

PLS 2253
Introduction to International Relations Online
Spring 2011

Dr. Roper
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Course Home Page: www.stevendroper.com/onlines2253.htm
Course WebCT Page: <https://online.eiu.edu/webct>

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to international relations. We examine the theoretical and the practical dimensions of international relations. We discuss the evolution of the international system and explore the current relationship among states, organizations and individuals. The first section of the course examines competing theories of international relations with an application to security issues. For most of the history of international relations as a discipline, concerns of security have dominated research and foreign-policy making. The second section of the course addresses the rise of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations with an application to public international law. The final section of the course examines international political economy (IPE) with a focus on core issues such as monetary regimes, trade and development.

While this is an online course, the material and examinations have been developed based on the fact that this is an introductory course rather than online. In other words, the online course is in most respects identical to the in-class course. If you have any questions or concerns about your grade, please email me directly. It is not appropriate to post on discussion board questions about your grade. This is a private matter between faculty and student. In addition, I will respond quickly to emails that have been sent either through WebCT or directly to my EIU account. However as a courtesy, I ask that you address me politely in the message. It is inappropriate not to have a salutation. Proper salutations include "Dr. Roper" or "Professor Roper." I will not respond to emails that do not address me respectfully.

I have attempted to create an online course that does not require extremely fast Internet connection. The course lectures have been designed with a power point and audio presentation. On the course home page, the software requirements are posted. Make sure that you have the appropriate software before starting the course. I will not be able to solve any hardware and software problems. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct software and that it is functioning properly. The course lectures were initially developed when I used a textbook by Joshua Goldstein. I have since shifted from a physical textbook (which required mailing to students which was a concern for those of you abroad) to online readings. I mention this because from time to time in the course lectures, you will hear me refer to Goldstein. Not to worry, none of his textbook is testable material.

Learning Objectives:

In this course, you can expect to develop or to improve your:

- Understanding of the impact of international events on domestic politics
- Basic understanding of the concepts used in international relations
- Understanding of the importance of theories in international relations

Grading Requirements:

There are three multiple choice examinations during the course. At the end of the course, I will double a student's best examination. The final examination is not cumulative. Material for the examinations is drawn from both the lectures and the readings. The examinations will be available on WebCT. I have designated a specific date for all three examinations. The examination must be completed on that date and by 12:00am (midnight) on the due date. After this time, I will remove the examination. Therefore, the examination must be completed on this date or else a zero will be given. I give make-up examinations only with a University-approved excuse. If you miss an examination due to a University-approved activity, please provide documentation prior to the examination. If you miss an examination due to illness or a family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible (either by phone or email). I require proper documentation in order to take a make-up examination which should be scheduled as soon as possible and consists of essay questions. Any student who misses an examination without proper documentation or fails to schedule the examination within a timely manner receives a zero. Grades for the examinations and the course are not curved or adjusted. The deadline to withdraw from the class with a "W" is 1 April.

Points:

The distribution of points is as follows:

Examination 1	100 points
Examination 2	100 points
Examination 3	100 points
(One examination will be doubled)	
<u>Total</u>	<u>400 points</u>

Grades:

Final grades for the course will be based on the following:

A	90-100%	(360-400 points)
B	80-89%	(320-359 points)
C	70-79%	(280-319 points)
D	60-69%	(240-279 points)
F	0-59%	(0-239 points)

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: Cheating, or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty. Plagiarism which includes but is not necessarily limited to, submitting material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty will result in an "F" for this course.

Student Disabilities:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify me as soon as possible.

Readings:

All readings are available online through WebCT. Under course content, there is a "Readings" link where all your readings are located.

Course Outline:**Introduction: Definition of Terms**

Richard N. Haass. 2008. "The Age of Nonpolarity." *Foreign Affairs* 87:3 (May/Jun):44-56.

International Relations Theories

Anne-Marie Slaughter. 2009. "America's Edge: Power in the Networked Century." *Foreign Affairs* 88:1 (Jan/Feb):94-113.

Foreign Policy and Diplomacy

Anthony J. Holmes. 2009. "Where Are the Civilians? How to Rebuild the U.S. Foreign Service." *Foreign Affairs* 88:1 (Jan/Feb):148-160.

Examination 1 (Sunday, 13 February)

International Organizations and Public International Law

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth. 2009. "Reshaping the World Order." *Foreign Affairs* 88:2 (Mar/Apr):49-63.

Robert C. Johansen. 2006. "The Impact of US Policy toward the International Criminal Court on the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes against Humanity." *Human Rights Quarterly* 28:2 (May):301-331.

International Trade and Monetary Systems and Policies

Kenneth E. Scheve and Matthew J. Slaughter. 2007. "A New Deal for Globalization." *Foreign Affairs* 86:4 (Jul/Aug):34-47.

Benn Steil. 2007. "The End of National Currency." *Foreign Affairs* 86:3 (May/Jun):83-96.

Examination 2 (Sunday, 27 March)

Theories of Integration and the European Union

Ronald D. Asmus. 2008. "Europe's Eastern Promise." *Foreign Affairs* 87:1 (Jan/Feb):95-106.

International Development

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. 2009. "How Development Leads to Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 88:2 (Mar/Apr):33-48.

Examination 3 (Sunday, 1 May)