



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 #: POLS 2100-601

Course Title: Introduction to International Relations

Credits: 3

Course Description

Discusses logic of power in international relations. Studies idealistic and realistic theories of international relations. Examines reasons why nations go to war. Compares geopolitical thrust and response.

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: Dr. Cholpon Akmatalieva

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students should be able to

1. Describe the political theories of liberalism, realism, radicalism and constructivism
 2. Analyze the historical roots of current events and the major characteristics of current international relations.
 3. Improve their skills in argumentation and critical thinking.
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Course Materials and Texts

By Karen A. Mingst, Heather Elko McKibben Essentials of International Relations (9th Edition). ISBN 978-0-393-44170-3

-International or World news in prominent Western media outlets.

Access to different media outlets is provided by the [UVU Library](#)

-Materials distributed in class

-Materials posted on Canvas

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Attendance will be assessed through classroom participation. Students who are planning to be absent for a legitimate reason, must inform the instructor in advance. Whether present or absent, students are responsible for all material, assignments, announcements, quizzes, etc. that are presented in class. Assignments turned in one day late will receive a reduction of one full grade. Assignments turned in two days late will receive a reduction of two full grades, respectively. After 48 hours, only assignments associated with university excused absences will be accepted. No unexcused late examinations will be accepted.

Evaluation techniques:

Examinations: A midterm examination and final examination worth 100 points each will take place during the semester. Questions will be drawn from the readings, lectures, and any other sources presented during the semester. Examinations will usually consist of a combination of true or false and multiple-choice questions. You will be responsible for taking the exam on a computer that is connected to the Internet. You will have issues if you try to take the exam on a smartphone or tablet. Students will have one attempt with two days to complete each exam and once the exam starts you will have 110 minutes to take it. The purpose of taking exams is to assess your knowledge of the course objectives and the course materials. Students may earn up to 200 possible examination points.

Face-to-face classes:

Classes are scheduled for both lecturing textbook chapters and for discussing quizzes taken by students before classes. Students are expected to come to class prepared to contribute to discussions and field questions in a thoughtful, respectful, objective, and critical manner. Students may earn up to 5 possible participation points for each class for a total of 140 points.

Internet Quizzes: After finishing the chapter study, students will have to take a quiz before the class. Each quiz will consist of 15 true/false or multiple-choice questions. Students can take each quiz just once for 30 minutes. Students will be able to see which questions they got incorrect, but the correct answers will not be provided. After taking a quiz, students will jointly discuss its content as part of a study guide activity. Each quiz is worth 10 points and students may earn 130 quiz points.

Total = 470 points

Grading Scale

A	100-94%	B-	83-80%	D+	69-67%
A-	93-90%	C+	79-77%	D	66-64%
B+	89-87%	C	76-74%	D-	63-60%
B	86-84%	C-	73-70%	E	59%-

Extra-credit points: Students may earn extra-credit points by writing a two-page analysis of a UVU or off campus presentation by a foreign dignitary, statesman, or other public official who addresses international relations of the particular country and global political issues. Students may earn up

to 5 extra points per event, as announced by lecturer, and up to 2 extra points per additional unannounced event.

- 5 extra credit points for submitting a copy of the receipt for the Student Rating of Instructor for this course at the end of the semester.
- 30 points for involvement with the [Utah International Mountain Forum \(UIMF\)](#), [Links to an external site.](#) a coalition of student clubs at UVU, that promotes the United Nations Sustainable Mountain Development agenda at regional, national and international levels and are focused on hosting foreign dignitaries and VIP-guests, advocacy campaigns and aim to promote UVU's regional, national and international standing
- 40 extra credit points for writing a research paper in order to improve a grade after the mid-term examination. The topic of the paper needs to be discussed with the instructor immediately after the mid-term examination. It must be at least 10 pages in length, cite at least 5-6 sources (half of which must be primary), *be double-spaced with 12-point font and 1-inch margins, have a title page, bibliography, and thesis statement.* This paper will be due Monday, April 21, 2025.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings use chapters from the course text that align with the lectures below.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week 1: January 6-8. The Introduction to the Course

- Read the Syllabus in preparation for the class on Monday, January 6, 2025.
- Take Quiz # 0 before the class on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Week 2: January 13-15. Chapter 1: Approaches to International Relations

- Read Chapter 1 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Monday, January 13, 2025.
- Take Quiz # 1 before the class on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.

