

POLSCI 220  
**International Relations**  
Fall 2015

Prof. Joseph M. Brown ([Joseph.Brown@umb.edu](mailto:Joseph.Brown@umb.edu); Twitter: @Joseph\_M\_Brown)  
Class Meetings: Tues. & Thurs. 9:30–10:45am                      Location: W01-0088  
Instructor Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 2-4pm (Wheatley Hall, 5th Floor, Room 102)

*International Relations* will help you to understand and evaluate three related problems in international relations: (1) making peace and providing security, (2) making wealth and ensuring prosperity, and (3) making meaning and preserving community values. Put another way, this course will examine both conflict and cooperation in the pursuit of these goals (peace, wealth, and meaning). At one extreme, conflict over the appropriate ways to achieve these goals has led to violence among peoples and war among states. On the other hand, efforts to identify cooperative solutions to these problems have gradually led to the emergence of powerful international institutions and to the promise, if not always the reality, of more harmonious international relationships. Adding urgency to our investigation of these problems is the realization that globalization has worked both to intensify conflict and to heighten the demand for international cooperation.

This course will improve your grasp of these problems. It will familiarize you with the terminology used by political leaders and policy advisers in their efforts to provide security, wealth, and meaning, and also by social scientists as they seek to comprehend these efforts. It will describe the principal explanations for both conflict and cooperation in each of these areas. And it will explore the relevance of all of these problems at multiple levels, ranging from the interests of nation states to the impact of international relations on our daily lives.

### **Course Requirements**

**Class Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory and essential to success in this course. The exams will cover material presented in the lectures but not in the assigned readings, so you must attend class to prepare fully. Additionally, classes will begin with short “quickwrite” exercises (see below), which will contribute to your final grade. In the event that a class must be cancelled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings. Do not assume that a class (or a test) is cancelled unless so informed by your professor, your TA, or by another university representative *in person* — or through UMass Boston's automated emergency alert system.

Discussion Sections: After the second week of classes, your TAs will begin holding discussion sections on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Attendance at discussion sections is optional but highly encouraged.** These sessions give you an opportunity to discuss the readings with TAs and your classmates. If you are having difficulty understanding concepts from the readings or lectures, the discussion sections can help you a great deal. Your TAs will announce the times and locations of their sections. We ask that you please try to attend one section consistently to build familiarity with your TA and classmates.

Quickwrite exercises: Class meetings will typically begin with a "quickwrite" exercise, map quiz, or other assignment. Quickwrites are brief writing exercises (5 minutes, at most) focusing on the readings for that class meeting. These exercises are intended to increase your comprehension of the readings. They are also graded, meaning that you must attend classes and arrive on time to get the best possible grade. Quickwrite exercises are "open note." You may use any hand-written notes you took on the readings (but not type-written notes on paper or electronic media). **So do the readings and take hand-written notes. The quickwrites will help you study and they are easy points (accounting for 20% of your grade) if you do the reading and show up!** Quickwrite exercises cannot be made up, but your three lowest scores will be dropped before calculating your grade for the semester.

Exams: The **Mid-Term** Exams will cover the lectures, classroom discussions, and reading assignments from the first and second parts of this course. We will discuss the format of the test in class before the exam. The **Final Exam** is cumulative, and will be held during the scheduled final examination period (December 16-22). You will be permitted to take a make-up exam for any missed exam, *only* in the event of documented illness or other serious extenuating circumstances. No books, notes, or personal electronic devices (phones, laptops, tablets etc.) may be used during exams.

Special Accommodations: Students with documented disabilities requiring assistive technology or other accommodations should contact the Ross Center (Campus Center, UL 211; 617-287-7430), and consult the Center's website: <http://www.umb.edu/academics/vpass/disability>. Students requiring accommodations for examinations should contact the instructor well before the date of the exam.

