

Introduction to International Relations

February - June, 2019

Course outline and objectives

This course introduces students to the academic discipline of International Relations by focusing on core concepts, theories, and dynamics in world politics. Illustrations will be drawn from international history and contemporary affairs. The chief purpose of this course is to provide solid conceptual grounding for the various thematic IR theory courses students will sit throughout their degree at FGV. By the end of the course, students will have:

- A firm grasp of the core concepts that organize IR as an academic discipline;
- An understanding of how theories help us make sense of world politics, as well as their limitations;
- In-depth knowledge of key cases that illustrate dynamics of world politics;
- Skills to critically read and comment IR scholarship;
- Skills to craft solid essays that connect concepts and theories to the realities of world politics today.
- An ability to publicly debate key themes in world politics.

Course Structure

Lectures: These will normally take place at the beginning of each week, and will include a general overview of the topic at hand, a summary of the main debates in the field, and detailed commentary on the kinds of questions that students should be able to answer when confronted to that particular topic.

Sections: These review the key arguments and concepts in the readings of the day, and allow for student engagement in class with the issues at stake.

Tutorials: These offer an opportunity for students to have detailed feedback on their essays.

Cases and Debates: Towards the end of each thematic unit in the course students will focus on a specific case study or problem, and develop reasoned arguments in class.

> INSTRUCTOR

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Mondays 2-4pm (schedule over e-mail beforehand).
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Course Requirements and Grading

This course consists of a series of classes with pre-assigned readings. Students are expected to do all the readings and attend a minimum of 75% of the course. Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- Participation in discussion section: 20%;
- Five essays: 40%;
- Final exam: 40%

Participation: Students are expected to do the readings for each week in advanced of the relevant discussion section and contribute to class discussion by engaging the issues that stem from the readings. The grading here will reflect student active engagement with the materials.

Essays: Each student will submit five 2-page essays in response to questions distributed in class beforehand. Essays should be posted on E-Class by 8pm on the dates specified below. Papers received after the deadline will be dropped two full points in a 10-point scale, and no paper will be accepted after the specific tutorial. In each essay students will answer the given question with reference to the concepts and theories discussed in class. Essays are not summaries of the readings, and they should be written with an informed readership in mind (so you can focus on the discussions that matter most). More detailed instructions on essay structure will be given the first week of class. Essays may be submitted in English or Portuguese. We will not have a class on the day essays are due, but your attendance will be computed when you submit your essay. Please be aware that if you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance for that day.

Final exam: The exam will cover the entire course syllabus. Students will respond to two questions of their choosing out of a menu of ten different questions. Exams will take place in class and have the duration of 2 hours. All questions will address topics from the lectures and readings. Exams may be written in English or Portuguese. If you happen to take Reaval, the you will be assessed on the basis of your answer to one single question.

Criteria for Marking Essays and the Exam

8 or above: Work in this category shows excellent command of the topic. It is well organized, clearly expressed and cogently argued. Work in this category will either approach the question from an unexpected angle, contain unusually illuminating or original thinking, or be especially well illustrated.

7,5 to 7,9: Work in this category shows excellent command of the topic. It is well organized, clearly expressed and cogently argued.

6,5 to 7,4: Work in this category shows sound knowledge of the topic. It displays very good understanding of the question and it is clearly organized and cogently argued. The argument is detailed, precise, and clear.

6 to 6,4: Work in this category shows sound knowledge of the topic. It is clearly organized and cogently argued. Achieving this mark on a question means that the student has firm control of the essential points.

5,5 to 5,9: Work in this category shows some weaknesses in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, or focus.

5 to 5,4: Work in this category shows extensive weaknesses in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, or focus. The candidate has firm control of at least some of the essential points.

4 to 4,9: Work in this category shows some basic knowledge of the topic. Yet it displays some serious deficiencies in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, or focus.

3 to 3,9: Work in this range shows an attempt to answer the question set, but it is either irrelevant to the question set, incoherent, unsystematic, superficial, or unacceptably brief.

1 to 2,9: Work in this category fails to show any basic knowledge of the topic.

Zero: Work that features evidence of plagiarism.

