

POL 240/WWS 312: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Precept Syllabus

Fall 2018

Preceptor:	Lauren Konken	Precept 1:	Tues 10:00-10:50AM
Email:	lkonken@princeton.edu	Precept 2:	Tues 11:00-11:50AM
Office Hours:	Wed. 2-4PM Fisher B-11	Precept Location:	Peyton Hall 33

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 from class, as well as your own questions about the material. Note that the syllabus pairs each lecture with a set of study questions that should be part of your preparation for reading, precept discussion, papers and exams.

Precept participation accounts for 30% of your final grade. It takes into consideration having completed all written assignments (Papers 1 and 2), all the readings, full oral participation, active involvement in class, and completion of any additional small written assignments connected with the precept. 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 2-4PM on Wednesdays in Fisher Hall Room B-11. Please make an appointment via WASE by 1:30PM the day of office hours.

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

Important Dates:

- Paper #1 due 5PM the day before precept.
- Precept memos* 5PM the day before precept.
- Midterm review session 12:15PM October 18th.
- Take-home midterm circulated 9:00PM October 22nd.
- Take-home midterm due 12 noon October 26th.
- Paper #2 topic due 12 noon November 12th.
- Paper #2 due 12 noon December 10th.
- Optional paper #3 due 5:00PM January 10th.
- Final exam review session TBA reading period in Jan.
- Final exam TBA 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 5PM on Wednesday to myself and your classmates enrolled in your precept section.

Absences

As per the course syllabus, if any student is absent from three or more precepts without a documented excuse they will *automatically fail the class* by failing a major component of the course. 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:

1. **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. A "seen at McCosh" note is not sufficient.
2. **Religious:** A religious holiday, accompanied by documentation that the student is actually observing that holiday in a way that prevents work, to the extent explicitly acknowledged by university rules.

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 three days 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.

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.

As per the course syllabus, preceptors are forbidden to change any grade, except in case of simple arithmetic error. 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 the Head Preceptor, Megan Brand (mcbrand@princeton.edu), or the Professor, Andrew Moravcsik (amoravcs@princeton.edu), and submit in writing the reason(s) why he or she believes reconsideration to be justified.

Precept Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 13): No meeting (precept assignment and course enrolment).

Week 2 (Sept. 20): Discussion of lectures from 9/12 and 9/17.

Week 3 (Sept. 27): Discussion of lectures from 9/19 and 9/24.

Week 4 (Oct. 4): Discussion of lectures from 9/26 and 10/1.

Week 5 (Oct. 11): Discussion of lectures from 10/3 and 10/8.

Week 6 (Oct. 18): Discussion of lectures from 10/10, 10/15 and 10/17.

Note: Midterm review session led same day by Professor Moravcsik at 12:15PM

No meeting Oct. 25: Midterm Week.

No meeting Nov. 1: Fall Break

Week 7 (Nov. 8): Discussion of lectures from 11/5 and 11/7.

Week 8 (Nov. 15): Discussion of lectures from 11/12 and 11/14.

No Meeting Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Break

Week 9 (Nov. 29): Discussion of lectures from 11/19 and 11/28

Week 10 (Dec. 6): Discussion of lectures from 12/3 and 12/5

Week 11 (Dec. 13): Discussion of lectures from 12/10 and 12/12

Week 12 (Jan TBA): Exam review session.