

POLS 220: International Politics

Self-Paced Enroll Anytime Online Course

This is an unofficial syllabus and is subject to change at any time. The official course syllabus is posted in Blackboard or available upon request.

Instructor & Course Information

Credits 3 undergraduate credits
Pre-Requisites None

Instructor Dr. Brian R. Urlacher (he/him)*
Email Visit the Blackboard course for contact information.

*If you have any course questions prior to enrollment, please email und.online@und.edu.

About the Professor

Brian Urlacher received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut in 2007. He also earned a M.P.A. from the University of South Dakota and worked with the NGO Transparency International. He came to the University of North Dakota in 2007 and teaches courses in International Relations. His research focuses on cooperation under difficult circumstances. He has published on topics as diverse as conflict resolution in civil wars, negotiation analysis, and public goods provision.

Course Description and Objectives

This is an introductory survey course in international relations designed to help students relate, organize, and analyze the wide array of political events that occur on the international level. The course is centered around two goals: the development of a theoretically informed understanding of the international system and the development of a historically informed understanding of the forces that have shaped and continue to shape diversity and inequality in our world. Considerable attention is given in class to demonstrating how theoretical analysis helps us to understand and explain current international developments as well as persistent divisions in the international system. Students should monitor closely important international political developments that occur during the semester. Finally, this course introduces students to political science as a field of study. Many of the concepts, debates, and questions studied in this course will reappear in more advanced undergraduate courses.

This course fulfills three hours of your Essential Studies curriculum for the social sciences in the area of thinking and reasoning. Among other things, this means that this course aims at:

- cultivating of a social scientific approach to thinking about the international system.
- improving critical thinking skills through the application of theory to cases.
- improving critical thinking skills by examining concept development, measurement, and operationalization.

Textbook and Course Materials

Pevehouse, Jon, C. and Joshua S. Goldstein. 2020. *International Relations*, 12th edition. New York, NY: Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780135229255

Technical Requirements

The [UND Technical Support webpage](#) contains information on your UND email and how to download a free version of Microsoft Office.

- Students are expected to use their official UND email in the course.
- You will use Microsoft Word to complete assignments.
- [View the basic technical requirements](#) for every online course.

Course Overview and Organization

This course contains 12 lessons designed to focus your study of international relations and to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives/outcomes. You will work through a combination of required readings, view captioned videos, complete short comprehension quizzes, and post reflections to a “course notebook.”

Topic 1: Foundations

Lesson 1	Introduction to the International System
Lesson 2	The Collective Action Problem
Lesson 3	The Paradigms
Lesson 4	The Structure of the System

Topic 2: International Security

Lesson 5	International Conflict
Lesson 6	Security Challenges
Lesson 7	Security Cooperation

Topic 3: International Political Economy

Lesson 8	Introduction to International Political Economy
Lesson 9	Global Currency Systems
Lesson 10	Development Policy and Economics

Topic 4: International Law

Lesson 11	International Law and Governance
Lesson 12	Human Rights and Enforcement

Assessment and Grading

Each lesson in this course contains lesson objectives, a to-do list, required reading, instructor lectures and supporting documents, and an assessment.

5%	Reflections
10%	Comprehension Quizzes
20%	Research Note: This 3-5 page paper will test a hypothesis related to the democratic peace theory and will present the results of the analysis.
5%	Presentation: This is a 2-5 minute recorded presentation based on the research note.
60%	Topic Exams: There are 4 topic exams throughout the course. Each exam is worth 15%. Exams typically consist of a mix of short essay questions and vocabulary matching.

The following grading scale is used:

A	90% to 100%
B	80% to 89%
C	70% to 79%
D	60% to 69%
F	under 60%

Course Evaluation

Once you complete your course, you will be asked to complete an online course evaluation. Your feedback on the course is very important to me. I read all comments carefully and use them to improve my course.

About UND Self-Paced Enroll Anytime Courses

You have 3 to 9 months to complete this course from the time of your enrollment. You may work at your own pace and complete lessons/exams on your own schedule, submitting up to 3 per week for grading.

After you finish your course, your final grade will be posted in Blackboard. Please **allow 3-5 business days for your final grade to appear** on your transcript in Campus Connection. You will receive a confirmation email from the Enroll Anytime staff once the final grade is officially posted on your transcript. You may then order an official transcript, if desired.

If you have an **administrative** question regarding course enrollment dates, extensions, withdrawals, questions regarding your transcript, or need exam assistance, please contact the **Office of Extended Learning** at und.courses@UND.edu or 701-777-0488.

Questions regarding **coursework** should be directed to the **instructor**.

For **technical support** including username and password help, assignment submission, or other technical assistance in the course, contact [University Information Technology](#).

Student Resources

Many services are available to online students such as writing assistance from the UND Writing Center, free online tutoring, and more. Visit the [Student Resources page](#) for more information. You can also access the resources webpage from the *Student Resources* link in your Blackboard course menu.

University of North Dakota Policies & Resources

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a serious matter, and any deviations from appropriate behavior will be dealt with strongly. At the discretion of the professor, situations of concern may be dealt with as a scholastic matter or a disciplinary matter.

