

**PLS 2253**  
**Introduction to International Relations**  
**Fall 2009**

Dr. Roper  
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Course Home Page: [www.stevendroper.com/pls2253.htm](http://www.stevendroper.com/pls2253.htm)  
Course WebCT Page: <https://online.eiu.edu/webct>

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course to international relations. We examine the theoretical and the practical dimensions of international relations. We discuss the evolution of the international system and explore the current relationship among states, organizations and individuals. The first section of the course examines competing theories of international relations with an application to security issues. For most of the history of international relations as a discipline, concerns of security have dominated research and foreign-policy making. Most of this period focused on contending views of the state. The second section of the course addresses the rise of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations with an application to public international law and the development of regional trading blocs (RTBs). In this section, we examine the role of the UN as well as the development of legal institutions designed to address human rights protection. We conclude by exploring the development of RTBs including the EU, NAFTA and APEC. The final section of the course examines international political economy (IPE) with a focus on core issues such as monetary regimes, trade and development. Our course is available on WebCT. On our WebCT site, you can access the course home page, readings, chat room, email forum and your grades. You will be required to use your EIU email.

**Classroom Requirements:**

- It is not appropriate to come to class late; however if you come to class late, please find a seat near the door and do not be disruptive.
- If you need to leave early, please discuss this with me prior to the start of class. Otherwise, it is not appropriate to leave and to enter the room during class.
- I require that cell phones be turned-off, including no text messaging. I consider texting during class to be inappropriate and disrespectful.
- I do not allow notebook computers to be used in the classroom without proper documentation indicating that this need is due to a University-approved disability.
- I will respond quickly to emails that have been sent either through WebCT or directly to my email 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.

### **Grading Requirement:**

There are three examinations during the semester. The final examination is not cumulative. At the end of the semester, I will double a student's best examination. The examinations consist of multiple-choice questions. Material for the examinations is drawn from both the lectures and the assigned readings. Once examinations have been distributed, no one may leave the room and return. I give make-up examinations only with a University-approved excuse. If you miss an examination due to a University-approved activity, please provide documentation prior to the examination. If you miss an examination due to illness or a family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible (either by phone or email). I require proper documentation in order to take a make-up examination which should be scheduled as soon as possible and consists of essay questions. Any student who misses an examination without proper documentation or fails to schedule the examination within a timely manner receives a zero. Grades for the examinations and the course are not curved or adjusted.

### **Points:**

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 as soon as possible.

## **Readings:**

All readings are available online through Booth Library as well as WebCT. You can access the readings on campus and off campus using your library ID number.

## **Course Outline:**

### **Introduction**

Richard N. Haass. 2008. "The Age of Nonpolarity." *Foreign Affairs* 87:3 (May/Jun):44-56.

### **International Relations Theories**

Anne-Marie Slaughter. 2009. "America's Edge: Power in the Networked Century." *Foreign Affairs* 88:1 (Jan/Feb):94-113.

### **Foreign Policy and Diplomacy**

Anthony J. Holmes. 2009. "Where Are the Civilians? How to Rebuild the U.S. Foreign Service." *Foreign Affairs* 88:1 (Jan/Feb):148-160.

Examination 1 (Tuesday, 29 September)

### **International Organizations: The United Nations**

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth. 2009. "Reshaping the World Order." *Foreign Affairs* 88:2 (Mar/Apr):49-63.

### **Public International Law: International Human Rights Law**

Robert C. Johansen. 2006. "The Impact of US Policy toward the International Criminal Court on the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, and Crimes against Humanity." *Human Rights Quarterly* 28:2 (May):301-331.

### **Theories of Integration and the European Union**

Ronald D. Asmus. 2008. "Europe's Eastern Promise." *Foreign Affairs* 87:1 (Jan/Feb):95-106.

Examination 2 (Tuesday, 3 November)

### **Theories of International Political Economy**

Ian Bremmer. 2009 "State Capitalism Comes of Age." *Foreign Affairs* 88:3 (May/Jun):40-55.

### **International Trade**

Kenneth E. Scheve and Matthew J. Slaughter. 2007. "A New Deal for Globalization." *Foreign Affairs* 86:4 (Jul/Aug):34-47.

### **Monetary Systems and Policies**

Benn Steil. 2007. "The End of National Currency." *Foreign Affairs* 86:3 (May/Jun):83-96.

### **International Development**

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. 2009. "How Development Leads to Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 88:2 (Mar/Apr):33-48.

Examination 3 (Monday, 14 December, 10:15-12:15)