January 20 No class – Martin Luther King Day

Week 3: January 22. Chapter 2: Historical Context of Contemporary IR

- Read Chapter 2 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Week 4: January 27. Chapter 2: Historical Context of Contemporary IR (continue).

January 29: Chapter 3: International Relations Theories.

- Take Quiz # 2 before the class on Monday, January 27, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Read Chapter 3 of the textbook in preparation for the class before the class on Wednesday, January 29, 2025.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 5: February 3. Chapter 3: International Relations Theories (continue).

February 5. Chapter 4: Levels of Analysis.

- Take Quiz # 3 before the class on Monday, February 3, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Read Chapter 4 of the textbook in preparation for the class on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 6: February 10. Chapter 4: Levels of Analysis (continue).

February 12. Chapter 5: The State and the Tools of Statecraft.

- Take Quiz # 4 before the class on Monday, February 10, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Read Chapter 5 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

February 17. No class - Presidents' Day.

Week 7: February 19. Chapter 5: The State and the Tools of Statecraft (continue).

- Take Quiz # 5 before the class on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 8: February 24-26. Chapter 6: War and Security.

- Read Chapter 6 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Monday, February 24, 2025.
- Take Quiz # 6 before the class on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Take the mid-term examination online, which opens Wednesday, February 26 and closes on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 11:59 PM Mountain Standard Time

Week 9: March 3-5. Chapter 7: International Cooperation and International Law.

- Read Chapter 7 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Monday, March 3, 2025
- Take Quiz # 7 before the class on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 10 : March 10-14 Spring Break

Week 11: March 17-19. Chapter 8: International Political Economy.

- Read Chapter 8 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Monday, March 17, 2025.

- Take Quiz # 8 before the class on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 12: March 24-26. Chapter 9: Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations

- Read Chapter 9 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Monday, March 24, 2025.
- “NGO and International relations” Presentation by the Guest Speaker on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. Be prepared for Q & A session.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 13: March 31. Chapter 9: Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations (continue).

April 2. Chapter 10: Human Rights

- Take Quiz # 9 before the class on Monday, March 31, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Read Chapter 10 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 14: April 7. Chapter 10: Human Rights (continue).

April 9. Chapter 11: The Environment.

- Take Quiz # 10 before the class on Monday, April 7, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Read Chapter 11 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 15: April 14. Chapter 11: The Environment (continue).

April 16. Chapter 12: Human Security: Population, Migration, and Global Health

- Take Quiz # 11 before the class on Monday, April 14, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Read Chapter 12 of the textbook as preparation for the class on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

Week 16: April 21. Chapter 12: Human Security: Population, Migration, and Global Health (continue).

- Take Quiz #12 before the class on Monday, April 21, 2025, and be prepared to discuss its content with your peers.
- Submit Research paper (for an extra-credit)
- Analysis: Current political events through the lenses of major theories of international relations.

April 23 No class - Interim day.

The Final Exam will take place on Wednesday, April 30 at 5 PM – 6:50PM, Room CB 413.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and research are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into Canvas.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, *no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI*. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to the instructor or IA for a conversation before submitting your work.

All assignments submitted will be scanned for plagiarism and AI through Copyleaks. Any assignment flagged at over 45% AI will be considered plagiarism. All plagiarism work will be rewarded a 0. Whether a student can redo the assignment will depend on the severity of the offense and the instructor's discretion. All students can see the Copyleaks report within an hour after submission.

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.