

PLS 2253
Introduction to International Relations Online
Spring 2009

Dr. Roper
Office: 2331 Coleman Hall
Office Hours: TR 12:15-14:00; R 15:15-16:45 and by appointment
Office Phone: 581-6221
E-mail: sdroper@eiu.edu
Course Home Page: www.ux1.eiu.edu/~sdroper/onlines2253.htm
Course WebCT Page: <https://online.eiu.edu/webct>

Course Description:

This is an introductory online course to international relations. We will examine the theoretical and the practical dimensions of international relations. We will discuss the evolution of the international system and explore the current relationship between states and international organizations. Some of the topics that we will address include diplomacy, uses of foreign policy, international political economy and international development aid. While we will examine competing theories of international relations, we will also explore the practical application of these theories to current events.

While this is an online course, the material and examinations have been developed based on the fact that this is an introductory course rather than online. In other words, the online course is in most respects identical to the in-class course. However, there are some important differences. The examinations are available earlier and can be completed whenever you wish but no later than the due date. After that date, you will not be allowed to complete the examination without prior approval and a University-approved excuse.

If you have any questions or concerns about your grade, please email me directly. It is not appropriate to post on discussion board questions about your grade. This is a private matter between faculty and student. In addition, I will respond quickly to emails that have been sent either through WebCT or directly to my EIU account. However as a courtesy, I ask that you address me politely in the message. It is inappropriate not to have a salutation. Proper salutations include “Dr. Roper” or “Professor Roper.” I will not respond to emails that do not address me respectfully.

Our chat room is linked to our course home page using WebCT. Also, the three course exams will be posted on WebCT. Finally, I have linked various video and audio files to the course sections. These video and audio files enhance the educational experience but will not be part of your examinations. Sometimes, link addresses change or are deleted so if you have any problems, let me know. Politics can move very fast so from time-to-time, there may be portions of the lecture that do not represent current information. On issues that we need to update for our discussion, the best place to do so is via our chat room on WebCT.

I have attempted to create an online course that does not require extremely fast Internet connection. The course lectures have been designed with a power point and audio presentation. On the course home page, the software requirements are posted. Make sure that you have the appropriate software before starting the course. I will not be able to solve any hardware and software problems. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct software and that it is functioning properly.

Learning Objectives:

In this course, you can expect to develop or to improve your:

- Understanding of the impact of international events on domestic politics
- Basic understanding of the concepts used in international relations
- Understanding of the importance of theories in international relations

Grading Requirements:

There are three multiple choice examinations during the course. At the end of the course, I will double a student's best examination. The final examination is not cumulative. Material for the examinations is drawn from both the lectures and the readings. The examinations will be available on WebCT. I have designated a specific date for all three examinations. The examination must be completed by 12:00am (midnight) on the due date. After this time, I will remove the examination. Therefore, the examination must be completed on this date or else a zero will be given. I only give make-up examinations upon prior approval. Any student who misses an examination without prior approval receives a zero for that examination. Grades for the examinations and the course are not curved.

Points:

The distribution of points is as follows:

Examination 1	100 points
Examination 2	100 points
Examination 3	100 points
(One examination will be doubled)	
<u>Total</u>	<u>400 points</u>

Grades:

Final grades for the course will be based on the following:

A	90-100%	(360-400 points)
B	80-89%	(320-359 points)
C	70-79%	(280-319 points)
D	60-69%	(240-279 points)
F	0-59%	(0-239 points)

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: Cheating, or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty. Plagiarism which includes but is not necessarily limited to, submitting material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty will result in an "F" for this course.

Student Disabilities:

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify me during the first week of class.

Readings:

The following reading is required for this course:

Joshua S. Goldstein. 2007. *International Relations*. New York: HarperCollins.

Course Outline:

Introduction: Chapter 1

International Relations Theories: Chapters 2 & 3

Purposes of Foreign Policy: Chapter 4

International Conflict: Chapters 5 & 6

Examination 1 (15 February)

International Organizations and Law: Chapter 7

Trade and Money: Chapters 8 & 9

Examination 2 (22 March)

Integration Theory and Practice: Chapter 10

North-South Gap: Chapter 12

International Development: Chapter 13

Examination 3 (1 May)