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PO 4700  
Contemporary International Relations

2015-6  
Maxwell Theater (MT)  
ARTS 2039 (HT)

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## Contact Information

### Michaelmas Term

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### Hilary Term

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## Description

The objective of this undergraduate module is to help students critically evaluate current world affairs using concepts and theories from contemporary international relations research. The international system is a complex environment. Multiple actors, interests and institutions interact to produce outcomes that we read and hear about in the media every day. Students will acquire the necessary theoretical tools which will allow for a clearer understanding of the international system and will facilitate critical and informed evaluation of global events, the causes and consequences of conflicts between nations, as well as theories of international security. Existing empirical results will also be emphasized and particular attention will be paid to the relevance of the concepts introduced to contemporary geopolitical issues and conflicts.

The first segment of the course will review the many dimensions of international conflict, ranging from interstate warfare to transnational terrorism. Following the “blood”, we will next shift our focus to the “money” where central themes and theories related to international political economy will be reviewed. Lastly, important new topics of international relations that are especially relevant to understanding the international system of the 21st century, such as transnational networks and issues dealing with environmental policy cooperation, will be studied in the last part of the module.

## Requirements and grading

Your grade for the entire course will be calculated as follows:

### Final Examination (60 %)

The final examination will cover the entire year. Material presented either in the lecture, in the readings or in the tutorials may form the subject of a question. The examination will consist of three questions. Each answer will count toward 1/3 of your examination's grade (i.e., 20% of your total grade for each answer).

### Debates (10%)

Format: These debates are based on the traditional Oxford-style format, with one side proposing and the other side opposing a 'motion'. You will be required to participate in 4 debates throughout the year (2 in each semester). These debates will take place during the tutorials (3-4PM for tutorial 1, 4-5PM for tutorial 2). By Monday, 12 October, you will be randomly assigned a motion and a position (yes/no)—please go to Blackboard ('files') to find the 4 debates in which you will take part (e.g., MT3 means that you will join debate 3 in the Michaelmas term). For example, a motion may be: "The United Nations is Obsolete". A group of students will be on the "yes" team, and another group on the "no" team.

The debates follow a strict structure:

1. *Opening statements.* Alternating between panels, each debater gives a 2 minute opening statement (time limit strictly enforced). Written notes may be used for reference.
2. *Inter-panel challenges.* After the opening statements, the debaters address each other directly.
3. *Questions.* The floor is then opened to questions from the audience (the other students in the tutorial).
4. *Closing statements.* Each debater in turn presents his 1 minute closing statement—the last chance to sway the audience.

Your oral participation in each debate will be worth 2.5% of your final grade. Your grade for the oral participation will depend on the following criteria:

1. Familiarity with the rules of the debate

2. Demonstrated knowledge of the issue
3. Conveyed well-researched arguments, supported with evidence
4. Demonstrated awareness of the opposition's arguments
5. Ability to convey complex ideas simply and concisely

Students who are not part of that week's debate team are still expected to come prepared and contribute to the discussion. For examples of debates with a similar format, please see: <http://intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/past-debates>

### Essays (30%)

You will be required to submit two essays (1 per semester). Each essay is **due on the Friday of the last teaching week**. Each essay should be double-spaced, 12pt font, and approximately 2,500 words in length. You are also required to begin the essay with a concise abstract (no more than 150 words [not included in total word count]) that summarizes the paper. You may choose your topic from the following list:

- Michaelmas Term:
  1. Information is now more detailed and readily available than ever before. How might this affect the propensity of states to go to war?
  2. Time after time, policy-makers seem to mispredict the consequences of their actions and fail to recognize dangerous situations for what they are. Can the risks of war be correctly estimated, or do we really only learn from history that we do not learn from it?
  3. Wars typically involve a large economic cost. How would you estimate that cost, and what challenges do you expect to face in your task?
- Hilary Term:
  1. Why does a political system offer trade protection to some groups and not to others? Pick a major economy and discuss which competing trade groups receive protection and which ones do not.
  2. Europe is currently experiencing an unprecedented in recent memory influx of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. What is wrong with current EU immigration policy in adequately addressing this challenge? Explain with evidence and offer a discussion on potential solutions.

3. There is staunch debate over the working conditions in manufacturing facilities in the developing world. Should there be stronger “sweatshop” regulation or would this be counterproductive? Explain in detail.

### Students enrolled in PO4701

Students who are enrolled in PO4701 and therefore are taking 10 ECTS for the module, will be required to complete one (1) debate and one (1) essay over the full year. You may choose to submit your essay in either term. However, the essay must be related to the content covered in that term.

