

Fall 2021 Sophomore  
International Politics: English  
Listening & Speaking. Course  
website & syllabus: [http://  
omnifoo.info/pages/  
IRL&SOnline.html](http://omnifoo.info/pages/IRL&SOnline.html)

Session 1 9-1: Course  
Introduction

\*Your instructor: Mr. Julian Lee  
Currently located in Thailand's  
Golden Triangle  
Expectations for class: start most  
sessions talking about current  
events in the news. Ask  
questions. Stop me if you don't

understand something. We will all make mistakes. We are here to practice English, and making mistakes is OK! This should be a safe space to learn.

I prefer an “active” classroom. We will start with very basic topics in English and more political topics after the National Week holiday (10-1)  
\*Session topics & grades  
Midterm & Final Exams  
(including written & oral exams).  
Oral exams are 1-on-1 with the instructor.

\*Why learn English? Tests Vs. Communication  
Asking questions → improve grammar, pronunciation, fluency  
Are you comfortable & confident speaking English?

\*Complete Sentences: 2 things are needed  
Noun & Verb  
Subject & Predicate

\*If you can't answer my question, 3 responses

\*Western names (on handout)  
Full name

李小龙

Bruce Xiaolong Lee His full name is Bruce Xiaolong Lee.

Jackie Long Chan

My full name is Julian Tyler Lee.

My initials are JTL.

Homework: Write three sentences (on the handout)

My surname is...

My full name is...

My initials are...

\*Name Sign

\*Fri. Continue w/ names handout

## Session 2 (9-3)

\*News: Some Afghans in a remote valley are still resisting the Taliban.

China is trying to prevent celebrity young men from being too effeminate.

Violence continues in Myanmar (Burma)

New York City experienced flash floods.

## \*Review

\*Name Signs: Big = English  
Name, hometown (city &  
province), a place you want to  
travel, Chinese name in 中国字  
(Chinese characters ), pinyin  
(English letters)

\*Location & Directions: Who  
sits...?

On Sb.'s right/left. Next to Sb.

In front of Sb.                      Behind Sb.

Answer: \_\_\_\_ sits on my L/R.

\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ sit next to me.

\_\_\_\_ sits in front of/behind me.

\*Line up alphabetically (from A to Z) by...

\_\_\_\_ comes before \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ comes after \_\_\_\_.

\*Finish Names Handout

\*Wed.: Introductions. Bring your name signs to class on Tues. and every class from now on.

Session 3 (9-8)

\*News: The Taliban announced

a new gov't.

The west African country of Guinea experienced military coup, with the president now in custody.

In Burma/Myanmar, a cease-fire was called after nearly 600 soldiers and over 1000 civilians have been killed since the Feb. coup. The NUG has called for war on the junta.

\*Review

\*Discuss with a partner: In terms of naming practices (use of maiden names, surnames for children, hyphenating both parents' surnames, children choosing their own names,



etc.) and titles like “Ms.” mostly replacing “Miss”/“Mrs.”, do you think today's PRC or the USA is more feminist, and why?

\*Really finish Names Handout  
Zhongshan University in China is named after Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

\*Introductions (using handout)

You may call me Julian, Mr. Lee, Professor, but please don't call me “Teacher!” It would sound like you are in primary school. From middle school up to college, we should use our teacher's name.

Line up alphabetically by your hometown (city name)

\_\_\_\_ comes before \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ comes after \_\_\_\_.

I live on the Jingyue campus of NENU in Nanguan District of Changchun, in Manchuria, the northeast of China. It is near Jingyue Park, in the southeast of the city.

The old campus is downtown, in the center of the city, on Ziyou Avenue.

\*Your major: specialization, focus, concentration

I specialize in... I focus on...  
My concentration is in...

Fri.: Time & Punctuality

Session 4 (9-10)

\*News: IOC banned North Korean athletes from competing in the Beijing winter olympics.

BRICS Summit was held in India, with China hosting next year.

Amazon workers have new rights to push back against their employer.

China's Foreign Minister has met with those from Afghanistan.

Japan has extended Covid-19 emergency. Pres. Biden is calling for

mandatory vaccinations at major companies, leading to a backlash.

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 9/11 incident & the beginning of the “Global War on Terrorism”

\*Review

\*Finish Introductions handout

\*Introduce your “new friend” to the class.

“This is my new friend...”

S/he is from CITY, PROVINCE and lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the city, near \_\_\_\_\_.

She goes to school at NENU and majors in int'l polt., expects to graduate in 2024

FAMILY

# Hobbies

\*Handout on time & punctuality

punctuality = being punctual = on time

Early Vs. Late

What's time? = What is the meaning of the word “time”?

Time difference = Thailand is one hour behind China. China is one hour ahead of Thailand.

Time Zones 时区 = 24 1-hour divisions, The International Dateline (180 degrees longitude)

How many time zones does China (1), The USA (6), Russia have (11)?

The Date: Today is Fri., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The order is the opposite of Chinese.

\*Telling time...The basics: What are the following times in English?

12:00AM = midnight = At 11:59 PM, it's night, and one minute later it's

12:00AM

12:00PM = noon

1:15 = quarter after/past 1

1:45 = quarter to two

9:30 = half past 9, nine thirty

What time did you go to sleep last night?

What time did you get up this morning? Get Vs. got

What time did you eat breakfast?

What time do you usually...?

