

Political Science 3810.002 – Fall 2026
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Tuesday & Thursday 11:10am-12:30pm, WH 312

Instructor: Dr. Marijke Breuning
Office: Wooten Hall 159
Office Phone: 940-565-2747
E-Mail: marijke.breuning@unt.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00pm (in person) and by appointment. E-mail anytime with questions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an introduction to International Relations (IR) and the concepts and theories of this field of study. The emphasis is on acquiring the conceptual tools that help students to organize and analyze information about foreign policy and global politics. The course is built around the following learning objectives:

Knowledge:

- Learn concepts and theories central to the study of international relations.
- Learn about the interactions between countries, the historical context of contemporary interactions, the role of international organizations.
- Learn about international political, security, economic, development, human rights, and environmental issues.

Application:

- Employ theoretical frameworks for analyzing contemporary global problems.
- Explain the political and social implications of global cultural diversity for the conduct of international relations in both official and informal international interactions.

Skills:

- Reflect, analyze, and express judgments about the ways in which culture, history, and other dynamics influence both perception and behavior.
- Written expression and argumentation.
- Basic research – locating, evaluating, and using trustworthy source materials.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EVALUATION

To facilitate successful completion of the course, students are expected to:

1. Attend and participate in class. This requires you to be prepared, see 2 and 3.
2. *Read chapters* and complete *questions* through Illumine Ebook by their due date/time
3. Complete the InQuizitive assignments by their due date/time
4. Complete the two short paper assignments by their due date/time
5. Complete the two examinations as scheduled.

*In addition to attending class, expect to spend time reading and completing assignments outside of class. For a 3-credit hour class, be prepared to spend (on average) 3 hours a week completing work outside of class. Of course, the actual time spent depends on a variety of individual factors.

*The instructor does not accept doctor's notes or other notes explaining absences, except for verifications for absences provided by the Office of the Dean of Students. To report serious illness or other issues for which you seek accommodation, please contact the Dean of Students at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/temporary-illness>.

*If you cannot meet a deadline for an assignment or an exam, contact the instructor *prior* to the date/time the work is due or the exam is to start. *E-mail the instructor at the address listed at the top of this syllabus*. Unless you have reached *prior* agreement with the instructor, the following rules apply: *No* late assignments will be accepted. *No* make-up examinations will be given. Exceptions unusual circumstances are at the discretion of the instructor – generally reserved for serious illness or similar issues that have been reported to the Dean of Students (see above).

Your responsibility to notify the instructor in a timely manner – and before the date/time the work is due or the exam is to start – applies also to absences for students participating in athletic or other activities that require off-campus travel, as well as students who require accommodations for religious holidays or other valid reasons.

*You earn your course grade on the basis of the following assignments, weighted as indicated:

Assignment	# to complete	Points each	Total points
Illumine Ebook (Introduction; Chapters 1-13)	14	10	140
InQuizitive (How to Use; Introduction; Chapter 1-13)	15	10	150
<i>Extra*</i> Illumine Ebook (Chapter 14)	1	10	10*
<i>Extra*</i> InQuizitive (Chapter 14)	1	10	10*
Short paper	2	150	300
Exams	2	200	400
Attendance & participation	± 28		100
<i>TOTAL</i>			<i>1090</i>

*Complete the *extra* assignment if you missed one or wish to drop lowest score.

Course grades depend on your final cumulative point total. The maximum cumulative point total is 1,090. Using a standard scale, you can expect the following: A≥981, B≥872, C≥763, D≥654, F<654. The instructor may make small modifications from the standard scale when warranted by the performance of the class as a whole – although excellent classes are not penalized with a more stringent scale than the standard one!

This course does *not* provide extra credit opportunities, other than the two assignments listed as “extra” in this syllabus.

Students who have questions about their performance in the course should contact the instructor and plan to meet during office hours or another mutually agreed upon time.

Information on dropping a course is at <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>.

ASSIGNMENTS AND LEARNING

The assignments for the course are also targeted to *achieve specific learning outcomes*, as shown in the Table.

Learning Objectives:		Assignments:				
		Attendance & participation	Illumine Ebook	InQuizitive	Short paper	Exams
Knowledge	Learn concepts and theories central to the study of international relations	X	X	X		
	Learn about the interactions between countries, the historical context of contemporary interactions, the role of international organizations	X	X	X		
	Learn about international political, security, economic, development, human rights, and environmental issues		X	X		
Application	Employ theoretical frameworks for analyzing contemporary global problems	X			X	X
	Explain the political and social implications of global cultural diversity for the conduct of international relations in both official and informal international interactions	X			X	X
Skills	Reflect, analyze, and express judgments about the ways in which culture, history, and other dynamics influence both perception and behavior.	X			X	X
	Written expression and argumentation				X	X
	Basic research – locating, evaluating, and using trustworthy source materials				X	

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz, Susan D. Hyde, and Stephanie J. Rickard. 2026. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 6th edition. New York: W.W. Norton. (All assignments are indicated below as Illumine Ebook and InQuizitive.)

