

[POLS160] INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

RECITATION SYLLABUS | Term: Spring 2024

RECITATION LEADER: Rachel Urban (She/Her/s)

Office hours: Two, 1-hour Zoom sessions **Wednesdays & Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm** → Zoom link: [here](#) [and URL here: <https://unl.zoom.us/j/8046565090>]

If you cannot make these times, schedule an appointment with me on my [Calendly](#) [full URL here: <https://calendly.com/rachelurban66>].

On Essay or Exam weeks, I plan that these can also serve as online writing sessions with Q&A (naturally) or open discussions reviewing exam questions – with breaks!

Objectives:

1. Understand different explanations of how the world works.
2. Analyze how (if?) IR research & explanations (actually) apply IRL.
3. Beef up general writing skills (communication!).

I color code things:

Orange = Activities

Red = Due dates / Outstanding items

Blue = Reminders / Events

Here are some one-line summaries of university or class policy:

Exam Review Sessions: Brianna and I are going to run two-hour study sessions on Wednesday *EVENINGS. Time & rooms TBD – will be announced on Canvas.*

Recitation Expectations: (1) Show up and (2) have your work done!

You have opinions and I know you're all curious (i.e., have questions) – *especially* if you don't understand something!

Attendance: Come to class. This is REQUIRED FOR YOUR GRADE.

PSEPP: MUST have ALL 8 credits for ANY credit. [All or nothing.]

Zooming: Illness/Severe Weather: We'll defer to university policy and guidance.

SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Introduction to the Course & Syllabus [+ Vocab!]

- Course/Recitation Expectations
- What is IR? What is theory?
- Who is in IR?

Week 2: Theoretical Frameworks I [Neo/Realism]

- Sign up for PSEPP?? [Guest: Susie, our resident PSEPP admin]
- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- Essay Writing: Intro & Citations

Week 3: Theoretical Frameworks II [Neo/Liberalism & Constructivism]

- Vocab Review
- Handout + Discussion Questions
- Essay Writing: ChatGPT & Citations Review
- Courtney visits us!

Week 4: International Security I: Deciding to Fight

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- Essay Writing: WRITING TIME
 - o Essay 1 due next week!

Week 5: International Security II: Fighting

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- Essay Writing: WRITING TIME
 - o Essay #1 – DUE 22 FEB
- **REMEMBER: PSEPP PRE-SCREEN SURVEY DUE 23 FEB @11:59PM**

Week 6: EXAM 1 PREP – DUE FRIDAY, 1 MAR @5:00pm/17:00 (CST)

Week 7: **EVENT & FORUM** – no class.

Week 8: ✨ SPRING BREAK ✨

Week 9: International Political Economy (IPE) I → Trade

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- SHEIN documentary (YouTube)

Week 10: IPE II → Finance

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- **TRADE SIMULATION**

Week 11: IPE III → Development

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- Essay Writing: WRITING TIME
 - o Essay #2 – DUE 2 APR

Week 12: EXAM 2 PREP – DUE 12 APR

Week 13: International Law & Organizations I: Law and the United Nations (UN)

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions

Week 14: International Law & Organizations II: Human Rights

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- DEBATE?

Week 15: International Law & Organizations III: The Environment & Technology

- Vocab Review
- Discussion Questions
- DEBATE

Week 16: EXAM 3 PREP – DUE 10 MAY

Course Policies & Resources

For details about the following, go to <https://executivevc.unl.edu/academic-excellence/teaching-resources/course-policies>

- University-wide Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty Policy
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Policy
- Resources for students seeking mental health help
- Final Exam Week Schedule
- Emergency Procedures
- Diversity and Inclusiveness
- Title IX Policy

In addition, please take note of the following policies and resources (some of which are from Courtney's syllabus):

Schedule

Our current schedule is not set in stone and may be subject to change. I want to curate the best learning experience for you!

Illness

If you are ill, please communicate with me (I don't require details) so we can create a plan for you to finish this class. I don't want you to fall behind! It can happen quickly.

Accessibility & Accommodations

Please contact me regarding any accommodations you may need to help you get through this class to curate your learning experience (for example, any mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions). I am here to support you in any way that you need! To establish reasonable accommodations in your unique situations, you may need to register with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in 117 Louise Pound Hall and can be contacted at 402-472-3787 and by email (ssd@unl.edu). (Linked [here](#).)

Academic Honesty

I have a zero-tolerance academic dishonesty policy. Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to receiving a zero on the assignment or fail the course, and are granted due process and the right to appeal any decision. Please refer to the Student Handbook, the University's Code of Conduct and the Office of Undergraduate Studies' documents on academic integrity and for the University's policies on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions on citations and sourcing in your assignments, I am happy to answer them. If you have any additional questions (about how to include proper and complete citations, how to use your own words to discuss an author's work, etc.) I encourage you to talk with me rather than risk the penalty associated with failing to maintain academic honesty.

Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in 102 Andrews Hall and satellite locations from 5-7 pm in Adele Hall, is a free service for all UNL students, faculty, and staff. You can work with an individual writing consultant on any type of writing at any stage in your writing process. For an appointment, call 472-8803 or [schedule online](#).

First-Year (Freshmen & Transfer Students) UNL Academic Support Services

You can schedule free appointments for individual academic coaching with First-Year Experience and Transition Program staff through the Student Success Hub. You can also take advantage of study stops--which provide individual and group study with learning consultants in a variety of disciplines--and free group workshops on topics such as time management, goal setting, test preparation, and reading strategies. See <https://success.unl.edu> for schedules and more information.

Diversity and Inclusion

I am going to work hard to create a comfortable yet professional space here to discuss our sensitive topics. I do not tolerate hate speech, discursive, or insensitive language (see next sections).

Classroom Climate

Because the topics in this course may be emotionally charged or challenging for class members, I hope we can create an environment that is both intellectually productive and supportive for all. I realize there might be days when class members may choose to be silent. Beyond verbal participation, your active and supportive listening is

also an important and valuable form of participation. I hope that we will continuously reflect upon our class processes so that we can build an inclusive intellectual community where all feel valued and supported in their learning.

Discussing Controversial Topics

Some of the topics we will discuss over the semester are likely to be sensitive and/or controversial. A variety of opinions, beliefs, and statements may surface during class discussions, some of which may be experienced as “racist,” or “anti-Semitic,” or “homophobic,” or “sexist,” or “fascist,” or “Islamophobic,” etc. You will be encouraged to express your opinions and beliefs, and to do so with respect for the opinions of other students who may hold different beliefs. If controversial claims are made, you will be discouraged from labeling any classmate as “a racist,” or “an anti-Semite,” or “a fascist,” or “a bigot,” etc. Instead, you will be encouraged to respond to opinions with which you disagree by saying, “I disagree with the statement you just made and I **experience** it [i.e., the statement] as racist (or homophobic, or anti-Semitic, etc.) because...,” and then share your opinion with your classmates and me. All of you are encouraged to express your views and beliefs even when those views may be considered unpopular. If you have any concerns that you will have difficulty with voicing your opinions/beliefs insensitive language, feel free to consult with me during office hours and I will be happy to assist you. *Remember, your reality is not another’s reality, just as theirs’ is not yours.* All experiences are different.

Video or Audiotaping Class Sessions

Due to the sensitive and controversial nature of some of the topics that will be discussed over the duration of the semester, all classes are closed to the Press/Media. No video or audio taping of class sessions is allowed unless you obtain my permission to do so.

I invite all of you to join me in actively creating and contributing to a positive, productive, and respectful classroom culture. Each student contributes to an environment that shapes the learning process. Any work and/or communication that you are privy to as a member of this course should be treated as the intellectual property of the speaker/creator, and is not to be shared outside the context of this course.

Students may not make or distribute screen captures, audio/video recordings of, or livestream, any class-related activity, including lectures and presentations, without express prior written consent from me or an approved accommodation from Services for Students with Disabilities. If you have (or think you may have) a disability such that you need to record or tape class-related activities, you should contact Services for Students with Disabilities. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Failure to follow this policy on recording or distributing class-related activities may subject you to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct (linked [here](#)).

Trespass Policy (Regents’ Policy 6.4.7)

The areas of University academic, research, public service, and administrative buildings of the University used for classrooms, laboratories, faculty and staff offices, and the areas of University student residence buildings used for student living quarters are not open to the general public. Any person not authorized to be or remain in any such building area will be deemed to be trespassing on University property and may be cited and subject to prosecution for criminal trespass in violation of Neb. Rev. Stat., § 28-520 or § 28-521.

Stressed or Overwhelmed??

UNL offers a variety of options for students to aid them in dealing with stress and adversity. **Counseling and Psychological & Services (CAPS)** is a multidisciplinary team of psychologists and counselors that works collaboratively with Nebraska students to help them explore their feelings and thoughts and learn helpful ways to improve their mental, psychological, and emotional well-being when issues arise. CAPS can be reached by calling 402-472-7450 or their website <https://caps.unl.edu>. **Big Red Resistance & Well-Being (BRRWB)** provides one-on-one well-being coaching to any student who wants to enhance their well-being. Trained well-being coaches help students create and be grateful for positive experiences, practice resilience and self-compassion, and find support as they need it. BRRWB can be reached by calling 402- 472-8770 or going on their website <https://resilience.unl.edu/big-red-resilience-well-being>.

All other UNL course policies: All other policies can be found on the [UNL Registrars webpage](#). If you cannot find something, you may use this [search engine](#), or I try can help you find them!