How many...? There are #...

Decades 年代. We are in the twenties.

2010s = the teens (like a teenager)

2000s = the zeroes, the aughts

The Chinese Civil War was fought in the 1940s.

The USA recognized the PRC as China in the 1970s.

The Great Depression was in the 1930s.

The Soviet Union/USSR broke up in the 1990s.

We are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mao Zedong was born in the 19<sup>th</sup>

century.

The Qing Dynasty was founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The PRC (People's Republic of China) was founded in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Zheng He sailed to the Indian Ocean & Africa in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The Qianlong Emperor ruled China in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The USA began the “Global War on Terror” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

a generation = 20-25 years (about how long it takes from when a baby grows up and has his/her own kids)

代沟 = generation gap

\*Generations in the USA & in China



The Greatest Generation → fought in WWII, made the USA the strongest country in the world, established major political institutions in the USA

The Silent Generation

Baby Boomers

Generation X

Millennials

Generation Z

Generations in China...

The Old Revolutionaries (Mao, Zhou, Zhu De, they fought in the wars and established the PRC)

80 后 = post-1980

90 后 = post-1990

post-2000 generation

Wed.: Finish Time, Begin Likes &

# Dislikes

## Session 5 (9-15)

\*News: A Covid-19 vaccine factory opened in Serbia, the first in Europe  
Xiamen outbreak is causing a new lockdown, but it is hoped to be clear by Oct.

Pres. Biden has for mandatory vaccinations at the workplaces of the largest U.S. companies and the gov't, angering conservatives who call it "overreach"

\*Review

\*Finish handout on Time & Punctuality

Military time = 13:00 = 1pm 24:00  
= midnight

Military time is used by militaries,  
airports, hospitals, etc.

How often...?

cafeteria = 餐厅 (canteen is for  
militaries)

restaurant = 饭馆

Midterm & Final exams = 学期  
twice a semester

How long does it take to...? on/by  
foot, by bicycle, by train, by plane  
It takes 13 hours to fly from  
California to Changchun.

Line up by how long it takes you to  
come to Changchun from your

hometown.

Who lives the closest to Changchun?

Fairy lives closest to Changchun; it only takes her one hour to go home by train.

Who lives the farthest from Changchun? Amy & Lynn, from Xinjiang, both take more than 60 hours by train.

When will Sth./Sb. \_\_\_\_?

When was the last time Sth./Sb. \_\_\_\_?

Fri. Likes & Dislikes

Session 6 (9-17)

\*News: Vladimir Putin has accepted Beijing's invitation to attend the Winter Olympic Games in 2022. Britain, the US, and Australia announced a trilateral security partnership. Australia will deploy nuclear submarines from the USA (an example of nuclear proliferation, though the subs are nuclear *powered*, not nuclear armed).

Mexico's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence from Spain was celebrated and noted w/ a call from Xi.

China formally applied to join the countries other than the USA (which has abandoned the idea it started) in the TPP (CPTPP).

Gen. Mark Milley, U.S.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (highest-ranking military officer in the U.S. gov't) published a book claiming that he reassured China twice that Pres. Trump would not launch a strike against it to stay in office after losing to Biden in 2020. GOP lawmakers are calling for his resignation.

\*Review

What will happen first in China?

- A. Gay marriage will be legal.
- B. Marijuana will be legal.
- C. China will have a female president.

Discuss as a group (in English)

whether you think any of these will

happen within 10, 50, or 100 years, or never. Give your reasons.

Translate for animals: 我喜欢狗。 I like dog.

I like dog. = I like to eat dog meat.

I like dogs. = Dogs are my friends. I like them.

3 basic forms.

我很喜欢音乐。 I very like music.

(Chinglish = Not OK. It combines English and Chinese in a way that is not correct or sounds awkward or strange. Usually this is from a direct translation of your thoughts in Chinese into English).

Reyan doesn't really like taking tests.

Reyan doesn't like drinking baijiu or

getting sick at all.

Sophia likes all kinds of books, but she especially likes historical books (both fiction & nonfiction). Her favorite book is *Shiji*.

## Other Expressions & Adverbs

With a partner, find 1. Something both of you like. 2. Two things one of you likes and the other doesn't. 3.

Something neither of you likes.

Present to the class:

\_\_\_\_\_ and I both like \_\_\_\_\_. I like \_\_\_\_\_, but s/he doesn't. Neither of us likes \_\_\_\_\_.

Favorites...



I like many kinds of \_\_\_\_\_, but I especially like \_\_\_\_\_.

Liking Sth. most.

\*Preferences. A or B Questions:  
Listen carefully for an “or” in the question. It's easier to miss than a 还是.

Would you rather...

Do you prefer...

Demons prefers to drink tea over coffee.

He'd rather watch than play basketball.

Would you rather kill or be killed? I prefer neither.

\*Experiences 经历

Q: Have you ever 过去分词 (Past Participle)?

A: Yes, I have. No, I haven't.

With a partner, find 1. Something you have both done before. 2 & 3. Something one of you has done but the other hasn't. 4. Something neither of you has done.

P r e s e n t : Both of us have...

I have ..., but s/he hasn't ...

Neither of us has...

gone skydiving

Line up alphabetically by your favorite...

Wed. College in the USA & “The world of work”

9-22

\*News: Pres. Biden seeks a phone call w/ Pres. Macron of France, which is still upset about the new nuclear

submarine deal with Australia. There are talks among European leaders about forming a European armed forces to reduce dependence on the U.S. military.