### Turnitin

Please submit all your written work, including response papers, through Turnitin: (turnitin.com).<sup>1</sup>

Class ID: 10775619 (Michaelmas); 10754149 (Hilary)

Password: contir2015

### Academic & Professional Ethics

Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others’ ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar (see <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar>). Useful information is available at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>. If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one’s character. In addition, we strongly recommend that you visit <http://www.plagiarism.org/> for more information on what *is* and *is not* plagiarism. Lastly, students are required to only submit “new work” in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

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<sup>1</sup>For more information on Turnitin and academic integrity, please visit: <http://www.tcd.ie/CAPSL/students/integrity-plagiarism/> and <http://www.tcd.ie/CAPSL/readysteadywrite/>

## Syllabus Modification Rights

We reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although we may add reading assignments as well.

## Readings

*Main readings:*

- Frieden, J. A., Lake, D. A., & Schultz, K. A. (2013). World politics: interests, interactions, institutions. New York: WW Norton. 2nd Edition. Abbrev: (*FLS*)
- Oatley, Thomas H. (2012) *International Political Economy*. Boston: Pearson-Longman. 5th Edition. Abbrv: (*Oatley*)

Weekly readings are also required and are listed below.

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## Schedule: Michaelmas Term (Prof. Chadeaux)

### Week 1. Introductory Session

#### Required Readings:

- No readings this week

#### Motion:

*No debate this week*

### Week 2. Is War in Our Genes?

#### Required Readings:

- Kenneth N Waltz. *Man, the state, and war: a theoretical analysis*. Columbia University Press, 2001. Ch. 2 ('The First Image', pp. 16–41).
- Robert Axelrod. The evolution of cooperation. In Anatolií Andreevich Gromyko and Martin Hellman, editors, *Breakthrough: Emerging new thinking: Soviet and Western scholars issue a challenge to build a world beyond war*. Walker (New York, NY), 1988. <http://www-ee.stanford.edu/~hellman/Breakthrough/book/pdfs/axelrod.pdf>

#### Motion:

*No debate this week*

### Week 3. Anarchy, the Balance of Power and Polarity

#### Required Readings:

- John J Mearsheimer. *The tragedy of great power politics*. WW Norton & Company, 2001. Ch. 2, pp. 29–54.
- John J Mearsheimer. Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault. *Foreign Affairs*. 18 Aug. 2014.

#### Motion:

*No debate this week*

**Week 4. Arms Races and Alliances**Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 172–187
- James B. Steinberg and Michael O’Hanlon. Keep Hope Alive. *Foreign Affairs*. 16 Sept. 2014.

Motion:

*Motion MT-1: “NATO is outdated.”*

**Week 5. Bargaining and Conflict**Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 80–123

Motion:

*Motion MT-2: “The sanctions against Russia are inefficient.”*

**Week 6. Domestic Politics and War**Required Readings:

- Akbar Ganji. Who Is Ali Khamenei? *Foreign Affairs*. 12 Aug. 2013.
- *FLS* pp. 124–167

Motion:

*Motion MT-3: “Democratization will stabilize the Middle East.”*

**Week 7. Reading Week****Week 8. Economic Interdependence and Conflict**Required Readings:

- Marina Ottaway, David Ottaway. How the Kurds Got Their Way. *Foreign Affairs*. 17 Apr. 2014.



- Erik Gartzke and Yonatan Lupu. Trading on preconceptions: Why World War I was not a failure of economic interdependence. *International Security*, 36(4):115–150, 2012.

Motion:

*Motion MT-4: “A US-China war is inevitable.”*

## **Week 9. Conflict Outcomes**

Required Readings:

- Ivan Arreguin-Toft. How the weak win wars: A theory of asymmetric conflict. *International Security*, 26(1):93–128, 2001.
- Stephen Biddle. Ending the War in Afghanistan. *Foreign Affairs*. 12 Aug. 2013.

Motion:

*Motion MT-5: “The US intervention in Iraq has caused more harm than good.”*

## **Week 10. Terrorism**

Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 242–263
- Assaf Moghadam. Motives for martyrdom: Al-qaida, salafi jihad, and the spread of suicide attacks. *International Security*, 33(3):46–78, 2009.

Motion:

*Motion MT-6: “The US has won the ‘war on terror’.”*

## **Week 11. Civil Wars: Origins**

Required Readings:

- Fearon, James. “Iraq: Democracy or Civil War?” Testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations. September 15,

2006.

<http://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Fearon-testimony-9.15.06.pdf>

- *FLS* pp. 219–242

Motion:

*Motion MT-7: “The international community should send forces to Syria.”*

## **Week 12. Civil Wars: Course, Termination and Aftermath**

Required Readings:

- Stephen John Stedman. Spoiler problems in peace processes. *International security*, 22(2):5–53, 1997.
- Daniel Byman. Why Drones Work. *Foreign Affairs*. 11 June 2013.
- Audrey K Cronin. Why Drones Fail. *Foreign Affairs*. 11 June 2013.

