

**Course** POLT 1050/50: Introduction to International Relations

Syllabus updated on: January 16, 2012

**Term** Spring, 2012

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**Course Description** This course introduces students to International Relations (IR) studies. Students will learn what the term International Relations means and how IR work. The course will start with an introduction and a brainstorming debate collecting first ideas how to describe IR in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, designing a mind map of IR features. The keywords found in this debate will be categorized and shall be used as a background reference for further sessions. The first block of the course introduces to IR theories and levels of analysis, explains how foreign policy-making works and what institutionalism means, examines why looking back in history matters, how sovereignty and interdependence correlate and why the term power has several meanings. The second block starts by understanding why polarity is a major feature of IR. Then different actors of IR, be they international organizations and multilateral for a, states, regions or non-state actors will be analyzed. Finally, in light of the outcome of the two blocks, the original mind map of IR features will be re-evaluated and conclusions drawn.

**Prerequisites** Reading of texts and being informed about recent developments in IR through serious media (especially "Financial Times" and "International Herald Tribune"). Doing the reading and the assignments (see below) is obligatory.

**Learning Outcomes** Students who successfully complete POLT 1050/50 Introduction to International Relations will possess the ability to analytically understand and explain developments in International Relations of the past and of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will be able to distinguish between the multi-facetted forms of political and security-political events concerning their origins, forms, actors involved as well as their possible consequences for the future. Having obtained a holistic view of the international world they are living in, students will be able to build hereupon their specific scientific interest in further courses dealing with IR topics.

**Basic literature** Buzan, Barry/Little Richard (2000). *International systems in world history. Remaking the study of international relations.* Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press.  
Hollis, Martin/Smith, Michael (1991). *Explaining and understanding international relations.* Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, Clarendon Paperbacks

Additional articles of journals and book chapters will used (see below).

## **Grading**

Grades will be based on a final paper, on the exams, on the participation in one group project and active contribution to discussions in class.

- Final Paper: 25%.
- Presentation of group project: 15%
- Exams: 50%.  
(Midterm: 25%, Final: 25%)
- Contribution to discussions and class participation: 10%

## **University Policies**

### **Cheating**

Any student found cheating on any part of the course work (homework assignment, term paper, quiz, exam, etc.) will automatically be given an “F” for the course. Any student found to be helping another student to cheat will likewise be given an “F” for the course. In each case, the student will also be put on disciplinary probation for the remainder of her or his stay at Webster. If the student is found to have engaged in cheating a second time, s/he will be automatically expelled from the University.

### **Attendance**

Class attendance is obligatory. Instructors are required to take attendance at each class session. If a student has two unexcused absences (equivalent to missing 4 hours for an 8-week course and 6 hours for a 15-week course), the instructor will lower the student's grade by one letter grade and inform the student of the action. If a student has three unexcused absences (equivalent to missing 6 hours for an 8-week course and 9 hours for a 15 week course), the instructor will assign a grade of F and inform the student of the action.

Class begins punctually. **Instructors are entitled to penalize any late arrivals**, which may affect a student's final grade.

**NOTE:** Students are required to inform themselves of WUV academic policies. A full list of these policies is available on the WUV website: (<http://www.webster.ac.at/academics/academic-policies>).

## **Course Policies**

Class attendance is compulsory.

## Weekly Schedule

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT/ EXAMS
<b>Week 1</b>	International Relations in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century: Introduction, first assessment and mind map of IR features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignments given and groups formed</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	International Relations theory and levels of analysis  <u>Reading</u> - Buzan/Little (2000), chapter 2. - Buzan/Little (2000), pp. 68-78. - Hollis/Smith (1991), chapter 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>	Foreign policy-making and institutionalism  <u>Reading</u> - Hill, Christopher (2003). <i>The changing politics of foreign policy</i> . Houndmills/NewYork: Palgrave MacMillan, chapter 3. - Peters, B. Guy (1999). <i>Institutional theory in social science. The 'new institutionalism'</i> . London: Continuum, chapter 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	The importance of history: Learning from the past as a precondition to understand the presence  <u>Reading</u> - Buzan/Little (2000), pp. 393-406. - Machiavelli, Niccolò. Short parts from <i>Discourses on the First Decade of Titus Livius</i> and <i>The Prince</i> . - Wohlforth, William C. et al. (2007): "Testing balance-of-power theory in world history". In <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> 13(2), pp. 155-185.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b>	Sovereignty and interdependence  <u>Reading</u> - Keohane, Robert O./Nye, Joseph S. Jr. (1998). "Power and interdependence in the information age". In: <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 77(5), pp. 81-94. - Krasner, Stephen D. (1999). <i>Sovereignty. Organized hypocrisy</i> . Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapter 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>