Course Policies

- Minimum attendance 75%;
- Cell phones must be turned off during class;
- Electronic devices in the classroom serve the sole purpose of taking lecture notes;
- It is the policy of the School of International Relations at FGV that all cases of academic dishonesty – including plagiarism – be reported to the Undergraduate Committee and their Chair. A detailed discussion on plagiarism will take place in class before submission of the first essay.
- The readings for this class will be on reserve at the library and whenever possible they will also be made available in PDF format on E-class.
- Please contact me over e-mail to schedule office hours, which will be primarily held on Mondays, 2-4pm at our Avenida Paulista offices.

Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (February 18) – Course Overview and Introduction

Lecture 2 (February 20) – What is the Academic Discipline of IR?

What is the difference between the academic discipline of IR and world politics? What implications follow from the rise of the nation state as the core unit of world politics?

- “Por que estudar RI?”, in Robert Jackson & Georg Sørensen, *Introdução às Relações Internacionais* (Zahar, 2013), 35p.

States, Territory, and Sovereignty in IR

Lecture 3 (February 22) – State, War, and Trade

How did a global system of nation states come into being, and to what effect?

- Hendrik Spruyt, “War, Trade, and State Formation”, in Robert E. Goodin, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*, 32p.

Lecture 4 (February 25) – States and Territory

To what extent is territory relevant in world politics? Can states ever exert authority beyond their territories? Can non-state actors influence the state?

- Thomas J. Biersteker, “State, Sovereignty, and Territory,” in Walter Carsnaes et al., eds., *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2013), 27p.
- Benjamin Lessing and Graham Denyer Willis, “Legitimacy in Criminal Governance: Managing a Drug Empire from Behind Bars”, *American Political Science Review*, 2019.

Lecture 5 (February 27) – Sovereignty versus Ungoverned Spaces

What functions does sovereignty perform in world politics? What happens in the absence of effective exercise of sovereignty?

- Stephen D. Krasner, “Sovereignty”, in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), 6p.
- Jennifer Keister, “The Illusion of Chaos: Why Ungoverned Spaces Aren’t Ungoverned, and Why that Matters”, (*Cato Institute Policy Brief*, 2014) 24p.

Lecture 6 (March 1) – Case study on the practice of sovereignty

Contrast the argument for and against the “two-state solution” for the Israel-Palestine conflict. For an account of why many in Israel don’t believe Palestinians will ever engage in serious talks, [see this](#). For the argument as to why Palestinians are skeptical of a two-state solution, [see this](#).

The Economist, “One State or Two?,” *Special Report*, May 18, 2017.

Max Fisher, “The Two-State Solution: What it is and Why it hasn’t happened,” *The New York Times*, December 29, 2016.

The Economist, “How to end the endless conflict between Israel and the Palestinians,” May 17, 2018.

The Economist, “Israel still rules over Palestinians 50 years after its six-day war,” May 20, 2017.

Anarchy in IR

Lecture 7 (March 8) – Anarchy as a concept

Why is anarchy different from the absence of order? What implications follow when an international system is “anarchical”?

- Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics,” [reprint do original de 1979] in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 20p.

Lecture 8 (March 11) – Submit a one-to-two-page summary of Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure...” by 8pm (no meeting in class).

This exercise will not be graded, but I will offer feedback on it. Its sole purpose is to help you develop your skills in text summary writing. Learning how to draft useful summaries of texts will make all the difference in your academic and professional lives. Your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit the summary. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Lecture 9 (March 13) – Essay #1 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class).

Essay question: Is there any chance for peace in Syria without the Assad regime? Discuss with reference to the concepts of state, sovereignty, and anarchy.

You may profitably watch [this video by the BBC](#), and read Christopher Philips, *The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East* (Yale University Press, 2016), chapter 1 and/or

Théodore McLauchlin, “Why has the Syrian civil war lasted so long?.” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, July 27, 2018. These readings are optional.

Please remember your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit the essay. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Lecture 10 (March 15) – Anarchy and Legitimacy

What is the relationship between anarchy, war and, and order in the international system?

- Henry Kissinger, “Europa: o Ordenamento Internacional Pluralista”, in *Ordem Mundial* (Objetiva, 2015).

Lecture 11 (March 18) – Mitigating Anarchy

How do states cooperate to mitigate the impact of anarchy?

- Stanley Hoffman, “The Uses and Limits of International Law” [reprint do original de 1968, in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 5p.
- Robert Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” [reprint do original de 1998], in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 8p.

Lecture 12 (March 20) - Essay #1 Tutorial in class

Power in IR

Lecture 13 (March 22) – The concept of power

What accounts as power in international politics? What is the relationship between power and influence in the international system?