Grading: Your grade will be determined on the basis of these course requirements

Quickwrite Exercises	20%
Mid-term Exam 1	25%
Mid-term Exam 2	25%
Final Exam	30%

Numerical grades on these assignments are converted to a final letter grade in the following manner. For grades in the A range, 90-92 is an A-; 93 or greater is an A. For grades in the B range, 80-82 is a B-; 83-86 is a B; and 87-89 is a B+. Grades in the C range (70-72 = C-; 73-76 = C; 77-79 = C+) and D range (60-62 = D-; 63-66 = D; 67-69 = D+) are calculated in a similar manner. Numerical grades between 0 and 59 result in an F.

### Academic Integrity

Be certain that you are familiar with the University's rules concerning academic misconduct as described in the UMass Boston Code of Conduct. Cheating or other forms of misconduct can result in severe penalties (which, according to University policy, may include a failing grade and/or expulsion from the University). For more information on these policies, see the UMass Boston Student Handbook, the Undergraduate Catalog, or the following website: [http://www.umb.edu/life\\_on\\_campus/policies/code](http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/code).

### Textbook

The required text for this course is: Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations*, 10th Edition, 2013-2014 Update; ISBN 978-0205971367. The 2011-2012 or 2012-2013 versions are also fine. You can save money by buying the book online from a website such as Scribd or renting it from Amazon or the UMB bookstore. **If you do buy the text do not expect to re-sell it because a new edition is coming out in January.** A copy of the book will be placed on library reserve. Additional required readings will be available through the Blackboard Learn website.

### Website and Online Supplements

The course website is located in the Blackboard Learn environment on the UMass Boston computer system: <https://umb.umassonline.net/>. Here, you will find the information contained on this syllabus (including reading assignments and exams), as well as reading assignments not contained in the textbook. The site also features a moderated forum on which you may discuss course-related topics, and other supplementary course material. Posts should be professional and respectful.

The publisher of our textbook, Pearson-Longman, also maintains a website with material including chapter guides, online flashcards and quizzes, and current events news. Reviewing this material is not required, but you are welcome to consult it as you prepare for the examinations. These MyPoliSciKit supplements may be included in the price of your textbook and are located online at: <http://www.mypoliscikit.com/>. They can also be purchased separately from the textbook. For information and assistance, see: <http://247pearsoned.com/>.

### **Twitter**

Students can follow @Joseph\_M\_Brown for news items and occasional comments relevant to the course readings and class lectures. Feel free to tweet back, or to send me news items that you think are relevant to the class. (I may retweet them or use them as examples in the next lecture — with a hat-tip to you.) Twitter is not a course requirement, but it is an opportunity to continue our discussion of international relations outside of class. It is also an opportunity to relate our readings and lectures to current events.

### **Questions? Problems?**

For most questions and problems related to this course, you should begin by consulting with your TAs. You are also welcome to discuss the course with me during my office hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4pm). To make an appointment (not necessary during office hours, but preferable), please email me at [Joseph.Brown@umb.edu](mailto:Joseph.Brown@umb.edu).

### **Syllabus**

1. **Tuesday, September 8 — Introduction**  
*What is politics? What is international relations? What is this course about?*
2. **Thursday, September 10 — Core Concepts: One World, Many Voices**  
*How does international relations reflect dual processes of unification and division?*  
Richard Rosecrance, "Bigger is Better: The Case for a Transatlantic Economic Union," online (Blackboard Learn).
3. **Tuesday, September 15 — Core Concepts: Levels and the State**  
*How do personal, national, and international politics interact?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 1, pp. 3-38.

4. **Thursday, September 17 — Core Concepts: Theories and Paradigms**  
*What is a theory? What are the most prominent approaches to international relations?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 2, pp. 43-49.  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 85-90.  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 96-103.

