



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2021	Instructor Name:	Adam Ekins
Course Title & #:	POLS 106 Intro to IR	Email:	adam.ekins@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10747	Office:	Online Only
Class Dates:	8/16-12/11	Office Hours:	By Appointment
Units:	3	Class Format:	Online Asynchronous

Course Description

An introductory course stressing the techniques of analysis of the basic factors making for conflict and adjustment in contemporary international relations. Problems of nationalism and imperialism, element of national power, causes of war, methods of seeking peace, the role of international organizations, and the foreign policies of the major powers will be considered. Emphasis will be upon contemporary developments.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Develop an understanding of the structure and processes of the international community. (ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)
2. Identify the responsibilities of national governments in the international system. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)
3. Examine the significance and impact of conflict in world relations and its influence on governments and individuals. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO5)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

Explain International relations theory.

Identify international institutions and actors.

Describe the roles of national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors.

Analyze and evaluate key topics such as power, globalization, conflict, war, cooperation, nationalism, imperialism, terrorism, diplomacy, international law, human rights, and international political economy.

Discuss and analyze contemporary issues in international relations.

Apply relevant theoretical concepts to events.

Describe the major reasons why nations use aggression and war as instruments of foreign policy.

Student will demonstrate a knowledge and an understanding of international terrorism including categories of terrorism, major terrorist groups, the effectiveness of terrorism and counter-terrorist strategies.



Textbook

Scott, Carter, and Drury, *IR: Seeking Security, Prosperity, and Quality of Life in a Changing World*. 4th Edition
ISBN: 9781071829073 (digital) ISBN: 9781544381664 (loose leaf) ISBN: 9781544381619 (paperback)

Course Grading

Assignment:

Unit Exams
Chapter Quizzes
Discussion Board Participation

Points Possible:

400 points (100 points each)
390 points (30 points each)
210 points (14 points each)

Grade Breakdown:

900-1000 points:	A
800-900 points:	B
700-800 points:	C
600-700 points:	D
< 600 points:	F

Course Requirements

Chapter Quizzes:

Our text for this class is divided into 14 chapters, 13 of which you will be quizzed on directly. In general, each week you will complete one chapter in your textbook and take the online quiz for that chapter. You cannot retake these timed online tests nor stop and come back to them, so be sure not to begin one unless you are prepared to finish it in one sitting. These chapter quizzes are open note and open book, you can even google stuff if you want to, but the tests must be completed independently.

Unit Exams:

Very similar to chapter tests, but more comprehensive covering 3-5 chapters each. Expect them to be mostly a mix of matching and multiple-choice questions with possibly some short answer or essay portions. These timed exams are also taken online and in one sitting with the same rules and available resources as the Chapter Quizzes.

Discussion Board Participation:

You will be required to meaningfully contribute to our online discussion board on a regular basis. Each week you should respond to each question posted by the instructor for that week AND respond to comments made by at least two of your classmates. Significant participation in online discussion above and beyond minimum requirements can even earn you extra credit. You must complete all three posts by 11:59 pm each Sunday. Your first post of each week should be up by 11:59 pm Wednesday to ensure everyone has a chance to read and respond to one another's posts. Each post should be on topic and contribute meaningfully to an overall conversation, it should not just be a regurgitation of points already made by others nor a chance to simply agree and pat one another on the back. Try to put serious time and effort into creating quality posts; you will enjoy this portion of the course much more if you do so.



Course Policies

Academic Integrity:

It's pretty hard to cheat in this class since all of the tests and exams are open book, but somebody always finds a way to try to cheat the system. Also, students are often tempted, especially if they've waited until the last second, to cut and paste from online sources and pass it off as their own work in the discussion board. Any attempt to cheat and/or plagiarize (pass of somebody else's words as your own) will result in the maximum disciplinary action possible according to IVC's school wide rules and regulations on student discipline.

I have no patience for cheating so don't test me on this one. I won't listen to excuses or sob stories after the fact, so if you have any question about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please be sure to ask me about it sooner rather than later.

Digital Communication:

Online communication with the instructor should be written as you would write a business letter, not a text to a friend or a tweet. Any email sent to the instructor should have the course and section number as well as your full name appearing in the subject line (e.g. POL S-375 Adam Ekins). While I generally respond to emails quickly, you should plan on a 48 hour response time before you hear back from me if you send me anything over the weekend.

Remember to be courteous towards all other students in the online discussion board. Flaming, trolling, and other inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to kick you out of the course with a failing grade if I feel your behavior merits such action.

Late Work:

My general policy is that I do not accept late work, period. In rare circumstances when I feel there are justifiable reasons for finishing something late I may still allow you to turn in late work with whatever penalty I deem appropriate. Do not count on this. Turn your work in on time.

Attendance Issues:

If for any reason you choose to withdraw from this course it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course by the withdrawal deadline. If you fail to do so you will receive an F, not a W, for the course, and you will not be refunded your tuition. Individuals who have not yet completed any coursework by the tenth day of the semester may also be dropped from the course.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.