

Department of International Studies

IS 100 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Section 002

Fall 2010
M-W-F 12-12:50 am
Buckman 110

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Course Description and Objectives:

The course is designed as an introduction to the major theories and themes in international relations. The intent is to accumulate knowledge about international relations – past and present - and to develop analytical skills to explain current events as well as the state of the international system. The first part of the course provides students with the conceptual foundations for understanding international relations. The second part covers the historical development of the international system. The third part of the course discusses the major components of contemporary international relations: international security, international political economy, and international organization.

The course aims at helping students critically think about international affairs beyond the day-to-day level by illustrating the connection between current events and theoretical paradigms. The course also gives a sense of awareness of the complex factors influencing contemporary global politics as well as of the conflicting interpretations of current international issues that affect our daily lives. It has significant international content and is structured to introduce students to both national and cosmopolitan perspectives on the international system.

Required Texts:

Spiegel, Steven L. et al. World Politics in a New Era. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

ISBN: 9780195336559

Jackson, Robert and Georg Sorensen. International Theories and Approaches. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

ISBN: 0199548846

Readings marked with asterisk (*) are available on the course's Moodle website.

Additional readings will be assigned as necessary.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be two exams in this course. The mid-term examination will take place on October 4th. The final exam will take place during final exams week; it will **not** be comprehensive.

Map Test: In addition to other assignments, the Department of International Studies requires the successful completion of a map test. All students will take a map test in class on October 20th and are required to score 90% or higher to pass. If a 90% score is not achieved on this date, students must retake the exam (to be scheduled individually with your instructor) until a score of 90% or higher is achieved. The grade of the first map exam will be the student's grade for the assignment. Students who do not pass this exam by the last day of classes, will not be allowed to take the final exam (and will receive a grade of 0 for the final exam). Review maps are available for download on the Academic Departments and Programs fileserver. Students are encouraged to begin thinking about and studying for the map test as early as possible. Also, please note that since we will not devote much classroom time to review the maps in advance of the map test, preparing for the map test is solely an individual responsibility.

All re-takes of the map test must be completed by the last day of classes, December 8th. It is the students' responsibility to make the necessary arrangements with the instructor for re-taking the test.

Quizzes: Seven unannounced quizzes will be administered throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion. When calculating the grade for this component, the lowest score will not be included. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Papers: Each student will write two 3-4 page essays on a topic provided by the instructor. The papers should analyze and explain current events in international relations using concepts and theories discussed in class. Further details on the essays will be provided later in the semester. The first essay is due on October 25th and the second one on November 19th.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in the class discussion. Students who accumulate more than four unexcused absences will have their grade for this component reduced by ten percent for each absence. Those who arrive late or leave early will not be considered present for the day.

Map Test	10%
Mid-term I	20%
Final	20%
Quizzes	25%
Papers	15%
Attendance and Participation	10%
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Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A	93-100 %	B-	82-80	D+	69-68
A-	92-90	C+	79-78	D	67-63
B+	88-89	C	77-73	D-	62-60
B	87-83	C-	72-70	F	59-

Course Policies:

Make-up Exams: There will be no make-up exams unless the instructor has been notified ahead of time. If a student cannot attend an examination, s/he must advise the instructor as soon as possible, and prior to the day of the exam. If the student has a valid and documented excuse, s/he will be allowed to take the exam before the regularly scheduled exam time.

Papers: Late papers will be lowered by three percent (3%) for each day they are late. Papers submitted a week after their due date will not be accepted. If the student has a valid and documented excuse and has notified the instructor ahead of time, s/he may be allowed to submit the paper at a later time.

Papers submitted electronically will not be accepted. Students must submit their written work to the professor in hard copy.

All written work must be typed using Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1" margins. Wikipedia, MSN Encarta, Britannica Online are **NOT** acceptable sources!

Tardiness: Entering or leaving the room while class is in progress is not acceptable, so please plan your arrival to the classroom accordingly. Doing so signals disrespect to the instructor and to fellow students alike, and suggests that this is class is not a high priority to the student. Students who arrive late or leave early will not be allowed to sign the attendance sheet.

Honor Code: It is understood that the students will observe the honor code of Rhodes College. Any evidence of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade and notification of college officials.

Disabilities: Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. To do so as effectively as possible, students who need special accommodations should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester

Laptops and cell phones: Students who use laptops in class must do so exclusively for the purpose of note-taking. Surfing the web, emailing, instant messaging, or playing computer games in class conveys disrespect to your fellow students as well as the instructor, and can be disruptive for the entire class.