	- Werner, Wouter G./De Wilde, Jaap H. (2001). "The endurance of sovereignty". In: <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> 7(3), pp. 283-313.	
<b>Week 6</b>	Forms of power: soft power, hard power, smart power  <u>Reading</u> - Nye, Joseph S.jr. (2004). <i>Soft power. The means to success in world politics</i> . Cambridge MA, chapter 1 - Waltz, Kenneth N. (1979). <i>Theory of international politics</i> . New York: MacGraw-Hill Inc., chapter 9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b>	A world of polarity: unipolar, bipolar, multipolar, nonpolar?  <u>Reading</u> - Haass, Richard N. (2008). "The age of nonpolarity. What will follow U.S. dominance". In: <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , May/June, pp. 44–56. - Krauthammer, Charles (1991). "The unipolar moment". In: <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 70(1), pp. 23–33. - Krauthammer, Charles (2002/2003). "The unipolar moment revisited". In: <i>The National Interest</i> , Winter, pp. 5–17. - Posen, Barry R. (2009). "Emerging multipolarity. Why should we care?" In: <i>Current History</i> , November, pp. 347-352	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b>	International institutions, multilateral fora, multilateralism, NGOs  <u>Reading</u> - Calleo, David P. (2009). "How to govern a multipolar world". In: <i>Current History</i> , November, pp. 361-367. - Chayes, Abram/Handler Chayes, Antonia (1995). <i>The new sovereignty. Compliance with international regulatory agreements</i> . Cambridge: Harvard University Press, chapter 11. - Weiss, Thomas G. (2010). "Intensive care for the United Nations". In: <i>Current History</i> , November, pp. 322-328.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm exam</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b>	The United States of America: the only remaining superpower?  <u>Reading</u> - Chivvis, Christopher S. (2010). "America. The	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group project due</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>

	<p>ambivalent leader". In: <i>Current History</i>, November, pp. 336-341.</p> <p>- Kagan, Robert (2007). "End of dreams, return of history". Hoover Institution, <i>Policy Review</i> No. 144, online.</p> <p>- Szabo, Stephen F. (2009). "The Washington bubble. Why US foreign policy is oversized". In: <i>Current History</i>, November, pp. 368-373.</p>	
<b>Week 10</b>	<p>China: More than an emerging power – the next superpower?</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>- Dobbins, James et al. (2011). <i>Conflict with China. Prospects, consequences, and strategies for deterrence</i>. Rand Occasional Paper.</p> <p>- Shambaugh, David (2011). "Coping with a conflicted China". In: <i>The Washington Quarterly</i> 34(1), pp. 7-27.</p> <p>- Yang Jiemian (2010). "On the features of contemporary regrouping of international forces". In: <i>Global Review</i> 5(2), pp. 9-23.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group project due</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b>	<p>The European Union: a marginalized international actor or a superpower?</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>- Forsberg, Tuomas (2011). "Normative power Europe, once again. A conceptual analysis of an ideal type". In: <i>Journal of Common Market Studies</i> 49(6), pp. 1183-1204.</p> <p>- Grant, Charles (2009). <i>Is Europe doomed to fail as a power?</i>. London: Centre for European Reform.</p> <p>- Moravscik, Andrew (2010). "Europe the second superpower". In <i>Current History</i>, March, pp. 91-98.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group project due</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b>	<p>The Middle East: a region of concern?</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>- Hudson, Michael C. (2011). "The Middle East in flux". In: <i>Current History</i>, December, pp. 364-369.</p> <p>- Ottaway, Marina (2010). "The rise and fall of political reform in the Arab world". In: <i>Current History</i>, December, pp. 376-382.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group project due</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Week 13</b>	<p>Asia: the center of IR gravity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?</p> <p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>- Gill, Bates/Green, Michael J. (2009). "Unbundling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group project due</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>

Asia's new multilateralism". In: Gill, Bates/Green, Michael J. (eds.). *Asia's new multilateralism*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 1-29.

- Kurlantzick, Joshua (2011). "The Asian century. Not quite yet?" In: *Current History*, January, pp. 26-31.

- Reiterer, Michael. "Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Fostering a multipolar world order through inter-regional cooperation". In: *Asia Europe Journal* 7(1), pp. 179-196.

<b>Week 14</b>	Russia: regional or re-emerging global power?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final exam</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>- Kuchins, Andrew (2011). "Russia, the 360-degree regional power". In: <i>Current History</i>, October, pp. 266-271.</p> <p>- Trenin, Dimitri (2011). "Russia's post-imperial condition". In: <i>Current History</i>, October, pp. 272-276.</p>	
<b>Week 15</b>	Evaluation and re-designing the mind map: outlook on international relations in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final paper due</li> <li>• Reading and discussion</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Reading</u></p> <p>- Buzan/Little (2000), chapter 19.</p> <p>- Krasner, Stephen D. (2005). "The day after". In: <i>Foreign Policy</i>, January 2005.</p> <p>- Serfaty, Simon (2011). "Moving into a post-Western world". In <i>The Washington Quarterly</i>, Spring 2011, pp. 7-23.</p>	