

# PLS 150 INTRO TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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# Agenda for Week One

## Tuesday

- **Introduction of myself**
- **Visit by subject librarian MD Sohail**
- **Introducing the syllabus**
- **Q&A**

## Thursday

- **Visit by the Writing Center**
- **Current events**
- **Lecture on what is IR**
- **Q&A**

# Personal Introduction

- **Dr Maja Savevska**
- **Educational  
Background**
- **Research Interests**

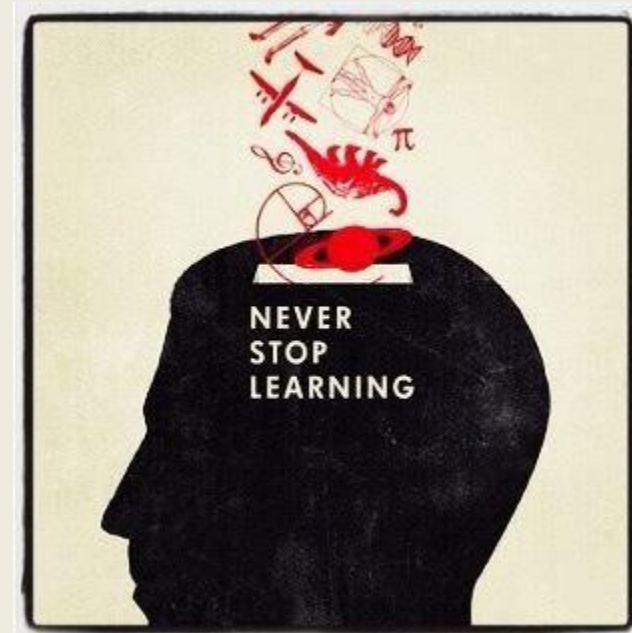


# Communication

- **Office Hours:**
  - **Tuesday and Thursday 3:30pm-5pm**
- **Appointments by email: 24 hrs. advance notice**
- **Office: 8.502**
- **Email: [maja.savevska@nu.edu.kz](mailto:maja.savevska@nu.edu.kz)**
- **Moodle**

# My Teaching Philosophy

- ❑ **Understanding foundational concepts**
- ❑ **Current events and applied theory**
- ❑ **No need for memorization**
- ❑ **Interactive format**
- ❑ **There are no stupid questions**



# Learning Objectives

- ❑ **Solid understanding of core topics in IR**
- ❑ **Well acquaintance with conceptual vocabulary**
- ❑ **Deep knowledge of foundational concepts**
- ❑ **Critical thinking**
- ❑ **Analytical skills**
- ❑ **Written capabilities**
- ❑ **Research proficiency**



# Course Format

## Tuesday

- Current Events (10min)
- Lecture (60min)
- Q&A (5 min)

## Thursday

- Current Events (10min)
- Kahoot (10min)
- Lecture (10min)
- Interactive activities (rest)

# Course Requirements

- ❑ **Midterm (25%) – Week 7**
- ❑ **Final Exam (25%) – Exam Period**
- ❑ **News Reports (30%) – Week 5 and 11**
- ❑ **Research Task (10%) – Week 13**
- ❑ **In-class exercises (5%)**
- ❑ **Classroom Participation (5%)**





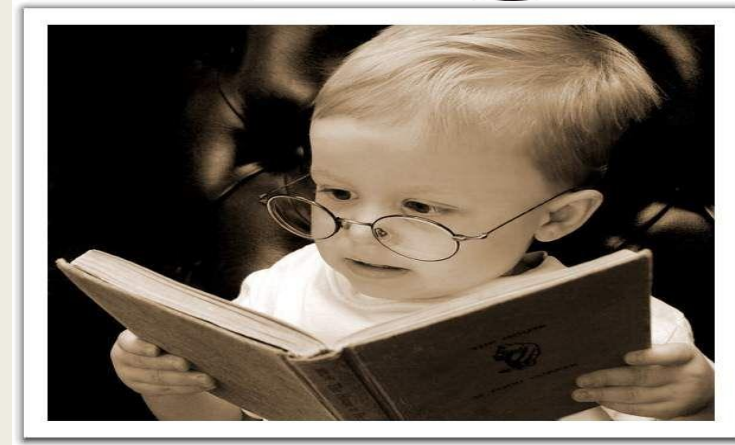
# Grade Score

Grade	Point	Percentage
A	4.00	95-100%
A-	3.67	90-94%
B+	3.33	85-89%
B	3.00	80-84%
B-	2.67	75-79%
C+	2.33	70-74%
C	2.00	65-69%
C-	1.67	60-64%
D+	1.33	55-59%
D	1.00	50-54%
F	0.00	0-49%

