

Introduction to International Relations

February 18 – June 9, 2020

New Version / Updated Friday, March 31, 2020

Course outline and objectives

This course introduces students to the academic discipline of International Relations by focusing on core concepts, theories, and dynamics in world politics. Illustrations will be drawn from international history and contemporary affairs. The chief purpose of this course is to provide solid conceptual grounding for the various thematic IR theory courses students will take throughout their degree at FGV. By the end of the course, students will have:

- A firm grasp of the core concepts that organize IR as an academic discipline;
- An understanding of how theories help us make sense of world politics, as well as their limitations;
- In-depth knowledge of key cases that illustrate dynamics of world politics;
- Skills to critically read and comment IR scholarship;
- Skills to craft solid essays that connect concepts and theories to the realities of world politics today.
- An ability to publicly debate key themes in world politics.

> Professor

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> Class schedule

> Turma 1:

Tuesday, 7h00-8h50:

Wednesday, 9h00-10h50:

Friday, 9h00-10h50:

> Turma 2:

Tuesday, 9h00-10h50:

Wednesday, 11h00-12h50:

Friday, 11h00-12h50

> Office Hours (via skype)

Tuesday, 14h00 – 16h00

Friday, 14h00 – 16h00

Skype:

(schedule via Calendly beforehand):

Online Course Structure

Teams: Students will be divided up into twelve teams. We recommend that each team start a WhatsApp group to conduct easy, quick intra-team communication. Team membership will remain constant for the duration of this course.

Lectures: Lectures online will be organized around 3 separate 15-minute slots, and will include a general overview of the topic at hand, a summary of the main debates in the field, and detailed commentary on the kinds of questions that students should be able to answer when confronted to that particular topic. Lecture slots will be separated by two 10' Q&As and one 5' break.

Instructor availability: Because quarantines are so disruptive and challenging, the instructor will be online some ten minutes before starting time for each class. You can join Zoom for a chat and a discussion of how everybody is coping with these unusual and somewhat unsettling circumstances.

Tutorials: These offer an opportunity for students to have detailed feedback on their essays.

Cases and Debates: Towards the end of each thematic unit in the course will focus on a specific case study or problem and develop reasoned arguments in class.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course consists of a series of classes with pre-assigned readings. Students are expected to do all the readings and attend a minimum of 75% of the course and contribute to class discussion by engaging the issues that stem from the readings.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- Three short essays (only the top 2 count towards the grade): 40%;
- Three group assignments: 25%
- Final exam: 35%

Short essays: Each student will submit three 750-word essays in response to questions distributed in class beforehand, two of which will count towards the final grade. The essays must be sent in .docx or .doc formats with the following configuration: 1.5-spacing, Arial or Times New Roman font, size 12, margins left and top 3 cm, right and bottom 2 cm. Documents in other formats (.pdf, .pages, etc.) will not be accepted. Essays should be submitted via E-Class by 11:59 pm on the dates specified below. Papers received after the deadline will only be accepted in cases of emergency. In each essay students will answer the given question with reference to the concepts and theories discussed in class. Essays are not summaries of the readings, and they should be written with an informed readership in mind (so you can focus on the discussions that matter most). More detailed instructions on essay structure will be given the first week of class. Essays may be submitted in English or Portuguese. We will not have a class on the day essays are due, but your attendance will be computed when you submit your essay. Please be aware that if you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance for that day.

Group assignments: Groups will work together continuously throughout the semester. Assignments include: 1) A presentation in Lecture 17 about how the assigned country deals with the rise of China,

2) one or two presentations addressing the question of each class and summarizing the readings and
3) a jointly written essay about the crisis in Venezuela, to be submitted on the day of Lecture 36. Grades for each one of the assignments will be given to the entire group, so make sure you give it your best (and don't end up hurting your fellow group members). Grading will be given on a scale from zero to 10, following the criteria below. At the beginning of each class, a group will be randomly chosen to present the day's readings in a 15-minute presentation. **Since the group that will open the discussion will be chosen randomly at the beginning of each class, the groups must be ready to present every single class.** At the end of each class, students spend 30-45 minutes within their groups to prepare for the next presentation.

