Political Science 203: Introduction to International Relations  
Sections AB and AC  

**Instructor:** James Caporaso  
**Teaching Assistant:** Travis Nelson  
**Sections**  
AB: T/TH 8:30-9:20, SAV 155  
AC: T/TH 9:30-10:20, SAV 139  
**Email:** travisn@uw.edu  
**Office:** Smith 031  
**Office Hours:** T/TH 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

**Important Dates**  
Midterm Examination 1: January 30th  
Midterm Examination 2: February 23rd  
Final Examination: March 16th (08:30-10:20)

**Section Overview**  
This section is designed to introduce you to the fundamentals of international relations scholarship. We will explore concepts you learn in lecture and the course readings. The goal is for you to become proficient in the use of the course material to analyze, understand, and think critically about the processes involved in international politics. Each section will start with a brief activity based upon the assigned reading for the class—this will count towards class participation. We will then have a more in-depth discussion of the assigned readings. Reading, and comprehending the assigned readings is an essential component for being successful in section discussions as well as on exams.

**What I Expect From You**  
I expect you to be prepared for class. Review your lecture notes, complete the course readings, and prepare answers to the reading questions before coming to class. This will have the greatest impact on your success in this course. I also expect you to participate fully in the discussion. Without preparation, it will be difficult to participate in the discussions. Strive to think critically about the readings and contribute in meaningful ways. Just one significant and original contribution, along with the short write-up at the beginning of class, will yield full participation points for that day.

Unlike the exams, there is no penalty for being wrong in section. Be respectful of other points of view. Our goal is to learn and grow from one another’s contributions.

**What You Can Expect From Me**  
I am committed to your gaining proficiency in the course material. I will facilitate discussions and clarify material that is vague or misunderstood. I will not lecture or recap information presented in course lectures or the readings; those are your responsibility. I will help you use that information to better understand international relations. I am available outside of established class times during my scheduled office hours or through appointment. I encourage you to take advantage of my office hours as an aid for you to work through complex material. I ask that you only use my email for logistics (e.g., setting up alternative office hours, or letting me know that you will not be in section), and not for substantive questions about the material. I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours, except during weekends, on holidays, and in the 48 hours immediately prior to an examination.

**Accommodations**
If you are a student athlete or a student with disabilities who will need accommodations throughout the quarter, you must provide me with the relevant paperwork within a reasonable time frame (i.e. not the week before an exam). Should you need to miss quiz section due to illness, emergency, or other circumstance, send me an email or come to my office hours to arrange a make-up assignment. I will allow two make-up assignments for each student. Exams must be completed on the scheduled date. If a valid medical incident requires you to miss an exam date, I require documentation, as well as consultation with Professor Caporaso before it is excused and accommodations made. This is not guaranteed. The sooner you make your request, the more likely accommodations will be made.

Grading
80% of your grade comes from the exams (20% for each midterm, 40% for the final), and 20% from your performance in section. I am responsible for the grading of your submitted work. I make every attempt to be fair, transparent, and consistent. I will explain any reasoning behind your grade or the meaning of any comments I write on your work on request. Study and review of the material increase the likelihood of receiving a good grade in this course. To request a re-grading of your work (outside of tabulation errors), you must:

1. Wait 24 hours, carefully review your answers, and my comments on them
2. Provide a typed statement to me (no more than one page) explaining why you believe the grade you received should be altered. This must be about the substance of your work, not the effort you put into it or this class.
3. Bring the work and your written concerns to my office hours within one week of receiving your exam for discussion.
4. I will reread your work, re-evaluate it if I feel it is appropriate, and return it to you within the passing of two quiz sections.
5. If you’re still dissatisfied, we can ask a fellow TA to also review the work.
6. If the second evaluation is still to your dissatisfaction, we can make an appointment to discuss your grade with Professor Caporaso.

Academic Honesty
Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. A suspected instance of either may be immediately reported to the course instructor and necessary disciplinary actions may ensue. For further detail about the University of Washington’s academic honesty policy, please refer to: http://www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/help/academic honesty.php

General Rules
Please note that I will use your uw.edu email address should I need to contact you outside of class. Make sure to forward your emails to another account if you do not check your UW account regularly. If you desire to send an email to the email address for the entire section (e.g., to set up a study group, ask a question, share a rights-related current event, etc.), you must use your UW email account or it may not work.

Out of respect for your fellow classmates, please be on time for section.