

Introduction to International Relations (IR)

Department of Political Science

Sogang University



Source: "International Relations," University of Roehampton London,
<https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses/international-relations/>.

I. Course Information

Lecture Time	TBD
Instructor	Haneol Lee, BK21 Research Professor
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Consultation	By appointment via email
Duration	TBD

II. Course Description

For the last three years, new and old challenges in international relations astounded global citizens. The health crisis caused by the pandemic (COVID-19 and the following variants) has not only revealed the lack of readiness of individual governments in public health but also intensified rivalry between China and the US, taking a heavy toll on the global economy. Additionally, the War in Ukraine also surprised many and reminded them of the relevant questions of war: alliance, military strategy/operations, war termination, human rights during wartime, economic effects of war, etc. Despite the

sharply increasing cost of war, the War continues and it does not seem to cease soon. How do we understand these challenges? How would we need to characterize them? What has triggered or in the mid- or long-term caused the challenges? What are their prospects and are there any sound solutions? Designed to help students expand their knowledge about the field of International Relations and hone analytical skills in Political Science, this course invites students to build their respective approaches to answer these questions. This course will impact students in the following regards. First, students will have a chance to familiarize themselves with diverse issues (e.g., war, peace, international political economy, human rights, etc.) and events in international relations (with a focus on East Asia) in the past and recent years. Second, students will learn existing theoretical frameworks in IR, which have greatly influenced policy-makers, scholars, and commentators alike. Third, students will develop their approaches through the presentation and essay assignments, which will be supported by the instructor's close consultations, not to mention in-class discussions.

III. Composition of the Course

Lecture: 55%

Discussion: 10%

Presentation: 25%

Documentary/Movie: 10%

IV. Textbook

[TB1] Joseph Grieco, G. John Ikenberry, and Michael Mastanduno, *Introduction to International Relations: Enduring Questions & Contemporary Perspective* (New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

[TB2] Andrew Heywood, *Global Politics* (New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

V. Schedule

Day	Contents	Reading Assignment
1	Understanding IR: Terms, Concepts, Approaches, Questions	Ch. 1 of TB1 & 2
	IR and Globalization	Ch. 20 of TB2
2	Historical Review: Global and East Asian Context	Ch. 2 of TB1 & 2
3	Theoretical Thinking; IR Theory I: Realism	Ch. 3 of TB1; Ch. 3 & 17 of TB2
	IR Theory II: Liberalism	
4	IR Theory III: Domestic Factors of IR	TBD
	Discussion: Introduce Nationalism in Your Countries	TBD

5	[Topical Study] China's Rise and IR Theories	TBD
	[Topical Study] China's 'Peaceful Rise' Ended?	TBD
6	Foreign Policy (including decision-making)	Ch. 4 of TB1
	Movie: <i>Thirteen Days</i> (2000)	TBD
7	War: Types, Trends, and Causes	Ch. 5 of TB1
	Peace: International Institutions	Ch. 6 of TB1
8	Nuclear weapons, strategy, and Non-proliferation	Ch. 7 of TB1
9	International Political Economy (IPE) I: Market and Development	Ch. 10 of TB1; Ch. 15 of TB2
	IPE II: Trade, Financial System, Multinational Enterprises, and Institutions	TBD
10	Public Health	TBD
	Environment	TBD
11	Cyber Security	TBD
	Science and Technology in IR	TBD
12	Terrorism	TBD
	Movie: <i>Zero Dark Thirty</i> (2012)	n/a
13	Human Rights (with a discussion session)	TBD
	[Topical Study] The Ukraine War and East Asia	TBD
14	[Presentation 1] Korean War [Presentation 2] Vietnam War	TBD
	Documentary: <i>The Fog of War</i> (2003)	n/a
15	[Presentation 3] Potential Conflict in Taiwan [Presentation 4] Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea	n/a
	Discussion: Seeking Solutions for Security Challenges in East Asia	
16	[Presentation 5] 1998 Economic Crisis in Asia [Presentation 6] 2008 Global Financial Crisis	TBD
	Documentary: <i>Margin Call</i> (2011)	n/a
17	[Presentation 7] The Comfort Women and Forced Labour (<i>vis-à-vis</i> ROK-Japan Relations) [Presentation 8] HR in China (Uighur, HK, Tibet, etc.)	TBD
	Discussion: HR in North Korea	TBD