### **Problem I: Making Peace**

5. **Tuesday, September 22 — International Systems**  
*What is a system? What is polarity?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 2, pp. 49-71.
6. **Thursday, September 24 — Conflict in the International System**  
*What kind of international system is stable?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 2, pp. 71-79  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 5, pp. 153-160.  
G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," online.
7. **Tuesday, September 29 — Balancing, Bandwagoning, and Other Strategies**  
*What is the security dilemma? Which strategies do states use to manage their security?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 6, pp. 193-226.
8. **Thursday, October 1 — The Structure of Domestic Politics**  
*Do different kinds of states choose different foreign policies? Who is being secured?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 90-96.  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 3, pp. 103-122.
9. **Tuesday, October 6 — Foreign Policy Making and Interest Groups**  
*Whose interests are served?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 4, pp. 136-147.
10. **Thursday, October 8 — Foreign Policy, Leadership, and Psychology**  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 4, pp. 127-135.  
Philip Tetlock and Charles McGuire, "Cognitive Perspectives . . .," online.
11. **Tuesday, October 13— Sex and War**  
*Is the state masculine? How do sex and gender affect international relations?*  
J. Ann Tickner, "Man, the State, and War," online.
12. **Thursday, October 15 — MID-TERM EXAM 1 (no discussion sections)**

**Problem II: Making Wealth**

13. **Tuesday, October 20— International Trade and the International System**  
*How is international trade organized? Who organizes it, and who benefits?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 8, pp. 283-314.
14. **Thursday, October 22 — Regulating the International Financial System**  
*How are public goods produced? How is the international financial system regulated?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 9, pp. 321-333.
15. **Tuesday, October 27— Money and the Unholy Trinity of International Finance**  
*What economic goals matter most to states?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 9, pp. 333-349.
16. **Thursday, October 29— International Economic Competition**  
*Must states compete economically? Can they cooperate for mutual benefit?*  
Paul Krugman, "Competitiveness: A Dangerous Obsession," online.  
Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, "Has Globalization Passed its Peak?"  
online.
17. **Tuesday, November 3— Economic Integration and Regional Growth**  
*Is regional integration a public good?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 10, pp. 355-381.
18. **Thursday, November 5 — The Environment and Limits to Growth**  
*How is growth possible in a finite world?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 11, pp. 387-418.
19. **Tuesday, November 10 — Global Poverty and Development**  
*How is wealth distributed? What problems do developing countries face?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 12, pp. 425-455.
20. **Thursday, November 12 — Self Reliance, Aid and Other Development Strategies**  
*What are the principal strategies of poverty reduction and national development?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 13, pp. 459-493.
21. **Tuesday, November 17— MID-TERM EXAM 2 (no discussion sections)**

### Problem III: Making Meaning

22. **Thursday, November 19— Culture and Meaning**  
*How do civilizational, religious, and other differences shape international relations?*  
Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" online.

23. **Tuesday, November 24 — Revenge of the Local**  
*Do ethnic, kin, religious, and other local communities offer essential meaning?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 5, pp. 160-177.

#### Thursday, November 26 — Thanksgiving (no class)

24. **Tuesday, December 1 — National Images, Soft Power, and Foreign Policy**  
*How do national identities present themselves, and how do they shape foreign policy?*  
Joseph S. Nye, Jr., "Soft Power and American Foreign Policy," online.  
*Topic: Can international organization produce a global community? Is the state dying?*  
Fareed Zakaria, "Culture is Destiny," online.

25. **Thursday, December 3 — International Organizations**  
*What are the principle institutions of the global community, and how do they function?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 7, pp. 233-254.

26. **Tuesday, December 8 — International Law**  
*Who establishes international law? Does international law matter?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 7, pp. 254-276.

### Conclusion

27. **Thursday, December 10 — Unifying, Dividing, and the Big Picture**  
*Is it possible to move beyond the dual pressures of unification and division in international relations?*  
Goldstein & Pevehouse, ch. 14, pp. 499-500.  
Robert M. Sapolsky, "A Natural History of Peace," online.

**Final Exam: tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 8:00-9:50am (note the earlier starting time). The date, time, and room will be confirmed by the university later.**