

Welcome to POLS 4310 International Conflict

Syllabus

Dr. Stadelmann

POLS 4310

Summer II, 2026

E-mail: mstadelmann@uttyler.edu

International Conflict

This course on International Conflict is taught in an online format. An online course is based on computer-based learning. All of the course learning activities have been moved online, making it possible to eliminate the amount of time spent in the classroom. Traditional face-to-face instruction has been eliminated. Students benefit from the quality instruction and flexibility of an online learning environment.

POLS 4310 is an introduction to the study of international conflict. The course will cover the history and evolution of the field of International Relations and place special emphasis upon major historical and current conflict issues. While it is accepted commonplace in popular discussion of international relations that this is a basically lawless, anarchic area of human activity, this course will argue that cooperation in the international arena is not just possible but has occurred for centuries. Recent multilateral actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria demonstrate this point.

For this reason, this course looks not just at causes and examples of conflict, but also at established links and expectations about the behavior between sovereign states that justify one in saying that norms exist and that thus a society of states exists.

Special considerations will be given to six main areas of contemporary international conflict studies: They are: Theories of International Relations/Conflict; International Law and International Organizations; Causes of War; The Cold War and Post-Cold War Era; Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control and Terrorism and Human Rights.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Goals and Objectives:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with terminology used to study Political Science
- familiarity with terminology used to study International Relations
- basic knowledge of Theories of International Relations
- an understanding of the foundations of modern-day International Law

- an understanding of the foundations of modern-day International Organizations
- comprehension of the causes of the Cold War
- basic knowledge of major Cold War events
- the capability to assess causes and types of terrorism
- competency to discuss recent arms control and disarmament treaties
- comprehension of the concept of human rights
- competency to engage in scholarly research

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm and by appointment online.

Communication Policy:

E-mails will be answered within 24 hours during the school week and 48 hours on weekends.

Class Meetings:

Class will meet online.

Course Requirements:

Successful completion of six quizzes (one for each module and only the top five scores will count). Each quiz will be worth 20 points.

The quizzes will become available each Friday and will be open all day (24 hours).

The quiz dates are July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7 and August 8, 2026.

Answers will be made available the next day after each quiz closes, and no make-up quizzes will be given. Keep in mind that you can drop one quiz.

Successful completion of a three-page response paper. The topic and instructions are discussed below. The paper will be due on August 7, 2026, and will be worth 100 points.

Each module contains sections on Supplemental Readings, Key Terms, and Suggested Websites. These are recommended sections and can be used to study for quizzes and for future research in the field. Additional videos have also been added in some modules. They are also recommended but not required.

Grading Policy:

The six quizzes will be taken every Friday and automatically graded online. Answers will be provided the next day after the quiz has closed. The lowest quiz will be dropped and the other five will constitute 100 points towards your grade. There will be no make-up opportunity for quizzes; keep in mind one quiz will be dropped. The response paper is worth an additional 100 points and instructions are provided below and in the Getting Started section on Canvas

The grading scale will be the following:

A=200-180 points

B=179-160 points

C=159-140 points

D=139-120 points

F=119 or fewer points

Tentative Course Outline:

The tentative course outline is subject to change; however, you will be notified well in advance of any changes.

Date	Method	Activity
By July 10	Online	Watch Course Introduction and Lectures in Module 1 on Terms and Concepts, Balance of Power Theory and Theories of International Conflict. Take Quiz#1 on July 10, 2026.
By July 17	Online	International Law and the United Nations. Watch Lectures and film in Module 2 on the History and Structure of the United Nations and the origins of International Law. Take Quiz#2 on July 17, 2026.
By July 24	Online	Watch lectures in Module 3 on the Causes of Warfare, the Causes of the Cold War and major events of the Cold War. Take Quiz#3 on July 24, 2026.
By July 31	Online	Watch lectures and films in Module 4 on Terrorism. Take Quiz#4 on July 31, 2026.
By August 7	Online	Watch lectures and films in Module 5 on Strategic Doctrines and Arms Control/Disarmament Treaties.

Take Quiz#5 on August 7, 2026.

By August 8 Online

Watch lectures and films in Module 6 on Human Rights and take Quiz#6 on August 8, 2026.

By August 7 Online

Submit response paper on Canvas or e-mail to mstadelmann@uttyler.edu by August 7, 2026.

Guidelines for Reaction Paper for POLS 4310

Summer II, 2026

Due: August 7, 2026

Website for the International Criminal Court: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Links to an external site>.

1. Write a three page paper on the International Criminal Court (ICC).
2. Discuss its history, structure, evolution and jurisdiction.
3. Evaluate the performance of the International Criminal Court.

The paper should be three pages in length, excluding title page and bibliography.

The font size should be 12-point Times New Roman and the paper needs to be double spaced.

Use at least three sources and use proper citation styles.

For citation style question please consult Kate Turabian "A Manual for Writers "on reserve in the library.

Technical Support:

If you experience technical problems with this course or Canvas, contact the 24/7 Canvas Support by phone or chat by clicking the Help button in Canvas which is located at the bottom of the Canvas Global Menu on the left side of the window.

When you contact Canvas Support, be sure to include a complete description of your problem or question including:

- The title and number of the course
- The page in question
- If you get an error message, a description and message number
- What you were doing at the time you got the error message

You can also search the Canvas Student Guide for useful information on using Canvas at <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

If you are experiencing login/password problems or need support for other technical issues, contact Campus Computing Services located in the Business Building (BUS 101), by phone 903-565-5555, or by email at itsupport@uttyler.edu

Netiquette Guide:

"Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided.

(URL: <http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php>[Links to an external site.](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Required Artificial Intelligence Syllabus Language:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI is not permitted in this course at all. I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.