

**GOV 312L: Issues and Policies in American Government  
(America and the World)  
38735  
Mezes 1.306**

**Professor:**

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Office hours: Wednesday 1-2:30; Friday 1-2:30

**Teaching Assistants:**

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Course Overview:

This course provides a basic and broad introduction to U.S. foreign policy and international relations theory. The course covers classic approaches to studying international relations and foreign policy and deals with issues areas ranging from military intervention, terrorism, and international law to international trade, finance, and environmental cooperation.

Course Structure and Policies:

1. **Readings:** The following book is required for this course and available from the University Coop Bookstore. All other readings will be made available electronically through Blackboard. You are responsible for completing the readings for the class session for which the readings are listed.

Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse. 2012. *International Relations*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed., 2013-2014 update. Pearson Publishers.

Note that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> edition. If you use an older edition you may be missing some chapters or other material.

2. **Foreign Policy Simulation:** A portion of your class grade will be based on your participation and performance in a cooperative foreign policy simulation. The simulation software is called *Statecraft*. Participation requires a subscription, which costs \$30. During the simulation you will be sorted into “country” groups according to a foreign policy attitudes quiz. Once in these groups, you will meet each week and make decisions within a simulated world. During the weeks we run the simulation I will normally reserve class time on Fridays for meeting face to face within your group and to negotiate deals with other groups. This in class time is very important, and everyone is expected to attend.

Grading for the simulation will be based on two quizzes you will take at the beginning of the simulation which cover the *Statecraft* rules and instruction manual, short weekly write-ups analyzing your group’s decisions and your

specific role (e.g. president, national security advisor, etc.), and your country's performance in the simulation. The manual outlines the various awards your group can attain which will result in extra points for your simulation grade.

As with any group assignment, you will be expected to contribute to the decision-making of your group and behave in a professional and friendly manner. Group members who neglect their duties and do not attend face to face meetings will face grade deductions.

3. **Communication:** I will normally post course announcements on blackboard, but you are responsible for any and all announcements made *during* the class period. It is a good idea to check with friends if you miss class. Otherwise, contact me if you have questions or concerns.
4. **Deadlines, Exams, absences:** *Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted or alternate exam arrangements made, with the exception of an illness, a university-approved function, or death in the immediate family that clearly interferes with your ability to finish the assignment on time.* Documentation is required for each of the above and you are required to inform me before the deadline or scheduled exam time. Acceptable documentation for illness must come from health services or a doctor and demonstrate that you are physically unable to attend exam or complete an assignment. Failure to notify me will result in a zero for the assignment or exam.
5. **Class conduct:**
  - a. *Technology:* Please silence and put away all electronic devices prior to the start of class. If you are seen with a cell phone or other electronic device during an exam, you will automatically receive a zero, **no exceptions**. Laptops may be used for notes. If you are seen using a laptop for non-class related purposes, you will be given one warning. Any subsequent occurrences of inappropriate laptop usage will result in an individual ban on laptop usage for the remainder of the semester. *If you require a device for disability purposes please see me and provide documentation from the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office (<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> 512-471-6259)*
  - b. *Punctuality:* Please be on time to class. It is inconsiderate to your classmates and disruptive to the classroom environment to arrive after class has begun. If you must arrive late or leave early, please be discrete and respect your classmates.

## Assignments and Grading

Your grade will be composed of the following:

25% statecraft simulation  
25% exam 1  
25% exam 2  
25% exam 3

Grade Scale (final grades rounded to nearest whole number):

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| 93 and above | A   |
| 90-92        | A - |
| 87-89        | B+  |
| 83-86        | B   |
| 80-82        | B-  |
| 77-79        | C+  |
| 73-76        | C   |
| 70-72        | C-  |
| 67-69        | D+  |
| 63-66        | D   |
| 60-62        | D-  |
| 59 and below | F   |

**Exams:** There will be three in class exams designed to assess your knowledge of material covered in class. The exams will be primarily multiple choice. These exams will be closed note, closed book.

**Academic Misconduct:** All violations of university academic conduct guidelines, including plagiarism, will be referred to the dean of students office and will result in a zero on the assignment or exam in question. Plagiarism is the use of others' ideas or work without credit and/or presenting derivative work as one's own. This includes, but is not limited to, cutting and pasting from someone else's work or an internet source, failing to identify exact quotes, failing to cite a source for information that is only available from that source, failing to cite a source for an idea or argument you borrowed from that source, and turning in work that is not your own.

**Add/drop and incompletes:** Refer to the university catalog at

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi06-07/ch4/ch4f.html#Adding.and.Dropping.Courses> and

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi06-07/ch4/ch4d.html#Grades>

**University Honor Code:** The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Each

member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect towards peers and community.

**Students with disabilities** may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

**Notice regarding accommodations for religious holidays:** By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Emergency Evacuation Policy:** In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

## Course calendar

### **SECTION I. SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY**

August 27-29 Intro/Background  
Read G & P Chapter 1

Sept. 1, 3, 5 Realist Theories  
Read G&P Chapter 2

Sept. 8, 10, 12 Liberal and Social Theories  
Read G&P Chapter 3

Sept. 15, 17, 19 Foreign Policy  
Ready G&P Chapter 4

Sept. 22, 24, 26 International Conflict  
Ready G&P Chapter 5

#### **Begin Statecraft Simulation on September 22**

September 29, October 1 Military Force and Terrorism  
Read G&P Chapter 6

#### **October 3 EXAM I**

### **SECTION II. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

October 6, 8, 13 International Trade \*no class on October 10  
Read G&P Chapter 8

October 15, 17, 20 Global Finance and Business  
Read G&P Chapter 9

October 22, 24, 27 The North-South Gap  
Read G&P Chapter 12

October 29, 31, November 3 Economic Development  
Read G&P Chapter 13

#### **November 5 EXAM 2**

### **SECTION III. INTERNATIONAL LAW, ORGANIZATION, AND COLLECTIVE ACTION**

November 7, 10, 12 International Organization, Law, Human Rights

Read G&P Chapter 7

November 14, 17, 19 International Integration

Read G&P Chapter 10

November 21, 24 International Environment

Read G&P Chapter 11

No class November 26 or 28

**Thanksgiving**

December 1, 3, 5 Finish International Environment and Course Review/Wrap-up

**December 5 EXAM 3 (last day of class)**