

# INTL 203.1: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

College of Administrative Sciences and Economics  
Department of International Relations  
**FALL 2013**

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**Instructor:** Assist. Prof. Belgin Şan-Akca      **Lectures:** Monday & Wednesday 14:00-15:15  
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## Course Description

This course introduces students to the major theories, concepts, and tools used in the study of inter-state politics shaped by the interactions between and/or among states, non-state actors (NSAs) (both violent NSAs, such as terrorists and insurgents and inter-governmental organizations, such as the UN and NATO), and individuals. The issues and questions covered are from the period after World War I. There are three sections of the course: main theories, concepts and instruments related to the explanation of international conflict and cooperation, key players and institutions, such as great powers and international organizations (the United Nations and the European Union), and their role in international politics, and contemporary issues and problems, such as terrorism, nuclear weapons, and human rights. In examining these issues, the lectures try to answer the following questions: *Why do states fight? How does cooperation emerge? What is the extent of the influence of international institutions on international politics? What is the role of great powers in international relations? What are the new challenges the international community faces in the post-Cold War era? How did the international system change from the Cold War to the post-Cold War period?* In general, the course presents analytical tools in the study of international conflict and cooperation, key players and decision-making processes, and current issues and problems in international politics.

## Course Objectives

It is assumed that students have an interest, or at least develop some during the span of this course, in keeping up with the major developments in world politics. Major news sources, such as New York Times and Washington Post are useful to keep up with major developments around the world. This course has the following objectives:

(1) To know major trends in the history of world politics to make sense of contemporary events and issues,

(2) To identify and explain the major theoretical approaches and their differences from each other to analyze and understand international relations,

(3) To develop the ability to use the theories, concepts and tools presented in the course to analyze current issues in world politics

(4) To critically evaluate what you read or hear about international politics, identify the assumptions behind them and develop and support your own arguments about international politics.

### **Course Rules**

Students are expected to attend all of the lectures. The lectures will present material beyond that presented in the readings. Students are also expected to take the examinations at the scheduled times.

(1) Make-up examination for the exams is given only with prior instructor approval obtained with a timely notice and appropriate documentation indicating why a student cannot be in the classroom during the time of test. You should notify us within 24 hours after you miss an exam for your request about the make-up exam. Students who will be out of town on the day of an exam on university business must provide documentation in advance of the need to travel that day. Failure to obtain permission for a make-up exam within 24 hour after missing an exam leads to a “0” from that particular exam.

(2) Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Those who engage in negative behaviors that may influence their and other students’ learning will be asked to leave the classroom. Talking to others, interrupting the professor without raising hands, reading newspapers, using cell phones and other electronic devices, and arriving late and leaving early without prior approval will all be recorded by the teaching assistant and treated in accordance with the Koç University’s ‘classroom code of conduct.’ **NO ELECTRONIC GADGETS ALLOWED DURING CLASS TIME** even if the purpose is to take notes.

(3) Since the class material goes beyond the readings, students are highly encouraged to take notes on a notebook during class.

(4) Academic dishonesty is one of the least appreciated parts of this course. Make sure that whenever you are using outside sources, give credit to them whether you are making a direct or indirect reference. Plagiarism and cheating will be found out and treated in accordance with the university regulations. For a detailed review of plagiarism, see the document attached to the end of the syllabus.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

**Textbook:** Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2012-2013. International Relations. Tenth Edition. Pearson.

*Note that the assignment of additional readings is under the instructor’s discretion.*

**Grading:** The grading for this course is based on two midterm examinations, a final exam, attendance and participation.

**(1) Midterm Exams (50%):** There may be questions in either of the following formats in the exams: multiple choice, short identification, and essays. The exam times will be announced after the beginning of the semester.

**(2) Attendance (5%):** The teaching assistant will take attendance in the beginning of each class. You can keep track of your attendance through KUAIS. It is your responsibility to inform me about any issue that may interfere with your attendance. Keep in mind that students who attend regularly to classes tend to do better overall in the class.

**(3) Participation/Quizzes (10%):** I expect you to actively contribute to class discussions. Mere physical presence in classroom does not count for participation. In other words, having perfect attendance does not automatically mean you get full credit for class participation. A portion of your participation points will come from announced quizzes. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** I assess your contributions to class discussions by their intellectual content (including relevance to the subject-matter) and the degree to which you follow general rules of courtesy. It is very likely that there will be disagreements among participants. Such disagreements are expected and in most cases welcomed: such debate will lead to a better understanding of the topic. You are expected to show respect to everyone when they are presenting and defending their opinions, making comments or asking questions.

There might be times when I will have to end discussion due to a variety of reasons. If you wanted to say something during class but were unable to, for whatever reason, contact me. As I want to have a wide range of participants in discussions, I will call upon those who are less talkative even if they do not indicate a willingness to share their view. Please note that there is no rule that those who indicate a desire to express their opinions first, e.g., by raising their hand quickly, are entitled to share their opinion first.