# Expectations



- Readings
- Attendance
- Newspapers
- Assignments
- Academic Misconduct
- Technology
- Academic Journals
- Library Resources



# TA

- **Mr. Aiym Daulbekova:**
- **Email:** [aiym.daulbekova@nu.edu.kz](mailto:aiym.daulbekova@nu.edu.kz).

# Textbooks

- **Hardcopies in the library**
- **Upload on Moodle**

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- Lecture on what is IR
- Q&A

00:00

**Current Events**

# What is International Relations?

## Scientific Discipline

- **Social Science**

## Field

- **Political Science**

# Object of Inquiry

- ❑ **What do we study?**
  - ❑ **World politics**
- ❑ **Problem-oriented inquiry:**
  - ❑ **Observation of empirical regularities, outliers, events**
  - ❑ **Building a hypothesis**
  - ❑ **Testing plausible explanations**
  - ❑ **Theory building**



# Actors

- **What it is?**
  - **Basic unit of analysis**
  - **Purposive behavior**
- **Key Actors?**
  - **State**
    - **Central authority**
    - **Sovereign**

# Sovereignty

## □ What it entails:

- Supreme legal and political authority within borders
- Monopoly over the use of violence
- Non-intervention in domestic affairs
- All sovereigns are equal

## □ How it is exercised?

- Diplomatic recognition



# Level of Analysis

## INTERNATIONAL

- **UN**
- **WTO**

## DOMESTIC

- **Voters**
- **Interest groups**
- **Business**

## TRANSNATIONAL

- **Non-state actors**
- **MNC**