- Joseph Nye, “What is Power in Global Affairs”, in *The Future of Power* (Public Affairs, 2011), 22p.

Lecture 14 (March 25) – State power

What makes states powerful? In what ways does technology shape the way power is exercised in the world?

- Hans Morgenthau, “A essência do poder nacional”, in *A política entre as nações* [1948] (Editora da Universidade de Brasília, 2003), 16p.

Lecture 15 (March 27) – Case study: Is Russia a great power or a declining force in the world?

- Dimitri Alexander Simes, “A Russian Perspective on Foreign Affairs: an Interview with Konstantin Zatulin.” *National Interest*, July 30, 2018.
- Simon Saradzhyan and Nabi Abdullaev, “Is Vladimir Putin’s Russia in decline? We figured out hw to measure ‘national power’.” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, June 20, 2018.

Lecture 16 (March 29) – Essay #2 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class).

Essay question: How should we assess the power of China in the international system today?

Mark Leonard, "[Why Convergence Breeds Conflict](#)," *Foreign Affairs*, Sep./Oct 2013.
David Shambaugh, "[The Illusion of Chinese Power](#)," *National Interest*, June 25, 2014.

Please remember your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit the summary. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Hierarchy in IR

Lecture 17 (April 1) – Hegemony

How do we know hegemony when we see it? What are the more prevailing confounders of hegemony?

- Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, 'American Primacy in Perspective', *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.81, No.4, 2002, 14p.

Lecture 18 (April 3) – Empire

How do empires work and how do they differ from hegemony? Is there room for imperialism today?

- Niall Ferguson, "Hegemony or Empire", *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2003.

Lecture 19 (April 5) – Colonialism

What is the logic of colonial power, and to what degree is it prevalent in the world today? How does colonialism relate to hegemony and empire?

- Sankaran Krishna, "How Does Colonialism Work?", in Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, eds., *Global Politics: A New Introduction* (Routledge, 2014), 24p.

Lecture 20 (April 8) – Essay #2 Tutorial in class

Polarity in IR

Lecture 21 (April 10) – Uni, Bi, and Multipolar Systems

What is polarity and how does it affect world political dynamics?

- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1979), Leia apenas páginas 129 a 138
- John Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War," *International Security*, Vol.15, No.1, Summer 1990. Leia apenas páginas 1 a 21.

Lecture 22 (April 12) – Polarity and Stability

What systems produce more stability in international relations? How does polarity shape international conflict?

- John Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War", *International Security*, Vol.15, No.1, Summer 1990. Leia apenas páginas 22 a 40.

Lecture 23 (April 22) – Essay # 3 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class)

Essay question: Is the era of US hegemony over, and is the international system transitioning away from unipolarity?

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, "[The One and Future of Superpower: Why China Won't Overtake the United States.](#)" *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2016.

Yan Xuetong, "[From a Unipolar to a Bipolar Superpower System: The Future of the Global Power Dynamic.](#)" *Carnegie-Tsinghua*, December 31, 2011.

Great Power Politics

Lecture 24 (April 24) – *Balancing versus Bandwagoning* (part 1)

How do alliances work? What types of behavior do they generate, and to what effect?

- Stephen Walt, "Explaining Alliance Formation", chapter 1, in *The Origin of Alliances* (Cornell University Press, 1987). Read pages 17 to 33 only.

Lecture 25 (April 26) – *Balancing versus Bandwagoning* (part 2)

How do alliances work? What types of behavior do they generate, and to what effect?

- Stephen Walt, "Explaining Alliance Formation", capítulo 1, in *The Origin of Alliances* (Cornell University Press, 1987). Leia apenas as páginas 33 a 49.

Lecture 26 (April 29) – Essay #3 Tutorial in class

Lecture 27 (May 3) – Power Politics (part 1)

What is power politics and how does it differ from other types of politics?

- John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle Power", in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 19p.

Lecture 28 (May 6) – Power Politics (part 2)

What is the status quo and what are its implications? What are the minimum requirements to keep it going, and under what conditions does it break?

- Hans Morgenthau, "A luta pelo poder: a política do status quo", in *Política Entre as Nações* (Universidade de Brasília, 2003), 10p.
- Martin Wight, "Grandes potências," in *A Política do Poder* (Universidade de Brasília, 2003), 12p.