As a scholastic matter, the professor has the discretion to determine appropriate penalties to the student's workload or grade, but the situation may be resolved without involving many individuals. An alternative is to treat the situation as a disciplinary matter, which can result in suspension from the University, or have lesser penalties. Be aware that I view this as a very serious matter, and will have little tolerance of or sympathy for questionable practices. A student who attempts to obtain credit for work that is not their own (whether that be on a paper, quiz, homework assignment, exam, etc.) will likely receive a failing grade for that item of work, and at the professor's discretion, may also receive a failing grade in the course. Read more in the [Code of Student Life](#).

Accessibility for Students

The University of North Dakota is committed to providing equal access to students with documented disabilities. To ensure access to your classes and program, please contact [Accessibility for Students](#) (formerly known as Disability Services for Students) to engage in a confidential discussion about accommodations for the classroom, clinical and/or online course settings. Accommodations are not provided retroactively. Students are encouraged to register with the Community Standards & Accessibility for Students office at the start of their class/program. More information can be obtained by email UND.accessibilityforstudents@UND.edu or by phone at 701.777.2664.

If you receive an exam accommodation from Community Standards & Accessibility for Students, share the letter with the Office of Extended Learning at UND.courses@UND.edu.

Religious Accommodations

UND offers religious accommodations, which are reasonable changes in the academic environment that enable a student to practice or observe a sincerely held religious belief without undue hardship on the University. Examples include time for prayer or the ability to attend religious events or observe a religious holiday. To request an accommodation, complete [student religious accommodation request form](#). If you have any questions, you may contact the [Equal Opportunity & Title IX Office](#).

Pregnancy Accommodations

Students who need assistance with academic adjustments related to pregnancy or childbirth may contact the Equal Opportunity & Title IX Office to learn about your options. Additional information and services may be found at [Pregnancy Resources](#).

Resolution of Problems

Should a problem occur, you should speak to your instructor first. If the problem continues to be unresolved, go to the department chair, and next to the college Dean. Should the problem persist, you have the right to go to the Provost next, and then to the President.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the University of North Dakota that no person shall be discriminated against because of race, religion, age, color, gender, disability, national origin, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, veteran's status, or political belief or affiliation and the equal opportunity and access to facilities shall be available to all. Concerns regarding Title IX, Title VI, Title VII, ADA, and Section 504 may be addressed to Donna Smith, Assistant Vice President for Equal Opportunity & Title IX and Title IX/ADA Coordinator, by calling 701.777.4171 or emailing UND.EO.TitleIX@UND.edu. Concerns can also be directed to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 230 S. Dearborn St., 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, or any other federal agency.

Reporting Discrimination, Harassment, or Sexual Misconduct

If you or a friend has experienced sexual misconduct, such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, please contact the [Equal Opportunity & Title IX Office](#) or UND's Title IX Coordinator, Donna Smith, for assistance: 701.777.4171; donna.smith@UND.edu. You may also contact the Equal Opportunity & Title IX office if you or a friend has experienced discrimination or harassment based on a protected class, such as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, pregnancy, marital or parental status, veteran's status, or political belief or affiliation.

Faculty Reporting Obligations Regarding Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct

It is important for students to understand that faculty are required to share with UND's Title IX Coordinator any incidents of sexual misconduct or of discrimination or harassment based on a protected class they become aware of, even if those incidents occurred in the past or are disclosed as part of a class assignment. This does not mean an investigation will occur if the student does not want that, but it does allow UND to provide resources to help the student continue to be successful at UND. If you have been impacted by discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct, you can find information about confidential support services at the [Equal Opportunity & Title IX Office](#).

How to Seek Help When in Distress

We know that while college is a wonderful time for most students, some students may struggle. You may experience students in distress on campus, in your classroom, in your home, and within residence halls. Distressed students may initially seek assistance from faculty, staff members, their parents, and other students. In addition to the support we can provide to each other, there are also professional support services available to students on campus through the [Community Standards & Accessibility for Students](#) office and the [University Counseling Center](#). Both

staffs are available to consult with you about getting help or providing a friend with the help that he or she may need. Visit the [Office of Community Standards](#) webpage for more additional information.

How to Recognize When a Student is in Distress

The term “distressed” can mean any of the following:

- Student has significant changes in eating, sleeping, grooming, spending, or other daily activities.
- Student has cut off or minimized contact with family or friends.
- Student has significant changes in performance or involvement in academics, sports, extracurricular, or social activities.
- Student describes problems (missing class, not remembering, destructive behavior) that result from experiences with drinking or drugs.
- Student is acting withdrawn, volatile, tearful, etc.
- Student is acting out of character or differently than usual.
- Student is talking explicitly about hopelessness or suicide.
- Student has difficulty concentrating or difficulty carrying on normal conversation.
- Student has excessive dependence on others for company or support.
- Student reports feeling out of control of one’s emotions, thoughts, or behaviors.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Today, the University of North Dakota rests on the ancestral lands of the Pembina and Red Lake Bands of Ojibwe and the Dakota Oyate - presently existing as composite parts of the Red Lake, Turtle Mountain, White Earth Bands, and the Dakota Tribes of Minnesota and North Dakota.

We acknowledge the people who resided here for generations and recognize that the spirit of the Ojibwe and Oyate people permeates this land. As a university community, we will continue to build upon our relations with the First Nations of the State of North Dakota - the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation, Spirit Lake Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.