Pres. Biden raised the cap on U.S. intake of refugees to 125k, an doubling of the # under Pres. Trump, necessary after the withdrawal from Afghanistan. Many Trump supporters oppose immigration, even of refugees. Prime Minister Trudeau won the new election but failed to win a majority, similar to the 2019 vote in Canada.

\*Review

With a partner, ask his/her favorite and least favorite courses at NENU. Present perfect (using past participle 过去分词) Vs. Simple past (-ed) verb tenses

Have you ever...? When did you...?

Have you ever heard of Sth.?

Yes, I have heard of \_\_\_\_\_. No, I have never heard of \_\_\_\_\_.

\*Your major in international politics

How much choice did you have in your major?

If you could choose any major, would you still choose int'l politics?

What larger discipline does international politics fit in? (i.e. Colleges are divided into several disciplines/fields)

Disciplines (Divisions in Western universities)

The Humanities 人文学科 (incl. Literature, foreign languages, philosophy, etc.) Vs. The

Sciences: Social Sciences (IR, economics, psychology, sociology) = the soft sciences &

Natural Sciences (physics, chemistry, geology, biology) = the hard sciences

Are the “hard sciences” more difficult than the “soft sciences”?

The famous physicist Albert Einstein said,

“Politics is more difficult than physics.” Often

these are all within the school of arts & sciences at U.S. universities.

系 = The international politics major is within the Dept. of Law & Politics at NENU. This is different from the USA because Law is usually a topic of graduate school.

\*How do U.S. scholars study international politics?

In the USA, Political Science is a field in the social sciences. Int'l Politics is in the subfield of International Relations (IR).

What does (abbreviation ) stand for?  
\_\_\_\_\_ stands for \_\_\_\_\_.

Academic fields & subfields

What field is IR in? IR is in the field of Political Science. Most universities have a Dept. of PoliSci, Politics, or Government.

What are the subfields of Political

Science besides IR? Besides IR, there are Comparative Politics, Political Theory/Philosophy, American Polt., Polt. Psychology

What's the difference between A & B?  
A... &/but B...

IR is more theoretical. Int'l polt. is more practical.

IR itself is divided into two subfields:

IPE (Int'l Political Economy, including trade & finance) &

Security (incl. War & peace, etc.)

Diplomacy is the official practice of IR.

Within IR, I focus on...(subfield)

Within IR, I specialize in... (topic of your research)

CCP (or CPC) stands for the Communist Party of China or the

Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP stands for Socialism with Chinese characteristics, as outlined in Xi Jinping Thought.

PRC stands for the People's Republic of China.

10-6

\*News: The Winter Olympics will be closed to outside spectators.

Covid-19 cases are going down in the USA, Thailand, etc.

\*Big Review, Military Training & National Week Vacation

\*Did everything go as planned?

Regrets: What do you wish you had done differently?

I wish I had 过去分词 (more/less).

Everything went as planned. I have no regrets. I regret nothing.

Vacation Vs. Vocation = one's job

\*Handout on American Greetings & Informal Spoken English

\*Contractions (written with ' = apostrophe)

can't      we've      they're

shouldn't've    ain't

\_\_\_\_\_ is a contraction of \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_.

construction 建设 Vs. contraction

\*Handout on College in the USA

Levels of schooling. Where did you go to \_\_\_\_\_ school? Kindergarten in the USA is the



lowest level of primary school: K-4 =  
elementary

幼儿园 = pre-school (ages 2-4) Vs. daycare

Fri. finish College in USA handout &  
begin discussion of work & jobs w/ a  
homework assignment

10-8

\*News: The EU has confirmed its  
commitment to the integration of  
Balkans.

U.S. has disclosed the number of  
nuclear weapons in its arsenal as  
3750.

Los Angeles will require proof of

vaccination to dine indoors or be inside commercial businesses starting next month.

A meeting between China & the USA's diplomats was held in Switzerland, with a commitment made to avoid conflict. Pres. Biden & Xi have said they will hold a virtual summit before the end of the year.

Oct. 4 Japan elected a new Prime Minister, the 100<sup>th</sup> in the country's history.

The German elections showed that the Social Democratic Party won a very narrow victory but not a majority.

\*Review

\*Continue & finish handout on  
College in the USA

After-school programs & tutoring: recently  
banned in China? Piano lessons, English  
lessons etc.

Rich people tend to do better on the test than  
poor people. Tests show what one has  
already learned. Tests may not show one's  
*potential* to learn.

班 In the USA we don't stay with the same  
class. Staying in the same class, you can get  
to know your classmates well. Changing  
classmates means meeting more new people.

What factors determine college  
admissions in China?

The most important is the college

entrance examination (a standardized test).

What factors matter in the USA?

The entrance examination is not the most important (some colleges don't require it). Recommendation letters, extracurricular activities (such as volunteering), high school grades, ethnicity, admissions essay.

Affirmative action policies try to address inequality in society and past hardship & discrimination.

Discuss w/ a partner or as a table: 1. Should students w/ lower test scores (for being poor or ethnic minorities) be allowed to get into the same universities as wealthy Han students w/ higher scores? Why/why not? 2. Should factors other than the college entrance exam be considered in Chinese

college admissions? Why/why not? If so, what other factors should be considered (such as in those in the USA)? 3. To what extent is the Chinese entrance exam fair/unfair & “meritocratic” for college admissions?

