

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Prof. Ric Epps
Course Title & #:	International Relations Political Science 106	Email:	richard.epps@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10742	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	Online/ Room 1712- Wed.
Class Dates:	10/06/2025 – 12/06/2025	Virtual Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Days:	n/a	Office Phone #:	760-355-6284
Class Times:	n/a	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6284
Units:	3.0	Class Format:	Online- Asynchronous

Course Description

This is 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, elements 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 on contemporary developments. (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

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 government and individuals. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO5)

Course Objectives

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

1. On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:
2. Compare basic theories of international relations and their explanations for state behavior.
3. Critically analyze current international events.
4. Use the basic scientific method to test different explanations for international outcomes.
5. Identify and evaluate the role of a variety of international actors, including states, non-state actors such as terrorist groups, multinational corporations, international intergovernmental organizations, and international non-governmental organizations.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Introduction to International Relations 5th ed. Robert Jackson, et al. Oxford Press. ISBN: 9780199694747.

****THIS IS A ZERO-COST TEXTBOOK****

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a combination of online lectures, discussion posts, chapter overviews, and assigned readings. ***The mutual sharing of ideas and respect for diversity of opinions will be encouraged and safeguarded.***

Students are advised to take notes from the online lectures and PowerPoint lectures as lecture materials are stressed on exams and assignments. Student discussion groups are also required.

Chapter Summaries:

What is a summary? A chapter summary is a brief recap of the most important parts of the chapter/text. A summary is written in the reader's own words. For this assignment, you are required to write a brief summary of the chapter. The summaries should be 2 - 4 paragraphs in length. ALL CHAPTER SUMMARIES ARE DUE ON THE SECOND SATURDAY AFTER THE CHAPTER START DATE.

Discussion Participation:

You will be required to meaningfully contribute to our online discussions regularly. Each week you should respond to each question posted by the instructor for that week AND respond to comments made by at least three of your classmates. Significant participation in the online discussion above and beyond minimum requirements can even earn you extra credit. You must complete all four 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 the 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 Grading Based on Course Objectives

Students will be required to submit multiple assignments throughout the semester. The final course grade will combine the total score of all graded course assignments. Graded assignments will include Discussion Posts, Video Critiques, and Chapter Overviews. (See below). This course requires the use of a computer, tablet, or smartphone to complete all required assignments. Please be sure to assess that you have access to a necessary device).

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Each week you will need to complete the following:

- Review the weekly Canvas Chapter modules.
- Read the weekly Chapter(s) from the textbook.
- Watch the Video Lectures.
- Review Chapter PowerPoints. (If available).
- Write Weekly Chapter Summaries/ Critiques.
- Write Weekly Chapter Discussion posts.

Grading Cont...

Assignments:

Discussion Boards
Chapter Summaries

Points Possible:

280 points (7 x 40 points each)

140 points (7 x 20 points each)

420 points

Grade Breakdown:

365-420 points: A

325-364 points: B

275-324 points: C

230-274 points: D

< 230 points: F

Course Policies

Academic Honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not know how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor will report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who will place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating will result in an F in the course and disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.



Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)]. IVC Student Resources

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.

Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 10/07-10/12	Course Orientation Assignments: Attendance Check-In & Discussion 0	
Week 2 10/13-10/19	Read Chp.1 Why Study IR? Assignments: Chp.1 Summary & Discussion	
Week 3 10/20-10/26	Read: Chp.2 IR as an Academic Subject Assignments: Chp.2 Summary & Discussion	
Week 4 10/27-11/02	Read: Chp.3 Realism Assignments: Chp.3 Summary & Discussion	
Week 5 11/03-11/09	Read Chp.4 Liberalism Assignments: Chp.4 Summary & Discussion	
Week 6 11/10-11/16	Read Chp.8 Social Constructivism Assignments: Chp.8 Summary & Discussion	
Week 7 11/17-11/23	Read Chp.6 International Political Economy: Classical Theories Assignments: Chp.6 Summary & Discussion	
11/24-11/30	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!! – NO CLASS	
Week 8 12/01-12/05	Read: Chp.10 Foreign Policy Pt.1 Assignments: Chp.10 Summary & Discussion	