



# International Relations (GOVT 1600-20)

In this introductory course, our primary focus is to establish a solid foundation for studying international relations. We will learn the main paradigms, explore their concepts, logic, and historical origins, and understand how policymakers use them. Additionally, we will examine their underlying assumptions and assess major debates in the literature.



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# Learning Goals

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe major concepts, logic, and debates in international relations theory.
2. Explain the historical origins of the theories and the debates between them.
3. Analyze the assumptions underlying these theories.
4. Frame questions about the theory and practice of international relations.



# Requirements

1. **Complete** all materials due for in-class discussion.
2. **Present** on the readings.
3. **Participate** actively during class discussions. On communication with peers.
4. **Write** five in-class essays responding to prompts that I will provide. Each essay should construct an argument that integrates insights from both the readings and class discussions. I will provide guidelines in class. The purpose of this exercise is to help you develop your own viewpoint.



# Grades

15% Reflection Essay 1

15% Reflection Essay 2

15% Reflection Essay 3

15% Reflection Essay 4

15% Reflection Essay 5

25% In-Class Participation

# Essay Rubric

1. **Answer**: To what extent does the essay answer the question?
2. **Structure and Organization**: To what extent is the essay structured and organized with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion?
3. **Argumentation**: How well does the essay use logic, evidence, and examples to support its argument?
4. **Use of Sources**: How effectively does the essay incorporate sources into its argument?
5. **Counter-Arguments**: How well does the essay identify counter-arguments?
6. **Response to Counter-Arguments**: To what extent does the essay respond to the counter-arguments?
7. **Originality**: To what extent does the essay demonstrate original thought and critical thinking, rather than merely summarizing existing perspectives?
8. **Clarity**: How clear is the essay's writing?



# Schedule

☰ All ☰ List +

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▼ Section	▼ Focus	Aa Topic	☰ Text
1. Realism	Readings	🔧 <u>Introduction</u>	
1. Realism	Readings	📖 <u>Morgenthau 1948</u>	
1. Realism	Readings	📖 <u>Waltz 1979</u>	
1. Realism	Essay	🖋 <u>In-Class: Reflection Essay 1</u>	
2. Liberalism	Readings	📖 <u>Mitrany 1948</u>	
2. Liberalism	Readings	📖 <u>Keohane and Nye 1973</u>	
2. Liberalism	Readings	📖 <u>Powell 1991</u>	
2. Liberalism	Essay	🖋 <u>In-Class: Reflection Essay 2</u>	
3. Constructivism	Readings	📖 <u>Wendt 1992</u>	
3. Constructivism	Readings	📖 <u>Finnemore and Sikkink 1998</u>	
3. Constructivism	Readings	📖 <u>Fearon and Wendt 2001</u>	
3. Constructivism	Essay	🖋 <u>In-Class: Reflection Essay 3</u>	
4. Sovereignty	Readings	📖 <u>Krasner 2004</u>	
4. Sovereignty	Readings	📖 <u>Jones 2015</u>	
4. Sovereignty	Readings	📖 <u>Lee 2020 &amp; Girod 2022 (several short readings)</u>	
4. Sovereignty	Essay	🖋 <u>In-Class: Reflection Essay 4</u>	
5. The National Interest	Readings	📖 <u>Huntington 1996</u>	
5. The National Interest	Readings	📖 <u>Ikenberry 2024</u>	
5. The National Interest	Readings	📖 <u>Girod 2024</u>	
5. The National Interest	Essay	🖋 <u>In-Class: Reflection Essay 5</u>	

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