Scholarships are divided into two kinds: need-based (for students from poor families) & merit-based (for excellent students). Which is more important, and which should colleges try to increase if they can only focus on one kind?

\*The World of Work & Jobs  
worksheet

Wed. give the correct answers for the worksheet, Yes or No Questions (based on handout forthcoming)

10-13

\*News: The EU promised to increase its assistance to Afghanistan to 1 billion Euros. The country is in the midst of a financial crisis, as aid has been cut off & many banks have closed or limited withdrawals. Russian, German, & French leaders spoke on the phone about the situation in Ukraine & other issues. France & the EU recognized the National Unity Government in Myanmar rather than the junta.

\*Review

\*World of Work & Jobs worksheet  
A 单位 is called a work unit. To leave it and 下海 is to “jump into the sea”

\*Question Types (based on handout):  
Yes or No Questions

Practice asking & answering  
questions w/ different “helping verbs”

Change from FORM 1 to FORM 2 to  
FORM 3, paying attention to one's  
rising tone.

Q&A chains through the classroom  
(ask a yes/no question in FORM 1,  
the next student changes it to FORM  
2, the next student changes it to  
FORM 3, the next student answers the  
question, followed by another  
question)

Fri. The Yes-Maybe-No continuum &  
dialogs of disagreement

10-15

\*News: Import-Export Commodities Fair will be held from the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Science & Technology Bo'Ao Forum will be held in Nov. 15-19<sup>th</sup> in Zhuhai.

A wildfire in Southern California caused evacuations.

Floods have damaged the ancient wall in Pingyao, Shanxi.

A fire in an old apartment building in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, killed 46 people.

\*Review: Discuss with a partner: Which of the political jobs on pg. 2 of the worksheet would you most like to have, and why? Which would you



most want to quit or resign from if you had it?

\*Finish Yes or No Questions  
Q&A chains through the classroom  
(ask a yes/no question in FORM 1, the next student changes it to FORM 2, the next student changes it to FORM 3, the next student answers the question, followed by another question)

\*Yes-Maybe-No Continuum  
(handout)

\*Dialogs of disagreement  
(Not) see eye-to-eye  
We may have to agree to disagree. (I give up.)

Try to persuade/convince your partner.

Debate/argument is OK, but not forever.

Make an argument (support your opinion with evidence such as facts & examples).

A bigot is an unreasonable person who will never change his/her mind, no matter how much evidence you give. S/he ignores facts. You can never convince a bigoted person that s/he is wrong.

With a partner, find a topic about which you disagree (political topics are highly recommended). Write a dialog of 10-15 lines about your topic, explaining/debating your reasons for the disagreement. Use at least 5

expressions from the handout to  
“spice it up” & make it more colorful.

You will perform your dialog in the  
next session of class, on Wed.

10-20

\*News: Japanese SDF intercepted  
Chinese and Russian ships passing  
through a regional strait  
The Winter Olympic Games torch was  
passed to China  
Former Sec. Of State Colin Powell  
died of complications from Covid-19.  
He is most famous for advocating for  
the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 to  
prevent the development & use of  
“weapons of mass destruction” which  
were never found. He was fully

vaccinated, but at age 84 w/ multiple myeloma (a blood cancer) was very vulnerable. Some worry this will lead more Americans to question the vaccines.

White House says the U.S. is ready to engage with North Korea despite its most recent missile test.

\*Review

\*Perform dialogs of disagreement, starting w/ volunteers. Please listen attentively, and maybe there will be questions afterwards.

\* “Once more, with feeling!”

Focus on emphasis & intonation. Be a convincing actor/actress.

“No way! The harm is more serious!”

“Oh yes, indeed!” “Right on, man!”

“Of course not! That's crazy talk!”

“Our society might face a big problem!” (Scared & worried)

Committee “Could it be any other way?”

“That's inconceivable! Have you lost your mind?!”

“If the death penalty is abolished, people will commit crimes with impunity.” (Disgust, righteous indignation, anger)

“You're kidding, right?” “I approve of your position.”

\*Handout on Security & IPE

Fri. finish handout, begin comparisons & geography

10-22

\*News: A meeting between 10 countries, incl. China & Russia, met to discuss aid to Afghanistan.

A Russian nuclear power plant has been leaking steam, causing it to be closed for maintenance.

\*Review

\*Warm-up Exercise: Security, IPE, or both?

Does the topic fit mostly in the subfield of Security, IPE, or both?

Why?

Examples: “First-strike” prohibition of nuclear weapons = security (As an int'lly regulated weapon, most countries have committed to not using nukes except for defensive/deterrence

purposes)

Proliferation of nuclear weapons = both (the spread of nukes often involves the int'l sale of technology between countries)

France lost its deal to produce nuclear submarines for Australia = IPE (France's security is not greatly affected; the issue is mainly an economic loss in trade for France.)

1. In the 2019 documentary “American Factory,” a Chinese billionaire opens a glass manufacturing factory in an abandoned GM plant in Ohio. (IPE, an example of a developing country giving foreign direct investment, FDI, in a developed country).

