

POLS 242 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Course Syllabus SPRING 2022-Draft

Instructor: Zühre Aksoy

e-mail: zuhre.aksoy@boun.edu.tr

Teaching Assistant: Aybala Bulut, aybalabulut0@gmail.com

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the **key concepts** to analyze world politics. The course will briefly explore the historical evolution of world politics, the modern state system, and focus on **theories of International Relations**. The course will cover scholarly discussions on the relations between states, international regimes, diplomacy, international organizations and transnational actors. The themes we will look include international security, international political economy, and the debates on globalization and global governance.

Course Requirements:

The course will be conducted **online, live zoom** sessions via Moodle platform. You are expected to do the readings for each week before class; attend live sessions regularly, and participate in discussions in an informed manner. I will not take attendance, however, the course will be most productive only if you attend the sessions regularly. These live zoom sessions will not be recorded. The sessions will be a mix of lecture and discussion.

Please note that recording lectures, sharing of visual lecture content and other course materials is not permitted.

There will be **two exams**, one midterm and a final. The format of the exams will be announced later. There will be **three unannounced quizzes**.

The textbook for the course is: *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*, by Joseph S. Nye and David A. Welch. The textbook and the additional readings will be available at the e-reserve section of Bogazici Library.

Grading:

Midterm exam:	% 35
Final exam:	% 50
3 Quizzes:	% 15

Academic Honesty:

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. For further guidelines, you can consult <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/pdf/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf>
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - a) an automatic "F" in the assignment or the exam
 - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

READING LIST and the WEEKLY SCHEDULE

1. February 23, 24: Introduction and Overview

2. March 2, 3: A Brief History of International Relations

Nye and Welch, Chapter 1.

3. March 9, 10: Basic Concepts and Theories of International Relations (I)

Nye and Welch, Chapter 2.

4. March 16, 17: Basic Concepts and Theories of International Relations (II)

Nye and Welch, Chapter 3.

Kenneth Waltz. *Theory of International Politics*, Chapter 5. pp. 79-101. (New York: Random House, 1979).

5. March 23, 24: Theories of International Relations and World Politics in Flux (I)

John J. Mearsheimer, 'The False Promise of International Institutions', *International Security* 19 (Winter 1994-95): 5-49.

Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory: Response to John Mearsheimer," *International Security*, vol.19, Winter 1994/95.

6. March 30, 31: Theories of International Relations and World Politics in Flux (II)

Nye and Welch, Chapter 4.

Alexander Wendt (1992) 'Anarchy is What States Make of It,' *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. 391-425.

7. April 6, 7: Diplomacy and Foreign Policy

Nye and Welch, Chapter 5.

8. April 13, 14: MIDTERM EXAM

9. April 20, 21: Conflict and Cooperation

Nye and Welch, Chapter 6.

Thomas Weiss. 2015. The United Nations: before, during and after 1945. *International Affairs*, 91, 6, pp. 1221-1235.

10. April 27, 28: Globalization, Interdependence and Transnational Actors

Nye and Welch, Chapter 7 and Chapter 8.

11. May 4, 5: SPRING BREAK

12. May 11, 12: Movie Screening

Readings will be announced

13. May 18, 19: Global Governance: Prospects for the Future

May 18:

Nye and Welch, Chapter 9.

Thomas G. Weiss and Rorden Wilkinson. 2014. Rethinking Global Governance: Complexity, Authority, Power, Change, and the responses by Craig N. Murphy, Mark Mazower and Martha Finnemore. *International Studies Quarterly*, 58 (1): 207-224.

May 19: Holiday: No Class