



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: POLS

Course and Section #: 2100-002

Course Title: Introduction to International Relations

Credits: 3

Course Description

An introduction to the study of international relations. Discusses the role of states as major actors and the logic of power in international relations. Focuses on the foundation and evolution of the international system and the problems that characterize it today. Addresses a variety of issues including the causes of war and peace, terrorism, human rights, international economic transactions, development, environment, the role of international organizations and non-state actors in an effort to recognize and evaluate the complexity of the world around us. Teaches students to apply the theoretical frameworks (such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism) to these current global issues and actors and think critically about the nature of problems that face states today. Provides students with the tools to understand and analyze international affairs.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Geoffrey Cockerham

Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify the major historical events and philosophical ideas that shaped the international arena and their repercussions for the modern international system.
- Identify major actors and processes of international relations.
- Apply the major theories, analytical tools, and concepts used to study international relations.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing global problems from various angles and perspectives.
- Communicate cohesive and supportive arguments effectively.

Course Materials and Texts

Mingst, Karen A. and Heather Elko McKibben. 2021. *Essentials of International Relations*. W.W. Norton. Ninth Edition.

InQuizitive digital product for *Essentials of International Relations*. Ninth Edition.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Grading:

Exams: 70%

Exam 1:

Exam 2:

Exam 3:

InQuizitive Quizzes 10%

Reflection Essays 10%

Class Participation/Online Discussion 10%

Grading Scale:

A	92-100	C+	78-79	D-	60-61
A-	90-91	C	72-77	E	0-59
B+	88-89	C-	70-71		
B	82-87	D+	68-69		
B-	80-81	D	62-67		

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Topic 1:

Mingst, Chap. 1

Topic 2:

Mingst, Chap.2

Topic 3:

Mingst, Chap. 3

Topic 4:

Mingst, Chap. 4

Topic 5:

Mingst, Chap. 5

Topic 6:

Mingst, Chap. 6

Topic 7:

Mingst, Chap.7

Topic 8:

Mingst, Chap. 8

Topic 9:

Mingst, Chap. 9

Topic 10:

Mingst, Chap. 10

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Topic 1: Approaching International Relations

Topic 2: The Historical Context of International Politics

Topic 3: Using Theory: Evaluating Arguments about International Politics

Topic 4: Levels of Analysis

Topic 5: The State and the Tools of Statecraft

Topic 6: War and Security

Topic 7: International Cooperation and International Law

Topic 8: International Political Economy

Topic 9: Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations

Topic 10: Human Rights

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

Representing work generated by an artificial intelligence tool as your own work is academically dishonest and a violation of the university's policy on academic integrity. Please do your own thinking and generate your own ideas for class assignments. Auto-generated text by AI will not be accepted for credit on assignments.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of

the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.