Final exam: The exam will cover the entire course syllabus. Students will respond to two questions of their choosing out of a menu of different questions. Exams will be written at home. All questions will address topics from the lectures and readings. Exams may be written in English or Portuguese. If you happen to take Reaval, the you will be assessed on the basis of your answer to one single question.

Online Course Policies

- Online learning entails several risks, including lack of concentration and boredom. The instructor will do his best to offer as lively a meeting as he possibly can, but you should do your utmost to stay clear of these risks. Switch off your email and WhatsApp during class, and do not go anywhere near Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or any other apps. If you need external help to make this happen, download and use Cold Turkey (for PC and Mac), StayFocused (Android and OS), Forest App or similar software to keep you away from digital distractions.
- If you share your room or the house with someone else, make sure they know the times in which you will be taking an online class so they disrupt your concentration as little as possible.
- It is the policy of the School of International Relations at FGV that all cases of academic dishonesty – including plagiarism – be reported to the Undergraduate Committee and their Chair.
- The readings for this class are available in electronic format on E-class.
- Schedule office hours electronically; see the office hours above

Criteria for Grading Essays and the Exam

8 or above: Work in this category shows excellent command of the topic. It is well organized, clearly expressed and cogently argued. Work in this category will either approach the question from an unexpected angle, contain unusually illuminating or original thinking, or be especially well illustrated.

7,5 to 7,9: Work in this category shows excellent command of the topic. It is well organized, clearly expressed and cogently argued.

6,5 to 7,4: Work in this category shows sound knowledge of the topic. It displays very good understanding of the question and it is clearly organized and cogently argued. The argument is detailed, precise, and clear.

6 to 6,4: Work in this category shows sound knowledge of the topic. It is clearly organized and cogently argued. Achieving this mark on a question means that the student has firm control of the essential points.

5,5 to 5,9: Work in this category shows some weaknesses in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, or focus.

5 to 5,4: Work in this category shows extensive weaknesses in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, or focus. The candidate has firm control of at least some of the essential points.

4 to 4,9: Work in this category shows some basic knowledge of the topic. Yet it displays some serious deficiencies in terms of its accuracy, coherence, detail, organization, or focus.

3 to 3,9: Work in this range shows an attempt to answer the question set, but it is either irrelevant to the question set, incoherent, unsystematic, superficial, or unacceptably brief.

1 to 2,9: Work in this category fails to show any basic knowledge of the topic.

Zero: Work that features evidence of plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (Tuesday, February 18) – Course Overview and Introduction

Lecture 2 (Wednesday, February 19) – What is the Academic Discipline of IR?

What is the difference between the academic discipline of IR and world politics? What implications follow from the rise of the nation state as the core unit of world politics?

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- “Por que estudar RI?”, in Robert Jackson & Georg Sørensen, *Introdução às Relações Internacionais* (Zahar, 2013), 35p.

Lecture 3 (Friday, February 28) – Case study: Petrobras in Bolivia

- No reading for this class.

States, Territory, and Sovereignty in IR

Lecture 4 (Tuesday, March 3) – State, War, and Trade

How did a global system of nation states come into being, and to what effect?

- Hendrik Spruyt, “War, Trade, and State Formation”, in Robert E. Goodin, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Science*, 32p.

Lecture 5 (Wednesday, March 4) – States and Territory

To what extent is territory relevant in world politics? Can states ever exert authority beyond their territories? Can non-state actors influence the state?

- Benjamin Lessing and Graham Denyer Willis, “Legitimacy in Criminal Governance: Managing a Drug Empire from Behind Bars”, *American Political Science Review*, 2019, 23 p.

Lecture 6 (Friday, March 6) – Sovereignty versus Ungoverned Spaces

What functions does sovereignty perform in world politics? What happens in the absence of effective exercise of sovereignty?

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- Stephen D. Krasner, "Sovereignty", in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2014), 6p.
- Jennifer Keister, "The Illusion of Chaos: Why Ungoverned Spaces Aren't Ungoverned, and Why that Matters", (*Cato Institute Policy Brief*, 2014) 24p.