2. Immigration & global migration

(Both, migrations of people greatly affect the economies of “sending & receiving” nations & border control is central to security)

3. Will the new Taliban regime gain int'l recognition & a seat at the UN?

(Security, relates to sovereignty)

4. Russia is providing military aid to the Tatmadaw (the military junta in Myanmar/Burma) despite it killing over 1000 of its own citizens, among other human rights violations

(Security, about int'l intervention in a possible civil war)

5. The ongoing interdependence between China & the USA (both? I'd say this is mainly IPE, but also increasingly “securitized”...but this mainly about trade & finance)

6. The GATT (General Agreement on



Tariffs & Trade) was succeeded by the WTO. (IPE, very explicitly about global trade & tariffs)

7. A cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh has paused the territorial conflict between Armenia & Azerbaijan.

(Security, this is a rare example of a 21<sup>st</sup> century interstate war, or at least a skirmish)

8. Former Pres. Trump campaigned against the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) begun by Pres. Obama on the grounds that it would help China, and even under Biden the USA hasn't joined the organization it created.

(IPE, it's a free trade agreement)

9. In the 2016 documentary “Abacus: Small Enough to Jail,” a small bank in NYC's Chinatown, owned by a Chinese-American family, is shown as

the only U.S. bank to face criminal charges after the global financial crisis. (IPE, banking is related to finance, financial crises are global under globalization)

10. Pres. Biden's domestic infrastructure bill is seen as central to his agenda to “compete” with China, and he has yet to remove the tariffs on Chinese goods for which he strongly criticized Pres. Trump. (both?, another example of securitized IPE)

\*Continue handout on Security & IPE vocabulary

Do you think the world is becoming more peaceful or more violent & war-torn? Why?

Wars have become less common?  
Civil wars may have become more common. Interstate wars, by contrast, have become rare. There have been no “great power wars” (between great power states) since WWII.

Wed. Examples of Int'l Institutions, comparisons grammar w/ new handout. Midterm exam will be in Nov.

10-27

\*News: On Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, Russia & China took part in joint naval exercises, showing their increasing trust & cooperation against Japanese “provocations”  
Japanese princess broke away from

royalty w/ a marriage to a man who works in the USA.

The USA has suspended hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Sudan after a military coup detained the civilian leader. Protesters have been fired upon but continue to demand a return to the “power sharing” arrangement & elections to be held in 2023, following the ouster of former leader Al-Bashir in 2019.

\*Review

\*With a partner, discuss: Q: In your opinion, why have there been no “great power wars” since WWII? (Great powers have been involved in “proxy wars” as the “hot” parts of the Cold War, between the Soviet Union & USA, but not fought each other directly on the battlefield.) Give specific reasons

related to your major, and also consider addressing reasons you think are *not* important or less important than your main reasons. Your answers follow...  
“The theme of the times” is peace & development, rather than war & conflict. But why? And how do we know? I've never heard a non-Chinese person say this before.

Nuclear weapons & WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction) → MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction)

Full-scale war is seen to weaken countries and allow others to rise.

Superpower status as a global hegemon has prevented great powers from going to war. (HST Hegemonic Stability Theory → Pax Americana)

Economic interdependence means that great power wars would be “bad for business” (global capitalism → peace).

The great powers care primarily about

their economic strength, competing in technology & trade instead of militarily. Int'l cooperation through global institutions such as the UN (& int'l law). We trust each other more. Post-war pacifism says war is illegal & unjust. We have no more “greedy states” seeking to expand their territory at the expense of rivals.

\*Power poll results on Japan Vs. Russia: Unanimously in favor of Russia...why?  
Compare to U.S. classroom: U.S. students believe Japan is more powerful than Russia.

Is Russia today still “Upper Volta with rockets”?

How do we define & measure power in IR?

GDP = Gross Domestic Product (size of the economy)

Soft Power = attractiveness. Other countries want to emulate (be like) Japan, not Russia.

\*Finish Security/IPE Handout: What “units of analysis” & “actors” do IR scholars focus on?

We traditionally focus on states because they are the most powerful actors.

We divide actors into states & non-state actors.

\*Exercise w/ example international institutions.

Look at your example regime and note its founding date, and look it up online if you've never heard of it to find out what it does.

The IMF was founded in 1944.

Compare yours to your neighbor's, in English. Q: What does your institution do? Had you heard of it before? When was it founded? How important do you think it is/was/will be in IR, and why?

Fri. Comparisons between China & the USA

10-29



\*News: Tsai Ying-wen said U.S. troops are on the island for training. EU nuclear talks will resume, possibly including the U.S. & Iran. India will seek to make rich countries pay for measures to fight climate change.

\*Review

\*Int'l Institution papers strips Part 2. Without showing your strip of paper to your classmates, line up by your institutions from the oldest to the newest.

Speak to each other only in English!

Parts 3&4: Based upon the institutions on your papers, form three groups: IGOs (Inter-governmental

organizations), INGOs (International Non-government organizations), Conventions/Laws/Treaties which are documents & int'l agreements rather than organizations.

Countries that sign are called signatories.

Form three groups again, according to whether your institution is primarily concerned w/ security, IPE, or both, and be ready to defend your classification.

\*Finish IPE/Security handout

\*Comparisons grammar

\*Comparisons exercise preparation similar, similarities Vs. different,

differences

facts Vs. opinions                      stereotypes

= generalization with a value

judgment (maybe offensive)

Wed. comparison exercise of China &  
USA

11-3

\*News: 2021's "word of the year" for  
Oxford Dictionary is "vax", used 72x  
more than last year.

On Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> G20 meeting was  
held in Rome, focusing on economic  
recovery from Covid, climate change,  
held online & in person.

Peru noted its anniversary in  
recognition of the PRC as China.

\*Review

\*Compare China & The USA in a Venn Diagram  
Consider people, culture, territory, etc.

Fri. meet in small conversation groups. Check your group's "color" & meeting time, be prepared to review what we've studied so far this semester.

11-10

(No news today...)

Vocabulary Game (Set up separate computer, divide evenly into two teams.)

\*Round 1: Say as much as you need (in English only) to get your team to guess the word on the card (but no gestures!)

\*Round 2: Gestures only (& no talking!)

\*Fri. we'll play the review game and hand out the oral exam questions. Expect the written midterm exam on Wed. and the oral exams throughout next week.

11-12

(No news today...)

Vocabulary Game (Set up separate

computer, divide evenly into two teams.)

\*Round 1: Say as much as you need (in English only) to get your team to guess the word on the card (but no gestures!)

\*Round 2: Gestures only (& no talking!)

\*Thurs. we'll play the review game and hand out the oral exam questions. Expect the written midterm exam on Tues. and the oral exams throughout next week.

11-12 Midterm Review Game

(no news today...) Please sit with

your team.

Game Categories: \*Give an Example  
\*Answer in a Complete Sentence  
(Oral Exam Questions) \*What Did S/  
he Say? \*Yes/No Question Chain  
\*Word Scramble \*Once More, With  
Feeling! \*Dictation

Word Scramble Example:

government

What other words can you spell with  
the letters in this word? i.e. govern  
teen on go meet over mete rent  
no never gov gone

Each team take out one piece of  
paper, and write your team number on  
it.

In 3 minutes, without using your  
phones, the internet, or dictionaries,

write as many words as you can using the letters in this word: diplomacy

Once More, With Feeling!

Each team selects one representative to say the following, with proper intonation & a tone of disbelief.

“You think you're gonna get a perfect score on the exam? Yeah, right! You've gotta be kidding. There's no way that's gonna happen!”

11-24

\*News: In Wisconsin, the shooter Kyle Rittenhouse was found not-guilty of all charges, and a rapper ran over 40 people in a Christmas parade, killing 5.



VP Kamala Harris took over presidential duties for about 90 minutes while Pres. Biden underwent a routine medical procedure, technically making her the first female president of the USA.

Xi Jinping gave a speech to Southeast Asia assuring its leaders that China is not a “bully”.

\*Midterm exam debriefing: Average = 83 , High = 92, Low = 70.

Oral High = 60, Low = 47. Written High = 33, Low = 23.

Any questions about the exam?

\*Handout on Political Geography

Note the difference with cartography (the study of maps)

Has the USA ever been a global hegemon (like o in the past)? Is it still today, and might it be in the future? Why/why not?

Fri. finish political geography handout. Next week: music & politics.

11-26

\*News: German parties mainly on the left (incl. Socialist & Green parties) agreed to form a coalition gov't, which would make Olaf Scholz the new PM.

Wang Yi held a video conference with Iran's foreign minister, marking the

anniversary of diplomatic ties.  
China said “Lithuania would pay a price” for its new ties with Taiwan.  
Germany also mentioned Taiwan.  
SCO member states met to discuss its affairs.

\*Review

\*Finish geography handout

\*Instructions & questions for political song presentation. Fill in your song's details on the sign-up sheet by Sunday (so that we all have time to listen to them before you present).

\*Handouts on Music

Wed. Pronunciation (& I'll give an example song presentation)

Fri. Present your political song to the class for about 1-3 minutes.

A guest speaker from the Univ. of HK will give a talk to junior classes on U.S. foreign policy. You are invited to attend.

12-1

\*News: Barbados declared itself an independent republic, declaring its separation from the British Crown. The Japanese PM announced that the country is completely closed to foreign entries, due to the new, omicron variant. The variant is an advanced mutation which may make it even more transmissible than the Delta variant, possibly also resistant

to vaccines.

Russia successfully tested a

hypersonic missile on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Chinese team won four gold medals in table tennis championships in the USA.

Xi attended the opening ceremony of 8<sup>th</sup> China-Africa Cooperation Forum.

\*Review

\*Example song presentation on “Gold Rush” by Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra (2018). In your presentation, give some background information on the artist, talk about the topic & lyrics of the song, & explain why you like it.

Please listen to all the songs as

homework to make the presentations more interesting.

## Pronunciation

You all have Chinese accents when you speak English, and I have a Midwestern American accent.

Accents & dialects. Most say Sichuanese, Cantonese are entirely different dialects of Chinese.

## Local expressions

\*Letters in the alphabet: Two kinds of letters = consonants & vowels (5 = AEIOU)

Sing the ABCs

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
XYZ

“Now I sang my ABCs. Next time won't you sing with me?”

antidisestablishmentarianism

\*Phonics: The letter \_\_\_\_ makes a \_\_\_\_ sound (or a \_\_\_\_ sound). Phonics let us “sound out” new words.

[Use the sound of the consonant plus a schwa ə]

Combinations form syllable.