# Key Analytical Concepts

## Interests

- Preference over outcomes



## Interactions

- Cooperation
- Bargaining
- Conflict

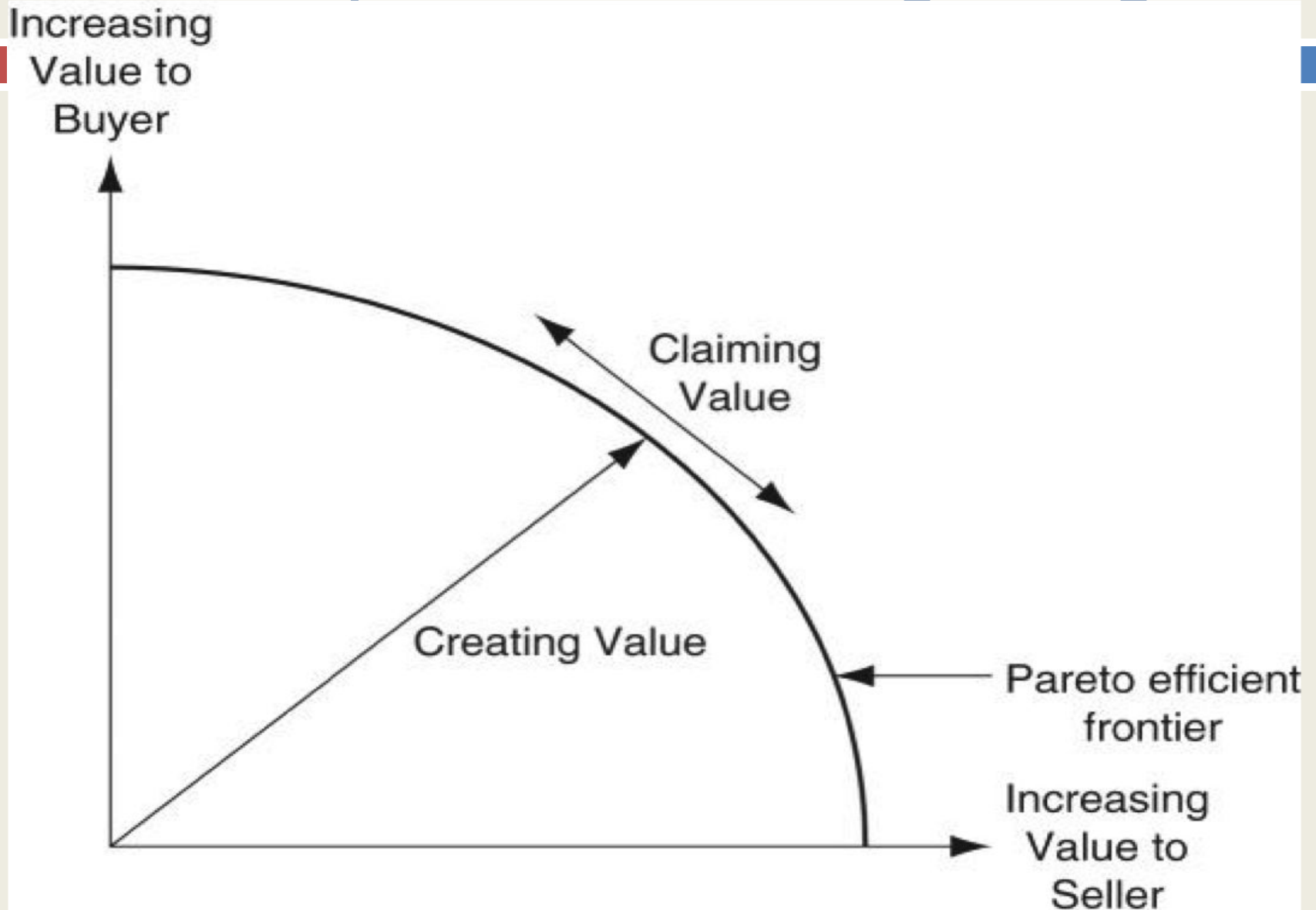


## Institutions

- UN
- WTO
- IMF



# Cooperation vs Bargaining



# Cooperation

## Coordination

- **No incentives for unilateral defection**
- **Dilemma of common aversion**

## Collaboration

- **Incentives to defect**
- **Dilemma of common interest**

# Cooperation

## Coordination

- ▣ **Examples:**
  - ▣ **Creation of common standards**

## Collaboration

- ▣ **Examples:**
  - ▣ **Trade liberalization**
  - ▣ **Nuclear build-up**

# THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA

**B stays silent  
(cooperates)**

**B betrays A  
(defects)**

**A stays silent  
(cooperates)**

**Both** serve 1 year

**A** serves 3 years,  
**B** goes free

**A betrays B  
(defects)**

**A** goes free,  
**B** serves 3 years

**Both** serve 2 years



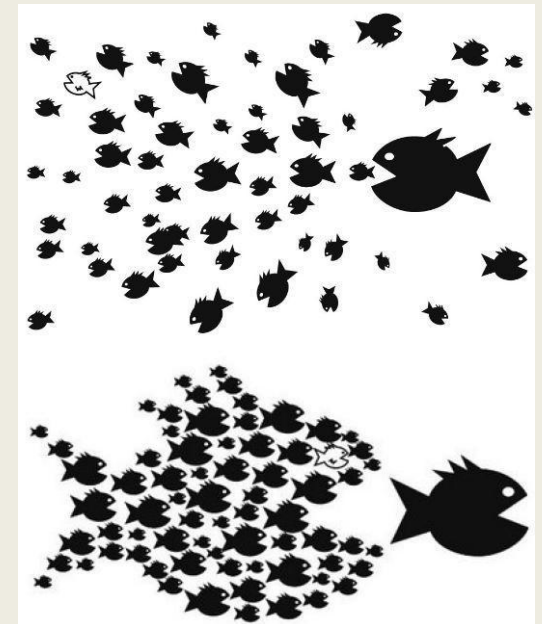
# Key Puzzle

## Collective Action Problems

- **Public goods**
- **Conflict between collective and individual interests**
- **Free-ride problems**
- **Unilateral defection vs. collective action**

## Why It Arises?

- **Nations are sovereign**



# How to Solve CAPs?

## Dominance Coercion

- Hegemon provides collective goods

## Reciprocity Linkages

- Exchanges of privileges

## Institutions

- Set standards
- Monitoring mechanism
- Resolve disputes

# Q&A

Dr Maja  
Savevska

- ▣ **Thank you for your attention**