Lecture 7 (Tuesday, March 10) – Case study on the practice of sovereignty

Contrast the argument for and against the "two-state solution" for the Israel-Palestine conflict.

- For an account of why many in Israel don't believe Palestinians will ever engage in serious talks, see: Benny Morris. "Talks will no Nowhere", *The Daily Beast*, July 13, 2017.
- For the argument as to why Palestinians are skeptical of a two-state solution, see: Rashid Khalidi. *Is Any Hope Left for Mideast Peace?* New York Times, March 12, 2013.
- The Economist, "One State or Two?," *Special Report*, May 18, 2017.
- Max Fisher, "The Two-State Solution: What it is and Why it hasn't happened," *The New York Times*, December 29, 2016.
- The Economist, "How to end the endless conflict between Israel and the Palestinians," May 17, 2018.
- The Economist, "Israel still rules over Palestinians 50 years after its six-day war," May 20, 2017.

Anarchy in IR

Lecture 8 (Wednesday, March 11) – Anarchy as a concept

Why is anarchy different from the absence of order? What implications follow when an international system is "anarchical"?

- Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," [1979] in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 20p.

Lecture 9 (Friday, March 13) – The global response to the coronavirus pandemic

- No reading for this class.

Lecture 10 (Tuesday, March 17) – Essay #1 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class).

Essay question: Is there any chance for peace in Syria without the Assad regime? Discuss with reference to the concepts of state, sovereignty, and territory. The submission of your essay will count as attendance for the class on May 16th.

- You may profitably read Christopher Philips, *The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East* (Yale University Press, 2016), chapter 1 and/or
- Théodore McLauchlin, "Why has the Syrian civil war lasted so long?" *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, July 27, 2018. These readings are optional.

Break to adjust course to online format

Lecture 11 (Tuesday, March 24) – Anarchy and Legitimacy

What is the relationship between anarchy, war and, and order in the international system?

- Henry Kissinger, “Europa: o Ordenamento Internacional Pluralista”, in *Ordem Mundial* (Objetiva, 2015).

Lecture 12 (Wednesday, March 25) – Mitigating Anarchy

How do states cooperate to mitigate the impact of anarchy?

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- Stanley Hoffman, “The Uses and Limits of International Law” [reprint do original de 1968, in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 5p.
- Robert Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?” [reprint do original de 1998], in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 8p.

Power in IR

Lecture 13 (Friday, March 27) – The concept of power

What accounts as power in international politics? What is the relationship between power and influence in the international system?

Group presentation

- Joseph Nye, “What is Power in Global Affairs”, in *The Future of Power* (Public Affairs, 2011), 22p.
- Oliver Stuenkel, “Do the BRICS possess soft power?”, in *Journal of Political Power*, 2016, 15p.

Lecture 14 (Tuesday, March 31) – National power

What is the essence of national power in the modern world? How does nationalism affects world politics?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- Hans Morgenthau, “A essência do poder nacional”, in *A política entre as nações* [1948] (Editora da Universidade de Brasília, 2003), 16p.

Lecture 15 (Wednesday, April 1) – Essay #1 Tutorial in class

Lecture 16 (Friday, April 3) – Case study: Is Russia a great power or a declining force in the world?

Group presentation

- Dimitri Alexander Simes, “A Russian Perspective on Foreign Affairs: an Interview with Konstantin Zatulin”, *National Interest*, July 30, 2018.
- Simon Saradzhyan and Nabi Abdullaev, “Is Vladimir Putin’s Russia in decline? We figured out how to measure ‘national power’”, *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, June 20, 2018.

Lecture 17 (Tuesday, April 7) – Group Assignment #1 - Group briefings

How your group’s assigned country should assess the power of China and its consequences for the international system today? Discuss with reference to the concepts of anarchy (and its mitigation), legitimacy, and power.

These two readings are optional and serve the sole purpose of raising awareness about the Chinese case.