**(4) Final Exam (35%):** The final exam will be cumulative and may include multiple choice questions, short ID or essays. The time and date of the exam will be announced later.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPICS & READINGS
Week 1: Sept 16-18, 2013	Dissemination and review of the course syllabus  NO CLASS MEETING on September 18
Week 2: Sept 23-25, 2013	<u>Topics:</u> Definition of International Relations as a field, major concepts (anarchy, security dilemma, sovereignty), and major actors and levels of analysis  <u>Readings:</u> Ch1. The Globalization of International Relations

Week 3: Sept 30- Oct 2, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> The quest for theory, realism, neorealism, alliances, balance of power and rational choice</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch2. Realist Theories</p>
Week 4: Oct 7-9, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Liberalism, neoinstitutionalism, hegemony, constructivism, reciprocity</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch3. Liberal and Social Theories</p>
Week 5: Oct 14-16, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Liberal peace, democratic peace</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch3. Liberal and Social Theories</p>
Week 6: Oct 21-23, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Perception and image in world politics, decisionmaking, interaction with domestic politics</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch4. Foreign Policy</p>
Week 7: Oct 28 (no class)-Oct 30, 2013	NO CLASS (Sacrifice Holiday)
Week 8: Nov 4-6, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Material and ideational sources of conflict and war</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch5. International Conflict</p>
Week 9: Nov 11-13, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Power and force, conventional vs. unconventional conflict</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch6. Military Force and Terrorism</p>
Week 10: Nov 18-20, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Conventional vs. Unconventional Weapons</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch6. Military Force and Terrorism</p>
Week 11: Nov 25-27, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> The United Nations, Humanitarian intervention, and International Law</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch7. International Organization, Law, and Human Rights</p>
Week 12: Dec 2-4, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> International trade regimes, WTO and economic globalization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch8. International Trade</p>
Week 13: Dec 9-11, 2013	<p><u>Topics:</u> Regional integration, the European Union and technology</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Ch10. International Integration</p>

Week 14: Dec 16-18, 2013	<u>Topics:</u> Modernization, the world system theory, colonialism and post-colonial development  <u>Readings:</u> Ch12. The North-South Gap
Week 15: Dec 23-25, 2013	<u>Topics:</u> Foreign direct investment, multinational companies and International Monetary Fund  <u>Readings:</u> Ch 13. International Development

## **Koç University**

### **Statement on Academic Honesty**

#### **with Emphasis on Plagiarism**

Koç University expects all its students to perform course-related activities in accordance with the rules set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (<http://vpaa.ku.edu.tr/academic/student-code-of-conduct>). Actions considered as academic dishonesty at Koç University include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and impersonating. This statement's goal is to draw attention to cheating and plagiarism related actions deemed unacceptable within the context of Student Code of Conduct:

All individual assignments must be completed by the student himself/herself, and all team assignments must be completed by the members of the team, without the aid of other individuals. If a team member does not contribute to the written documents or participate in the activities of the team, his/her name should not appear on the work submitted for evaluation.

Plagiarism is defined as 'borrowing or using someone else's written statements or ideas without giving written acknowledgement to the author'. Students are encouraged to conduct research beyond the course material, but they must not use any documents prepared by current or previous students, or notes prepared by instructors at Koç University or other universities without properly citing the source. Furthermore, students are expected to adhere to the Classroom Code of Conduct (<http://vpaa.ku.edu.tr/academic/classroom-code-of-conduct>) and to refrain from all forms of unacceptable behavior during lectures. Failure to adhere to expected behavior may result in disciplinary action.

There are two kinds of plagiarism: Intentional and accidental. Intentional plagiarism (Example: Using a classmate's homework as one's own because the student does not want to spend time working on that homework) is considered intellectual theft, and there is no need to emphasize the wrongfulness of this act. Accidental plagiarism, on the other hand, may be considered as a 'more acceptable' form of plagiarism by some students, which is certainly not how it is perceived by the University administration and faculty. The student is responsible from properly citing a source if he/she is making use of another person's work. For an example on accidental plagiarism, please refer to the document titled "An Example on Accidental Plagiarism".

If you are unsure whether the action you will take would be a violation of Koç University's Student Code of Conduct, please consult with your instructor before taking that action.

### **An Example on Accidental Plagiarism**

This example is taken from a document prepared by the City University of New York.

The following text is taken from Elaine Tyler May's *Myths and Realities of the American Family*:

“Because women's wages often continue to reflect the fiction that men earn the family wage, single mothers rarely earn enough to support themselves and their children adequately. And because work is still organized around the assumption that mothers stay home with children, even though few mothers can afford to do so, child-care facilities in the United States remain woefully inadequate.”

Below, there is an excerpt from a student's homework, who made use of May's original text:

“As Elaine Tyler May points out, “women's wages often continue to reflect the fiction that men earn the family wage” (588). Thus many single mothers cannot support themselves and their children adequately. Furthermore, since work is based on the assumption that mothers stay home with children, facilities for day care in this country are still “woefully inadequate.” (May 589)”.

You may think that there is no plagiarism here since the student is citing the original author. However, this is an instance of accidental plagiarism. Although the student cites May and uses quotation marks occasionally, the rest of the sentences, more specifically the following section: “Thus many single mothers cannot support themselves and their children adequately. Furthermore, since work is based on the assumption that mothers stay home with children, facilities for day care in this country are still “woefully inadequate.” (May 589)” almost exactly duplicates May's original language. So, in order to avoid plagiarism, the student either had to use quotation marks for the rest of the sentences as well, or he/she had to paraphrase May's ideas by using not only his/her own words, but his/her own original ideas as well. You should keep in mind that accidental plagiarism often occurs when the student does not really understand the original text but still tries to make use of it. Understanding the original text and understanding why you agree or disagree with the ideas proposed in that text is crucial both for avoiding plagiarism and for your intellectual development.

Reference(s):

*Avoiding and Detecting Plagiarism: A Guide for Graduate Students and Faculty.*

The Graduate Center. City University of New York, 2012. Web.

<[http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY\\_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Publications/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Publications/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf)>