Please turn off your cell phones before the class begins or put them in silent mode. Text-messaging is not acceptable while class is in progress.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Course Schedule:

8/25 Introduction to the Course

Section 1: Theories and Fundamental Concepts

8/27 Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 1 Why Study IR?
Spiegel et al., Ch. 2: Theory and World Politics, pp. 19-34

Realism

8/30 Spiegel et al., Ch. 2: Theory and World Politics, pp. 34-38
Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 3: Realism, pp. 59-70
Thucydides, The Melian Dialogue*; Hobbes, *The State of Nature* Machiavelli, The Prince*

9/1 Realism Cont'd

Jackson and Sorensen: 74-96

9/3 Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics,* pp. 29-82

9/6 **Labor Day**

Liberalism

9/8 Spiegel et al., Ch. 2: Theory and World Politics, pp. 39-44

Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 4: Liberalism

Kant, Perpetual Peace*

9/10 Liberalism Cont'd

9/13 Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 5: Social Constructivism

Wendt, Anarchy is What States Make of It*

Recommended: Stephen Walt, International Politics: One World, Many Theories*

Historical Events Through Theoretical Lens

9/15 Spiegel et al., Ch. 3: World Politics and Economics: 1648-1945, pp. 56-78

9/17 Spiegel et al., Ch. 3: World Politics and Economics: 1648-1945, pp. 78-107

9/20 Spiegel et al., Ch. 4: World Politics and Economics: The Cold War, pp.108-136

9/22 Spiegel et al., Ch. 4: World Politics and Economics: The Cold War, pp. 137-153

9/24 Cold War Cont'd

9/27 Spiegel et al., Ch. 6: Globalization and Fragmentation in a New World Order: 1991 to the Present

9/29 Mearsheimer, Great Power Politics in the Twenty-First Century*

Huntington, Clash of Civilizations*

10/1 Mid-Term Exam Review

10/4 **Mid-Term Exam**

Section 2: Conflict and Cooperation

International Security

10/6 Spiegel et al., Ch. 7, pp. 238-264

- 10/8 Betts (Gilpin, “Hegemonic War and International Change”)
John Mearsheimer, Zbigniew Brzezinski, “Clash of the Titans,” Foreign Policy January/February 2005
- 10/11 Nuclear Weapons: Iran
Allison, Nuclear Disorder
Milani, Tehran’s Take*
Posen, We Can Handle Nuclear Iran*
- 10/13 Spiegel et al., Ch. 8: Contemporary Security Issues, pp. 293-317
- 10/15 Crenshaw, “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism”*
O’Neill, The Real War in Mexico*
- 10/18 **Fall Break**
- 10/20 **Map Test**
- International Organization and Law***
- 10/22 Spiegel et al., Ch. 13, Int’l Law and Organization, pp. 510-523
Brooks and Wohlforth, Reshaping the World Order*
- 10/25 Spiegel et al., Ch. 13, Int’l Law and Organization, pp. 524-560
First Essay Due
- Section 3: International Political Economy**
- 10/27 Spiegel et al., Ch. 9, pp. 337-372
Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 7, IPE: Classical Theories
- 10/29 Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 7, cont’d
- 11/1 Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 8, IPE: Contemporary Debates
- 11/3 Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 8, cont’d
- 11/5 Altman, The Great Crash, 2008: A Geopolitical Setback for the West
Altman, Globalization in Retreat
- 11/8 Spiegel et al., Ch. 5, Imperialism and Its Victims
- 11/10 Spiegel, Ch. 5 Cont’d,
- 11/12 *Movie: End of Poverty*
- 11/15 Spiegel et al., Ch. 10, Development
- 11/17 Inglehart and Welzel, How Development Leads to Democracy*
- 11/19 Baylis et al., Poverty, Development, and Hunger*
Nwanze, The Road to Food Security, www.project-syndicate.org
- Second Essay Due**
- Section 4: Global Challenges**
- 11/22 Islam and the World
Hroub, Deterring Arab Democracy, www.project-syndicate.org
- 11/24 **Thanksgiving Break**
- 11/26 **Thanksgiving Break**

- 11/29 Baylis et al., Ch. 29: Human Rights*
Haugen and Boutros, And Justice for All: Enforcing Human Rights for the World's Poor
- 12/1 Spiegel et al., Ch. 11: Human Issues: Demographic Trends
- 12/3 Spiegel et al., Ch. 12: Resource Issues
Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"*
- 12/6 Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict"*
- 12/8 Final Conclusions of the Course