- Purchase the Norton Illumine Ebook Courseware (includes access to e-book with Illumine Ebook and InQuizitive).
- You can purchase and access the ebook through Canvas. *Watch for the green “connected to LMS” symbol to ensure you get credit for completing the assignments.*
- Price: \$64.95 (publisher’s price); ISBN: 978-1-324-11629-5

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (T 8/18, Th 8/20):

I. Why Study International Relations?

Introduction to the course

II. How to Study International Relations: Framework

Illumine Ebook, Introduction: due 8/19 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive, How to Use InQuizitive: due 8/19 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive, Introduction: due 8/20 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 2 (T 8/25, Th 8/27):

II. Foundations 1: History

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 1: due 8/24 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive, Chapter 1: due 8/27 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 3 (T 9/1, Th 9/3*):

III. Foundations 2: Actors, Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 2: due 8/31 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 2: due 9/3 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 4 (T 9/8, Th 9/10):

IV. Conflict and War

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 3: due 9/7 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 3: due 9/10 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 5 (T 9/15, Th 9/17):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 4: due 9/14 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 4: due 9/17 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 6 (T 9/22, Th 9/24):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 5: due 9/21 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 5: due 9/24 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 7 (T 9/29, Th 10/1):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 6: due 9/28 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 6: due 10/1 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Short Paper 1: due Friday, 10/2 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 8 (T 10/6, Th 10/8):

Review for Exam 1: Tuesday October 6 (in class)

Exam 1: Thursday, October 8 (in class)

Week 9 (T 10/13, Th 10/15):

I. The Global Economy & Development

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 7: due 10/12 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 7: due 10/15 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 10 (T 10/20, Th 10/22):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 8: due 10/19 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 8: due 10/22 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 11 (T 10/27, 10/29):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 9: due 10/26 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 9: due 10/29 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 12 (T 11/3, Th 11/5):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 10: due 11/2 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 10: due 11/5 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 13 (T 11/10, Th 11/12):

VII. Global Governance, Human Security, and Environmental Sustainability

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 11: due 11/9 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 11: due 11/12 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Week 14 (T 11/17, Th 11/19*):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 12: due 11/16 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 12: due 11/19 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Short Paper 2: due Friday, 11/20 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Thanksgiving Break (11/23 – 11-27):

No class

Week 15 (T 12/1, Th 12/3):

Illumine Ebook, Chapter 13: due 11/30 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

InQuizitive Chapter 13: due 12/3 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

VIII. Global Trends: What Does Future Hold?

EXTRA – Illumine Ebook, Chapter 14: due 12/3 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

EXTRA – InQuizitive Chapter 14: due 12/3 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Finals week (12/7 – 12/11):

Exam 2: Thursday, December 10 @ 10:30am-12:30pm (in class)

(official schedule, see <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall.html>)

COURSE POLICY ON AI DISCLOSURE

You are not to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to produce your answers on exams or any of the papers. If you use AI in any way (including Grammarly and other related programs) you must provide a complete disclosure for every written assignment that describes:

1. What program was used and
2. How it was used (to check on grammar, to summarize articles, to check for existing literature, to create tables and graphics, etc).

It is not acceptable to use AI to produce material that you portray as your own written work. Even if you did not use AI, you must provide a disclosure statement that indicates that you did not use AI in any way. No assignment will be accepted without the provision of a disclosure statement.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM STATEMENT

Some Texas laws have banned diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public colleges and universities in Texas. These laws do not in any way affect content, instruction or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post-SB 17, and students should not feel the need to censor their speech pertaining to topics including race and racism, structural inequality, LGBTQ+ issues, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The concept of academic freedom applies in this class. Higher education is predicated on the exchange, vetting, and deliberation of often controversial and unsettled ideas. In this class, for example, we explore how the public, scholars, and media producers engage questions of representation and media content production. We are not here to simply express personal opinions or repeat talking points, but rather to engage a set of ideas and research findings that have a long and complicated history and are therefore subject to ongoing debate. Committed students and scholars can, and do, disagree on the topics we will be discussing.

This course has been designed to bring these controversies and disagreements to the fore. Students are also invited to introduce additional challenges in a serious and open-minded manner. Such conversations require mutual trust and respect. It is therefore essential that students feel free to express their deeply held views and continually developing perspectives. This means ensuring that all students and faculty feel included and welcomed to engage in discussion. Because hateful or discriminatory speech and behavior degrades the possibility for a free exchange of ideas, it will not be tolerated.

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. For additional information see the next segment (Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism and <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>).

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for *every* semester and must meet with *each* faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access website at <https://disability.unt.edu/>.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: <http://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SURVIVOR ADVOCACY

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct.

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus.

The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940)-565-2759.

CLASS RECORDINGS & STUDENT LIKENESSES

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course may be recorded for students enrolled in this class to refer to throughout the semester. The instructor may also offer occasional recorded lectures.

Class recordings and pre-recorded lectures are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes.

Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.