- Mark Leonard, “Why Convergence Breeds Conflict,” *Foreign Affairs*, Sep/Oct 2013.
- David Shambaugh, “The Illusion of Chinese Power,” *National Interest*, June 25, 2014.

Polarity in IR

Lecture 18 (Wednesday, April 8) – Uni, Bi, and Multipolar Systems

What is polarity and how does it affect world political dynamics?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*
- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1979), Leia apenas as páginas 129 a 138
- John Mearsheimer, “Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War,” *International Security*, Vol.15, No.1, Summer 1990. Leia apenas páginas 1 a 21.

Lecture 19 (Tuesday, April 14) – Polarity and Stability

What systems produce more stability in international relations? How does polarity shape international conflict?

Group presentation

- John Mearsheimer, “Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War”, *International Security*, Vol.15, No.1, Summer 1990. Leia apenas páginas 22 a 40.

Hierarchy in IR

Lecture 20 (Wednesday, April 15) – Hegemony

How do we know hegemony when we see it? What are the more prevailing confounders of hegemony?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, 'American Primacy in Perspective', *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.81, No.4, 2002, 14p.

Lecture 21 (Friday, April 17) – Essay #2 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class)

Essay question: Is the era of US hegemony over, and is the international system transitioning away from unipolarity?

- Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, "The One and Future of Superpower: Why China Won't Overtake the United States," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2016.
- Yan Xuetong, "From a Unipolar to a Bipolar Superpower System: The Future of the Global Power Dynamic," *Carnegie-Tsinghua*, December 31, 2011.

Lecture 22 (Wednesday, April 22) – Empire

How do empires work and how do they differ from hegemony? Is there room for imperialism today?

Group presentation

- Niall Ferguson, "Hegemony or Empire", *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2003.

Lecture 23 (Friday, April 24) – Colonialism

What is the logic of colonial power, and to what degree is it prevalent in the world today? How does colonialism relate to hegemony and empire?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*
- Sankaran Krishna, "How Does Colonialism Work?" in Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, eds., *Global Politics: A New Introduction* (Routledge, 2014), 24p.

Lecture 24 (Tuesday, April 28) – Hierarchy and Western-centrism in IR

Is the discipline of International Relations western-centric? How does it affect our capacity to make sense of contemporary global politics?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- Oliver Stuenkel. *The Post-Western World*. Introduction and Chapter 1. Policy, 2016.

Great Power Politics

Lecture 25 (Wednesday, April 29) – *Balancing versus Bandwagoning* (part 1)

How do alliances work? What types of behavior do they generate, and to what effect?

Group presentation

- Stephen Walt, "Explaining Alliance Formation", chapter 1, in *The Origin of Alliances* (Cornell University Press, 1987). Read pages 17 to 33 only.

Lecture 26 (Tuesday, May 5) – *Balancing versus Bandwagoning* (part 2)

How do alliances work? What types of behavior do they generate, and to what effect?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- Stephen Walt, “Explaining Alliance Formation”, capítulo 1, in *The Origin of Alliances* (Cornell University Press, 1987). Leia apenas as páginas 33 a 49.

Lecture 27 (Wednesday, May 6) – Power Politics

What is power politics and how does it differ from other types of politics?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. *The Economist*.
- John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle Power”, in Robert Art and Robert Jervis eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues* (Pearson Longman, New York, 2007), 19p.

What is the status quo and what are its implications? What are the minimum requirements to keep it going, and under what conditions does it break?

Group presentation

- Hans Morgenthau, “A luta pelo poder: a política do status quo”, in *Política Entre as Nações* (Universidade de Brasília, 2003), 10p.
- Martin Wight, “Grandes potências,” in *A Política do Poder* (Universidade de Brasília, 2003), 12p.

Lecture 28 (Friday, May 8) – Essay #2 Tutorial in class

Lecture 29 (Tuesday, May 12) – Concert of Power

When do concerts of power emerge in international relations?

Group presentation

- Henry Kissinger, *The Concert of Europe: Great Britain, Austria and Russia*, in *Diplomacy* (Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 1994), 25p.