VI. Assessment

Presentation (40%) Topical presentations are scheduled for Week 4 (from July 17 to 20). This task is designed as a team project for which individual groups will conduct studies on the topics *together* and deliver presentations to fellows in the class. The presentations need

to answer the questions below and put forward 3 discussion questions at the end of the presentation slides for further discussion, which designated teams will lead.

[Specifics of the Presentation Assignments]

Length	15 minutes for presentation and 15 minutes for discussion with the floor.
Template	free to choose (but try to avoid making the presentation text-heavy).
Deadline	Presentation 1–4 by 5 pm on July 14 Presentation 5–8 by 5 pm on July 17
Submission Materials	PPT slides (with a list of references, i.e., bibliography), and a summary of PPT contents (1 page long; Times New Roman; line spacing 1.0; font size 11).
Evaluation Criteria	a) Whether the presentation ends in 15 min. (at maximum 18 min.) b) Whether the presentation answers the questions from the instructor c) Whether the presentation contains 3 discussion questions d) Analytical skills (use of data and quality of explanation) e) Presentation skills (including the skill to lead the discussion) f) The contribution of team members and their cooperation, etc.

[Presentation Questions]

Korean and Vietnam Wars	Why have caused the war? Did countries and the international community try to prevent or stop the wars? How? What were the costs of the Wars? How did the involved countries and the international community end the Wars?
Potential Conflict in Taiwan	First, assume that you consider an armed conflict in Taiwan unlikely. Why would you think that is the case? Suggest some empirical evidence. Second, assume the opposite (i.e., a conflict likely), and explain why a conflict is likely. This also requires evidence.
Territorial Disputes in the SCS	Introduce background information about the SCS territorial disputes. Study the Hague Tribunal's SCS ruling. What were China's and the Philippines' stances? How did they contradict? Explain the specifics of the ruling.
The Economic Crises in 1998 and 2008	What were the causes of the crises? How did the ROK (in 1998) and the US (in 2008) respectively respond to the crises? What were the roles of international financial regimes? How did the economic crises change international relations and/or international political economy?
The Comfort Women and the Forced Labor	What have been the positions of the ROK and Japan? Have ROK's administrations (Park Geun-hye, Moon Jae-in, and Yun Suk-yeol admins.) had different stances on the issue? How has the US responded to this issue?
HR in China	What is HR for you? Define and characterize it. What are the positions of China and the western countries (mainly the states in Europe and the US)? What are the strategic interests behind these positions of the countries? What have been the roles of the UN Human Rights Council on these issues?

Academic Essay (50%) This is an individual task. Students are required to select a theme from the list below and submit an academic essay, the length of which is 2,300 words. The essay needs to contain a title, section titles, student's name, page numbers, bibliography (*not* included in the word count) and footnotes (*not* in-text references), and has to be written by the following rules: Times New Roman; double-spaced; font size 11; MS word doc. File format (*no* pdf to be accepted). The submission is scheduled by 5 pm on July 21 (TBD). The themes of the essay assignment are:

- a) Predict the future of the ROK-US-Japan military and security cooperation and offer reasons for your assessment (the primary component of your essay in this thesis is your 'reasons').
- b) How does Sino-US rivalry affect the regional economy in East Asia or regional countries of your choice (e.g., you can evaluate an impact on the global supply chain or regional cooperation mechanisms)?
- c) How would the Ukraine War end? What have been the causes of war termination?

Attendance (10%) This criterion is a basic indicator that reveals a student's will to participate and efforts to complete the tasks depicted above. The Teaching Assistant for this course will check your attendance twice per day (Session 1 from 2 to 3:15 pm and Session 2 from 3:30 to 4:45 pm). The students who miss *more than two sessions* will face a deduction in their file mark.

VII. Movies and Documentary

