

Situation Briefing

In order to engage the situation in North Korea, we will need to have a shared understanding of the history of the conflict and the diverging interests involved.

The course will be split into 6 groups who will each address one of the topics listed below:

- History of the conflict up to the six party talks
- The six party talks
- SC resolutions on North Korea
- Political and social system of North Korea (including capabilities)
- Political and social system of South Korea
- Most recent developments

Each group will prepare:

- a) 10 minute powerpoint presentation
- b) Handout for the class which summarizes the main points of the presentation for quick reference during the simulation
- c) A reference list of the literature used

The handout as well as the reference list need to be handed in on Monday of week 13 at the beginning of the simulation! Handing in late will result in a one letter grade drop per 24h.

The Negotiations

To negotiate the crisis in North Korea, we will split into groups representing the nation states involved in the crisis.

With an eye to the shared body of knowledge we establish during the simulation briefing, each party to the negotiations must formulate its position and come to an understanding of where its own interests lie. As such, you will have to find and collect information on your states position on issues like North Korean testing of nuclear weapons, the regulation of the peaceful use of nuclear power, the effectiveness of sanctions, or the prospects for peace in the region.

As representatives of one of the involved states, you will have to take the perspective of the respective state and negotiate on its behalf regardless of your personal opinion.

Please prepare:

a) **Position papers**

These should outline what you consider to be the 'real interests' of your state and the goals you wish to achieve in the negotiations. Please include what you consider to be your preferred negotiation outcomes on the one hand and what you would be willing to accept as a minimum negotiation outcome (delineate your win set).

Also think about what a failure of agreement would mean for your state.

You could also consider who your cooperation partners are likely to be, what their interests might be and which 'carrots and sticks' are available to you.

Position papers should be 3-5 pages long and address the central points of debate (e.g. follow the general structure of the 6 party talks) and the aspects mentioned above.

The position papers are to be handed in to the simulation secretariat (Prof. Bucher) and not circulated amongst the other participants.

Position papers are for the internal use only!

Deadline: Monday of week 13, at the beginning of class.

We will assume that our parties have agreed to broadly discuss the current situation along the lines of the prior six party talks that had been held until 2009. While your negotiations are not a resumption of the six-party talks, they function as an avenue of debate.

The negotiating parties are: China, Japan, North Korea, Russia,
South Korea, United States

b) **Opening statements**

Following the roll call, the negotiations will begin with position statements of the parties involved (see below).

Your opening statements should address

- What the central challenges of the situation are (from your perspective)
- What the order of debate should be (agenda, topics)
- What your position is on the challenges facing the negotiating parties

The opening statements are part of a strategic interaction, so think about how you want to frame the debate (e.g. whether you want to stress shared interests or underscore differences). Opening statements are strictly limited to 3 minutes.

Please note:

While the position papers serve to outline what you as a delegation want to achieve, the position statements are part of a strategy to 'attain what you want'.

The Simulation - process and rule structure

Generally, the secretariat will enforce all negotiation rules and grant the right to speak for a pre-determined amount of time. In case of disagreements over procedural questions, the secretariat has the authority to make final and binding decisions.

The simulation can be broken down into two different modes of interaction

1. Formal meeting(s)

- The secretariat will begin formal negotiations with a roll call.
- To speak, raise your hand to be recognized by the secretariat.
- Formal meetings can be interrupted. To request a break suggest this to the secretariat which will put it up for a vote as the speaking order allows. A simple majority is necessary to interrupt the formal session.

2. Informal meeting(s)

There are no strict rules that structure these interactions, but please remember that you are delegates representing the interests of your state.

While the formal meeting is suspended, all participants are free to debate amongst each other (within and across delegations).

- Informal sessions are invaluable as they allow identifying common ground and give the participants an opportunity to find mutually acceptable solutions.

→ Before returning to the formal meeting, meet with the members of your delegation to plan what you will say/do in the formal meeting that follows.

Following the informal meeting, the negotiators return to their formal meeting, which will begin with a roll call.

Things to consider:

- You may distribute functions among your group's members.
 - Experts for different questions / topics / actors
 - Different ranks (assume that at least the head of the delegation has full decision-making powers but cannot also guarantee domestic ratification)