

POL 240/WWS 312: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Precept Syllabus

Fall 2019

Preceptor:	Lauren Konken	Precept 01:	Wed 12:30-1:20PM
Email:	lkonken@princeton.edu		Robertson Hall 006
Office Hours:	Wed. 1:30-3:20PM Green Hall 3-N-24	Precept 04:	Wed 3:30-4:20PM Bobst Hall 105

Precept Description and Expectations

Precepts for this course will meet weekly for 50 minutes and participation is mandatory, including active involvement in discussions, simulations, occasional small assignments and pop quizzes. Rather than a lecture based format, precepts will provide an opportunity for you to engage in discussion with your peers about concepts and readings from class, as well as your own questions about the material. Precept participation accounts for 15% of your final grade. It takes into consideration having completed all the readings, full oral participation, active involvement in class, and completion of any additional small written assignments connected with precept when relevant. Unexcused absences, non-participation, minimal involvement, uninformed participation (i.e. not doing the readings or exercises), and failure to complete small written assignments in precept count against the participation grade.

I am available to answer clarifying questions via email, but for detailed explanations please come to office hours. As noted, my office hours are from 1:30-3:20PM on Wednesdays in Green Hall, Room 3-N-24. If this timing conflicts with your schedule, don't hesitate to email me to schedule an appointment.

As noted in the course syllabus, **students may not use computers or phones in precept.**

Important Dates:

Paper #1 due Start of precept, week of submission.
Precept memos* Midnight the day before precept.
Midterm review session Informal meeting on Oct 21st.
Midterm In class, Oct. 23rd.
Paper #2 due Start of precept, Dec 4th.
Final exam review session TBD reading period in Jan.
Final exam TBD during exam period in Jan.

* For a number of weeks throughout the semester, you will be asked to write a paragraph responding to a short prompt prior to precept. These prompts will range from general discussion questions to preparation for simulations and debates. You will receive instructions related to these memos by Monday night the week of precept, and will be expected to submit the memo, by email, by midnight, on Tuesday before precept to myself, and your classmates enrolled in your precept section.

Paper 1

In no more than 1000 words, apply one of the theories from a specific paper (or set of papers from a single class) to a current international conflict or dispute and discuss how that theory can help explain how that dispute/conflict has played out. The paper is due in section the same week that the paper(s) on which you focus are assigned. Option to submit on Sept. 25th, Oct. 2nd, Oct. 9th or Oct. 16th.

Paper 2

In no more than 1000 words, respond to the following prompt: *"In 2016, presidential candidates such as Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump spoke out against free trade. Both suggested that free trade has hurt average Americans, with Sanders claiming that corporations and the wealthy have been the primary beneficiaries of trade. What is the theoretical basis for this view? Is it true that free trade hurts the lower and middle classes while only helping the wealthy in the U.S.?"*

Absences

Sports events, artistic activities, personal or professional travel, non-medical family circumstances, and computer problems are not valid excuses for absences. The only acceptable documented excuses are medical (the student or an immediate family member suffers from a medical condition of sufficient severity to make completion of the work impossible, if and only if accompanied by documentation from a medical professional (or the equivalent) stating explicitly both the medical condition and sufficient severity so as to preclude work), or religious.

Precept Make-Up Memos

Any excuse based on a mitigating circumstance known to the student before a deadline or session in question, including those listed above, **must be approved by the preceptor at least one day in advance**. For athletes requiring an absence due to away games, a signed note from your coach well in advance of a game is permitted. To make up for the absence, they must then submit a 1-2 page response paper that critically evaluates one or more of the readings from that week. This paper must be submitted **by the start of the missed precept**, or students will receive no credit for the missed class. If a student misses precept due to an unexpected illness or medical condition, they still must alert their preceptor that they will be missing class prior to precept, and they must submit a 1-2 page response paper prior to the next section. Failure to notify your preceptor of a foreseeable absence will result in no credit for the missed class.

Grading policy

Please review the Politics Department's [grading standards](#) for undergraduate coursework. This course follows the Politics Department's standard penalty on late work of 1/3 letter grade per 24-hour period or any part thereof - except exams, which of course must be submitted on time. That means a B+ becomes a B, etc. Technical problems are the responsibility of the student. Under any other circumstance a grade can be changed if and only if: (a) the student submits in writing a specific reason to believe the grade is biased, and (b) the exam or paper in question is re-graded by a third party without knowledge of the previous grade. If re-graded, the grade may rise or it may fall - and the new grade is final. Any student who wishes to invoke this option must contact their preceptor, or Professor Perlman, and submit in writing the reason(s) why he or she believes reconsideration to be justified.

Precept Schedule

Week 0 (Sept. 11): No meeting, precept assignment and course enrolment.

Week 1 (Sept. 18): Discussion of material from Sept. 16/18.

Week 2 (Sept. 25): Discussion of material from Sept. 23/25.

Week 3 (Oct. 2): Discussion of material from Sept. 30/Oct. 2.

Week 4 (Oct. 9): Discussion of material from Oct. 7/9.

Week 5 (Oct. 16): Discussion of material from Oct. 14/16. *Last week to submit Paper 1

Oct. 23: No meeting, Midterm

Oct. 30: No meeting, Fall Break

Week 6 (Nov. 6): Discussion of material from Nov. 4/6.

Week 7 (Nov. 13): Discussion of material from Nov. 11/13.

Week 8 (Nov. 20): Discussion of material from Nov. 18/20.

Nov. 27: No meeting, Thanksgiving

Week 9 (Dec. 4): Discussion of material from Nov. 25/Dec. 2/4. *Paper 2 Due in Precept

Week 10 (Dec. 11): Discussion of material from Dec. 9/11.

Week 11 (Jan TBA): Exam review session and final exam.