The letters \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ make a \_\_\_\_ sound (or a \_\_\_\_ sound)

br cr str sh sl sq spl spr  
ch scr

The dreaded “th” sounds Θ ɒ

Examples: This is the thistle. 薊

\*Vowels: Long & Short

Ā Ē Ī Ō Ū

ǎ ě ĭ ǒ

ǔ

\*Song: I Like to Eat, Eat, Eat Apples  
and Bananas.

\*Minimal Triplets

Ē

ĭ

Ā

ǎ

Ā

ĭ

eat

it

ate

bat

bait

bit

heat

hit

hate

sack

sake

sick

ǎ

ĭ

ě

bat

bit

bet

ham

him

hem



There will be a pronunciation section on the final oral exam.

Next Session: Music & Politics (Students' 1-3 minute song presentations). You are welcome & encouraged to attend the guest talk on US foreign policy from 11:45-1:15 on Fri.

12-3

Song presentations in the order listed on the sign-up sheet. If we don't finish today, we'll continue on Wed.

Be prepared to answer a question after

your presentation.

After all presentations are finished,

I enjoyed your song presentations & learned a lot from them. Please send me your ranking of your Top 5 favorite songs from the list & one you don't like. After receiving everyone's personal Top 5, you will vote on your class's favorite political song.

Example: 1. "Ghost Town" 2. "The International" 3. "Quiet" 4. "Так хочется жить" 5. 님을 爲한 行進曲" I don't like "Give Peace a Chance" by Plastic Ono Band. (Don't include any of the 3 songs I wrote in by Xiangyu, Low, or

Antibalas.)

You are welcome to attend the guest lecture on U.S. foreign policy by my classmate, Prof. Peter Beattie, from the University of Hong Kong. It will be from 11:45-1:15 today (Fri., Dec. 3rd). Contact the juniors for details.

Wed. Money & Gov't Bonds (with handout to be sent soon)

12-8

\*News: The U.S. announced a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics, and Beijing announced its strong opposition to it,

claiming a violation of the non-politicization principle of the Olympics.

New chairman announced for a major Russian political party.

Russia continues to amass troops on the Ukrainian border, leading Pres.

Biden to warn against an invasion, while Putin demands that the U.S.

Guarantee that NATO will not expand eastward.

\*Last two song presentations (please send me your Top5 list & 1 you didn't like)

\*Handout on money

The RMB is now more “in demand” all around the world.

Exchange rates are either floating (based on supply & demand in the global currency market) or pegged (usually to the USD, for the purpose of stability). The Chinese yuan is “in the middle” between these, said to be a “floating peg”.

PPP = Purchasing power parity  
At PPP, China has a larger GDP than the USA.

\*Government budgets: income/ revenue (allowance ) & expenses (i.e. as a student, these include room & board, tuition).

Budgets may be balanced or unbalanced (deficit or surplus). If you have deficits again and again, this

builds up to an accumulated debt.

This is called a country's "national debt". Debt Vs. Debit Vs. Debate

National debt can be measured in face value/principle, but also in the ratio of debt to GDP.

Fiscally responsible governments try to balance the budget or maintain a surplus.

To balance the budget, what can a government do?

(Fiscal policy & monetary policy, parts of macroeconomics) Most simply, the government can increase revenues (taxes) or decrease spending.

Why not spend the money for the Belt and Road Initiative at home?

The USA and China, the two largest economies in the world, are said to be "interdependent." A goal of the

Trump Admin. & especially his “trade war” was to “decouple” the two economies.

China buys U.S. debt in the form of gov’t bonds. The USA buys Chinese goods.

Why lend money to a developed country like the USA? If China spent the money domestically, the economy would “overheat,” and inflation would be very high.

But isn’t China a poor, developing country? Where does all the money come from? Chinese citizens have some of the highest personal savings rates in the world. Americans don't save money; they spend & consume!

\*Fri. Bond-Trading Game

12-10

\*News: Canada's prime minister announced it would join the USA & Australia in its “diplomatic boycott” of the 2022 winter olympics. China expressed its strong disagreement & disappointment with the announcement.

The U.S.'s two-day “democracy summit” will be without one invited participant, Pakistan.

Former Pres. Trump will be subpoenaed over allegation of fraud involving his company.

\*Review

\*Still need Top5 lists from several



students

\*Finish IPE section & introduce bonds

\*Bond Trading Game: Ask me, Lynn Lu, Lynn Xiao, & Sylvia if you don't understand something and have a question. Welcome to the nasty, competitive world of global capitalism!

\*Read introduction on handout & write the assets in your “starting portfolio” in the blanks. Decide on your strategy (what do you want to trade & keep & why), including how much risk you want to take (some assets are riskier than others).

\*Trade with your classmates for 15-25 min. Start by exploring classmates' portfolios to learn what they want to trade & what you want to get from them.

Try to speak in English! i.e. “What do you want for \_\_\_?” “I'll give you \_\_\_ for \_\_\_.” “Let's make a deal.”

\*When trading is finished, write down the new assets in your “investment portfolio”. Instructor will reveal their new values, adjusted for inflation, defaults, & appreciation.

\*Who are the winners? Compare with your neighbors, the starting

\$7010, and the value of \$7010 in 1991 after inflation up to 2021. Share your best & worst trades, your new “net worth” with the class on DingTalk and whether trading helped or hurt it.

Wed. New handout on “dreams for the future”.

12-15

\*News: The USA, Australia, & Canada have announced a “diplomatic boycott” of the 2022 Winter Olympics. China has decried the decision as politicizing the games. China expressed appreciation to the IOC & countries which did send

diplomatic groups to the games.