Lecture 29 (May 8) – Concert of Power

When do concerts of power emerge in international relations?

- Henry Kissinger, *The Concert of Europe: Great Britain, Austria and Russia*, in *Diplomacy* (Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 1994), 25p.

Lecture 30 (May 10) – Essay # 4 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class)

Essay question: Are we now seeing the emergence of a new global balance of power?

Interview: Henry Kissinger, "[New world disorder: An interview with Henry Kissinger.](#)" *Prospect*, October 2014.

Interview: Henry Kissinger, "[We are in a very, very grave period.](#)" *Wanted*, July 23, 2018.

Please remember your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit your essay. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Global Justice

Lecture 31 (May 13) – Order and Justice in World Politics

What is the relationship between order and justice? Can they ever coexist?

- Hedley Bull, *Ordem versus Justiça na política internacional*, in *A Sociedade Anárquica* (Editora da Universidade de Brasília, 2003).

Lecture 32 (May 15) - The concept of Global Justice

What is global justice and what are its empirical expressions in contemporary world politics?

- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, "Global Justice", 6 March 2015, 20p.

Lecture 33 (May 17) – Distributive Justice

How do arguments for global redistributive justice fit with power politics?

- Lu Catharine, "Colonialism as Structural Injustice: Historical Responsibility and Contemporary Redress", *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 2011, vol. 19, no 3, 20[.

Lecture 34 (May 20) – Humanitarian Intervention

Do states have a right to intervene to protect human lives?

- Christopher Greenwood, "Is there a Right to Humanitarian Intervention?", *The World Today*, vol. 49, no 2 (1993).

Lecture 35 (May 22) – Essay #4 Tutorial in class and Case Study on Global Justice: Managing post-war Iraq.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, "[A Tale of Two Wars.](#)" *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2009.

Matt Person, "[Did Iraq Ever Become a Just War.](#)" *The Atlantic*, March 24, 2018

Lecture 36 (May 24) Essay # 5 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class)

Essay question: Should the international community intervene to stop the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela?

Ricardo Hausman, "[D Day Venezuela.](#)" *Project Syndicate*, Jan 2, 2018.

Benjamin Denison, "[Trump's challenge to Venezuela's president could lead to a military occupation. Here's why — and why that's dangerous.](#)" *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, January 24, 2019.

Please remember your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit your essay. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Lecture 37 (May 27) – Essay # 5 Tutorial

Levels of Analysis in IR

Lecture 38 (May 29) Domestic Politics (part 1)

Why and how does leader survival at home shape foreign policy and world politics?

- Bruno Bueno de Mesquita, *The Strategic Perspective: When Foreign Policy Collides With Domestic Politics*, in *Principles of International Politics* (London: Sage, 2014).

Lecture 39 (May 31) – Domestic Politics (part 2)

What are the main mechanisms through which political life inside nations impact global politics?

- Kenneth Shultz, “Domestic Politics and International Relations”, in Walter Carsnaes et al., eds., *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2013), 25p.

Lecture 40 (June 3) – Leaders in IR (part 1)

When and how do leader characteristics shape world politics ?

- Robert Jervis, “Do Leaders Matter and How We Would We Know?,” *Security Studies*, Vol.22, No.3, 2013, 27p.

Lecture 41 (June 5) – Leaders in IR (part 2)

When and how do leader characteristics shape world politics ?

- Margaret Hermann and Joe Hagan, “International Decision Making: Leadership Matters”, in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), 6p.
- Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception”, in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), 13p.

Lecture 42 (June 7)

- Revision for final exam in class

Final exam (June 10)

Reaval (June 26)

*Rescheduled classes due to holidays

- **March 23 (no meeting in class) - Submit a one-to-two-page summary of Joseph Nye, “What is Power in Global Affairs...” on March 25 by 8pm.**

This exercise will not be graded, but I will offer feedback on it. Its sole purpose is to help you develop your skills in text summary writing. Learning how to draft useful summaries of texts will

make all the difference in your academic and professional lives. Your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit the summary. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

- **May 4 (no meeting in class) - Submit a one-to-two-page summary of Stephen Walt, “Explaining Alliance Formation”, chapter 1, on May 6 by 8pm.**

This exercise will not be graded, but I will offer feedback on it. Its sole purpose is to help you develop your skills in text summary writing. Learning how to draft useful summaries of texts will make all the difference in your academic and professional lives. Your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit the summary. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.