Lecture 30 (Wednesday, May 13) – Essay #3 submission by 8pm (no meeting in class)

Essay question: Are we now seeing the emergence of a new global balance of power?

- Interview: Henry Kissinger, “New world disorder: An interview with Henry Kissinger,” *Prospect*, October 2014.
- Interview: Henry Kissinger, “We are in a very, very grave period,” *Wanted*, July 23, 2018.

Please remember your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit your essay. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Global Justice

Lecture 31 (Friday, May 15) – Order and Justice in World Politics. The concept of Global Justice

What is the relationship between order and justice? Can they ever coexist?

Group presentation

- The World This Week. The Economist
- Hedley Bull, *Ordem versus Justiça na política internacional*, in *A Sociedade Anárquica* (Editora da Universidade de Brasília, 2003).

What is global justice and what are its empirical expressions in contemporary world politics?

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Global Justice”, 6 March 2015, 20p.

Lecture 32 (Tuesday, May 19) – Distributive Justice

How do arguments for global redistributive justice fit with power politics?

Group presentation

- Lu Catharine, “Colonialism as Structural Injustice: Historical Responsibility and Contemporary Redress”, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 2011, vol. 19, no 3, 20.

Lecture 33 (Wednesday, May 20) – Humanitarian Intervention

Do states have a right to intervene to protect human lives?

Group presentation

- Alex J. Bellamy, “Humanitarian Intervention”, in *The Routledge Handbook of Global Ethics* (2014).

Lecture 34 (Friday, May 22) – Case Study on Global Justice: Managing post-war Iraq.

Did the Iraq War ever become a just war?

Group presentation

- Zbigniew Brzezinski, “A Tale of Two Wars,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2009.
- Matt Person, “Did Iraq Ever Become a Just War,” *The Atlantic*, March 24, 2018

Lecture 35 (Tuesday, May 26) - Essay #3 Tutorial in class

Lecture 36 (Wednesday, May 27) – Group Assignment #3 - Group Essay submission by 8pm (no meeting in class)

Essay question: Should the international community intervene to stop the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela?

- Ricardo Hausmann, “D Day Venezuela,” *Project Syndicate*, Jan 2, 2018.
- Benjamin Denison, “Trump’s challenge to Venezuela’s president could lead to a military occupation. Here’s why — and why that’s dangerous”. *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, January 24, 2019.

Please remember your attendance in class today will be computed when you submit your essay. If you miss the deadline, you will also miss attendance.

Levels of Analysis in IR

Lecture 37 (Friday, May 29) Domestic Politics (part 1)

Why and how does leader survival at home shape foreign policy and world politics?

Group presentation

- Bruno Bueno de Mesquita, The Strategic Perspective: When Foreign Policy Collides With Domestic Politics, in *Principles of International Politics* (London: Sage, 2014).

Lecture 38 (Tuesday, June 2) – Case study: Domestic Politics (part 2)

What are the main mechanisms through which political life inside nations impact global politics?

Group presentation

- Kenneth Shultz, “Domestic Politics and International Relations”, in Walter Carsnaes et al., eds., *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2013), 25p.

Lecture 39 (Wednesday, June 3) – Case Study on Domestic Politics: United States and China.

How do domestic politics in China and the United States affect their foreign policies?

Group presentation

- Elizabeth N. Saunders and James Goldgeier, “The Unconstrained Presidency: Checks and Balances Eroded Long Before Trump,” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2018 Issue,
- Daniel Drezner, “This Time is Different,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2019 Issue.
- Jessica Chen Weiss, “What’s the Response in China to the Trade War,” *Washington Post*, May 15, 2019.
- Cheng Li, “How China’s Middle Class Views the Trade War,” *Foreign Affairs*, September 10, 2018,

Lecture 40 (Friday, June 5) – The US Presidential Election and the Future of US Foreign Policy

- Reading to be specified.

Lecture 41 (Tuesday, June 9) – Essay #4 Tutorial in class

Lecture 42 (Wednesday, June 10)

- Revision for final exam in class.

Final exam (Thursday, June 18)

Reaval (July 22-24)