Motion:

*Motion MT-8: “Territorial partition would solve Iraq’s problems.”*

## Schedule: Hilary Term (Prof. Boussalis)

### Week 1. International Trade Theory

#### Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 264-273, 306-311
- *Oatley* pp. 21-68.

#### Simulation:

*International Trade Game*

### Week 2. Politics of International Trade

#### Required Readings:

- *Oatley* pp. 69-110
- Scheve, Kenneth F., and Matthew J. Slaughter. "A new deal for globalization." *Foreign Affairs* (2007): 34-47.

#### Motion:

*Motion HT-1: "Global free trade does more harm than good."*

### Week 3. International Investment

#### Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 312-338
- Sachs, J. (1999). Upstairs, downstairs. *The International Economy*, 13(5), 30.
- Easterly, W. (2001). Debt relief. *Foreign Policy*, 20-26.

#### Motion:

*Motion HT-2: "The benefits of foreign investment in the developing world outweigh the drawbacks."*

## Week 4. Political Economy of Multinational Corporations

### Required Readings:

- *Oatley* pp. 158-201

### Motion:

*Motion HT-3: "Multinational corporations should be regulated more."*

## Week 5. Politics of International Migration

### Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 344-347
- Adida, C. L., & Girod, D. M. (2010). Do migrants improve their hometowns? Remittances and access to public services in Mexico, 1995–2000. *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Facchini, G., & Mayda, A. M. (2008). From individual attitudes towards migrants to migration policy outcomes: Theory and evidence. *Economic Policy*, 23(56), 652-713.
- Zaiotti, Ruben (2011) *Cultures of Border Control: Schengen and the Evolution of European Frontiers*. University fo Chicago Press. Ch. 5.

### Motion:

*Motion HT-4: "The EU should impose more restrictions on immigration."*

## Week 6. International Monetary Relations

### Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 350-385
- Frieden, Jeffrey. "Globalization and exchange rate policy." In *The Future of Globalization* (2008): 344-357.
- Eichengreen, Barry. "The eurozone crisis: the theory of optimum currency areas bites back." University of California, Berkeley (2014).
- Henkel, Hans-Olaf. "A Sceptic's Solution: A Breakaway Currency." *Financial Times* 29 (2011).
- Berggruen, Nicolas, and Nathan Gardels. "The Next Europe: Toward a Federal Union" *Foreign Affairs* 92 (2013): 134-142.

Motion:

*Motion HT-5: "The Euro should be abolished."*

**Week 7. Study Week. No meeting.****Week 8. International Development: Domestic Perspective**Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 386-400
- *If the World were 100 People*, [http://www.100people.org/statistics\\_100stats.php?section=statistics](http://www.100people.org/statistics_100stats.php?section=statistics)
- De Soto, Hernando. *Mystery of capital: why capitalism triumphs in the West and fails everywhere else*. Basic books, 2003. pp. 36-68.

Motion:

*Motion HT-6: "Democracy is necessary for the development of poor societies."*

**Week 9. International Development: International Perspective**Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 400-406, 413-418
- *Oatley* pp. 111-157
- Sachs, Jeffrey D. "The case for aid." *Foreign Policy: Democracy Lab* (2014)
- Easterly, William. "Aid amnesia." *Foreign Policy: Democracy Lab* (2014)

Motion:

*Motion HT-7: "Foreign aid works."*

**Week 10. Environment and International Politics**Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 492-533
- *Oatley* pp. 358-367

- Victor, D. G., Morgan, M. G., Apt, J., Steinbruner, J., & Ricke, K. (2009). The geoengineering option. *Foreign Affairs*, 88(2), 64-76.

Simulation:

*Climate Change Game*

## **Week 11. International Law & Norms**

Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 420-451.
- Kyl, Jon, Douglas J. Feith, and John Fonte. “The War of Law: How New International Law Undermines Democratic Sovereignty” *Foreign Affairs* 92 (2013): 115-125.
- Koh, Harold Hongju, and Michael Doyle. “The Case for International Law” (2013): 162-165.

Motion:

*Motion HT-7: “International law threatens democracy.”*

## **Week 12. Human Rights**

Required Readings:

- *FLS* pp. 452-491.
- Greenhill, B. (2010). The company you keep: International socialization and the diffusion of human rights norms. *International Studies Quarterly*, 54(1), 127-145.

Motion:

*Motion HT-8: “Human rights should take into account cultural differences.”*