This course provides students with the background and conceptual tools they need to understand contemporary international relations. The course will introduce students to the wide range of issues involved in the study of international relations including the workings of the state system, the causes of international conflict and violence, and international economic relations. Students will be introduced to the literature in a broad way, to make them familiar with the main theoretical traditions in the field. Students will be asked, as much as possible, to read original texts, rather than from a textbook. Time permitting, we will also examine topics of particular current interest such as the evolving nature of power in the post Cold War environment as well as special global challenges like nation-building and ongoing conflict(s) in the Middle East.

This course is organized around the metaphor of Chinese food. In the beginning, students will examine the basic ingredients of the study of international relations. We will consider the actors, goals, means, and consequences of state interaction — IR’s soy sauce, ginger root, garlic, and MSG. The rest of the course is designed to give an overview of the breadth and scope of the wide-ranging field of international relations. Along the way, students will get a taste of follow-on courses they might choose to take in international security, international political economy, international law, American foreign policy, and so on.

**Course Requirements**

Participation in recitation (Friday 12:00–12:50, for most) comprises 30% of your grade; your teaching fellow has nearly absolute autonomy in determining the requirements and assessing how well or poorly you have met them.

A midterm exam counts for 30% of your grade, and a final exam counts for 40%. The final exam is given during the period scheduled by the University. The exam is not given early — check the schedule published by the University and make your holiday travel plans accordingly.
Academic Integrity

Be familiar with the University’s policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action (http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/students.html). Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

Remember that the same technology that has made plagiarism easier to accomplish has also made it easier to detect. If you do not cite a source, it is plagiarism. If you do cite it, it is scholarship.

Teaching Fellows

Kerim Can Kavakli
Harkness 107
kkavakli@mail.rochester.edu

Jessica Stoll
Harkness 304
js019m@mail.rochester.edu

Texts

The following book is required:


These books are optional:


Readings not included in one of the texts can be found through one of the online databases. These readings are listed in the syllabus in italics. Compared to previous years, this is a significantly revised course with revised readings. The optional readings are useful for providing background, especially for the initial part of the course on theory and concepts. You have to know about the background and substance of International Relations to appreciate and weigh the usefulness of contending theories.

In addition, I expect students to read one of the following newspapers: the New York Times, the Washington Post, or the Financial Times, the Frankfurter Allgemeine, Die Zeit, Le Monde diplomatique or a comparable international paper. It is entirely likely that questions on the mid-term and the final will require you to be up-to-date on current events.
Course Outline

Wednesday January 13

1. Introduction

Friday January 15

2. Section Assignments

Monday January 18

Class canceled to observe Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday January 20

3. Those who do not know the past are doomed to repeat it

   • FLS: Introduction and Chapter 1

Monday January 25

4. The ‘modern’ era after 1945


Wednesday January 27

5. The Analytical Framework: Interests, Interactions & Institutions

   • FLS: Chapter 2.

Monday February 1

6. Interests and Actors

Wednesday February 3

7. **War and Bargaining**
   - **FLS**: chapter 3

Monday February 8

8. **Bargaining and War**

Wednesday February 10

9. **Domestic Politics and War**
   - **FLS**: Chapter 4

Monday February 15

10. **International Institutions and War**
   - **FLS**: Chapter 5

Wednesday February 17

11. **International Trade**
   - **FLS**: Chapter 6

Monday February 22

12. **International Trade and Globalization**

**Wednesday February 24**

13. **International Financial Relations**

- *FLS*: Chapter 7

**Monday March 1**

14. **International Monetary Relations**

- *FLS*: Chapter 8

**Wednesday March 3**

**MID-TERM**

**Monday March 8 & Wednesday March 10**

**Spring Break**

**Monday March 15**

15. **International Development**

- *FLS*: Chapter 9

**Wednesday March 17**

16. **International Law**

  
Monday March 22

17. Transnational Networks

- FLS: Chapter 10

Wednesday March 24

18. Human Rights

- FLS: Chapter 11

Monday March 29

19. Failed States and Nation Building


Wednesday March 31

20. Terrorism

- Art, IPECCI. Bruce Hoffmann, What Is Terrorism?, 198–204.

Monday April 5

21. Terrorism

Wednesday April 7

22. Ethnic Conflicts


Monday April 12

23. The Environment

- FLS: Chapter 12

Wednesday April 14

24. The Environment

- Art, IPECCI. Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” 495–500
- Art, IPECCI. Julian L. Simon, “The Infinite Supply of Natural Resources,” 531–538
- Art, IPECCI. Thomas Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict” 501–507

Monday April 19

25. Weapons of Mass Destruction

- TBA

Wednesday April 21

26. The Rise of China

Monday April 27

27. Iraq—Entry & Exit Strategies


Wednesday April 28

28. The Future of International Politics

- FLS Chapter 13
Please give me some information about yourself: Who are you? To that end, hand in one page bio on yourself:

1. Name, e-mail, year, major.

2. Why did you sign up for this course?

3. What are your interests, extra-curricular?

4. What is true about you and no one else?

5. Should the US withdraw from Iraq? If so, on what conditions?

6. What are your biggest expectations of a U of R Professor.
I’m asking you all to play a game called Starfleet Commander on Facebook. Since the game more or less requires that you invite other players to join your fleet, you may want to set up a “spoof” account, under a pseudonym on Facebook.

Facebook is at www.facebook.com, as I’m pretty sure most if not all of you know. You can join the Space War application at: http://apps.facebook.com/spacewarsgame/. You should definitely follow the main forum board. (We may take one Friday to collectively act and take out the biggest or nastiest players in the game. If so, we will be Spaceforce 106 of the Ick. (To read the story of the Ick, and their power .... I’ll post it later.)

To grow more powerful, you’ll need to make investments and get money, and expand your fleet. To expand your fleet, you need to invite friends. The easiest way may be to ask friends to become friends on Facebook, and then follow the ‘fleet’ link on your Space Wars home page, and then invite friends.

There will be a bonus question on the exam about this game and how it does or does not compare to IR.