Xi Jinping extended condolences over the tornadoes which killed 70+ & did widespread damage in the mid-South of the USA, especially in KY.

The Pentagon says no military personnel involved in the errant drone strike in Afghanistan which killed 10 civilians will be punished.

\*Bond-Trading Game Debriefing:

Who is the richest & the poorest? Did anyone make a very good trade or get tricked? How much information did you look up before & while trading (technically cheating, since we don't know the future when we invest)?

\*Your class's favorite political song is now subject to a “runoff” poll on

DingTalk. Please answer by next Wed.  
The process has been similar to a  
“ranked choice election”, followed by a  
“simple majority” vote among the top  
choices. This two-round system is  
similar to how some democratic theorists  
propose to “narrow a crowded field” of  
candidates for elected office, or even  
replace the system for electing the  
president/PM of the country.

\*Handout: Describing a Person

\*Practice describing a classmate (as  
will be on your final oral exam)

\*With a partner, take turns drawing his/her  
description of people in a photograph.

RULES: Speak in English to one another.  
Only one partner gets to see the photo. Do  
not take a picture of the photo! If you are

drawing, do not try to look at the photo. Take about 10 minutes to describe the photo for your partner to draw. Start with the basics: How many people are in the picture? What do they look like? What are they doing (sitting, standing, etc.)? What's in the background? Are they holding anything? What are their facial expressions? After 5-10 minutes, artists take a picture of your drawing & send it to your classmates on DingTalk. Then switch roles from drawing to describing for a second picture. Draw for 5-10 minutes and share again.

Fri. new handout on “Dreams for the Future”

12-17

\*News: On Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> a court

sentenced a Russian citizen to life in prison in Germany for killing a German citizen. Two Russian diplomats were expelled in response. A secret party flouting British Covid-19 regulations has PM Johnson in a “crisis of confidence” among the public. Omicron is, by Johnson's admission, spreading very quickly there. The British gov't released its semi-annual report on Sino-British relations, and China criticized it as being in no position to lecture others on human rights.

The U.S. Senate confirmed Nicholas Burns (former Harvard professor & NATO official) as the new ambassador to China. Why has it taken so long for the USA to appoint/

confirm him? Sen. Marco Rubio (R of Florida), a China hawk, had been blocking the nomination.

## \*Photo Description & Drawing 2

\*Handout: Dreams for the Future  
Outlooks on life & the world  
interpreted in a glass of water. Which  
are you, and how do you know?  
Japanese collaborators were the worst  
kind of opportunists because they  
betrayed China for their own personal  
gain.

Ranking of values: What is a value,  
and what is a specific goal? Rank  
yours, then compare with classmates.  
What is most/least important to you in  
life, and why? Which will you pursue



more than others?

Your “bucket list”: What are five things you want to do before you “kick the bucket”? Compare & share with your classmates. Which do you think you will or won't accomplish?

Someday, I'd like to...

If I ever get the chance, (I'd like to...)

I'd be disappointed if I never (got to...)

Wed. final regular session, based on forthcoming handout about love & relationships. Next Fri. will be the final review game (w/ the oral final exam questions). Prof. Gellers will give a guest lecture on Mon. night at 9pm: his topic will be giving (human) rights to robots.

12-22

\*News: Legislative Council election was held in HK, with a strong push for higher turnout.

Chile announced the election of a new president a left-wing liberal who will also be the youngest in the country's history.

The USA has imposed sanctions on four Chinese officials & China has responded in kind by sanctioning four U.S. officials & banning them from entering China. In English, this is called a “tit-for-tat” response.

A fatal fire broke out in Osaka, killing 20+ people. Arson is the cause, and the suspect is in custody.

Vladimir Putin is again in the news

calling for all NATO activity in E.Europe to cease, threatening a military invasion of Ukraine, accusing the USA of planning a chemical weapon attack.

\*Review

Share something from your “bucket list” that you hope to do/experience.

\*Poll results: your class's favorite political song will be revealed soon.

Many of us aspire to start a new household. But first we get to fall in love.

\*Love & Relationships: Why are they political?

1. All relationships involve power.

Feminism advocates for equal status

within loving relationships.

2. Governments manage things like marriage, divorce, etc.

3. Some kinds of love are illegal or criminalized, such as LGBTQ.

Consider LGBTQ rights around the world.

(Map of where being LGBTQ is criminalized, also consider countries like Russia, where same-sex marriage is illegal). Is being LGBTQ a choice or determined by biology?

\*Handout

What should you say if someone asks you a personal question you don't want to answer?

That's none of your business!

Mind your own business.

Fri. final review game in teams. Oral exam questions & a sign-up sheet will be made available before Fri.

12-24

Written exam day & time? Mon., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm. Looks like the sign-up sheet is almost full.

\*Poll results: your class's favorite political song is an oldie, “We Are the World” by Michael Jackson. It won a clear majority of 13 votes (62%), with one abstaining.

\*Final Review Game: Divide into 5 teams again

\*Give an Example \*Oral Exam

Questions

\*Description Pageant (in 3 sentences describe the appearance & personality of Barack Obama)

\*Pronunciation Sets \*Dictation

This is our last session for the course. I hope you feel more comfortable and confident listening to & speaking English. Good luck on your exams.