

Rhodes College
Department of International Studies

IS 100 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Section 003

Fall 2008
M-W-F 1-1:50 pm
Buckman Hall 103

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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 develop analytical skills to better understand the contemporary international system. The first part of the course provides students with the conceptual foundations for understanding international relations. The second part covers the major components of contemporary international relations: international security, international political economy, and international organizations.

The course aims at helping students think about international affairs beyond the day-to-day level by illustrating the connection between current events and theoretical paradigms. Students are provided with the opportunity to learn about the historical origins of the international system and most significant events of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. 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:

Baylis, John, Smith, Steve and Owens, Patricia. Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

ISBN: 9780199297771

Betts, Richard K. Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace. Third Edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2008.

ISBN: 0205583520

Additional reading materials are available on reserve at Barret Library and on the Academic Departments and Programs fileserver.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. The first in-class examination will take place on September 26th, the second on November 7th, 2008. The final exam will take place on December 13th, 2008; 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 13th 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 (December 10th) 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 10th. It is the students' responsibility to make the necessary arrangements with the instructor for re-taking the test.

Quizzes: Unannounced quizzes will be administered throughout the semester at the instructor's discretion. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Paper: Each student will write a 6-8 page paper on a topic of his/her choice approved by the instructor. The paper should examine and explain a historical or current event in international relations using concepts and theories discussed in class. Further details on the paper, as well as sample topics, will be provided later in the semester. Students must provide the instructor with the topic of their choice no later than October 15th; the paper is due on November 21st.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in the class discussion. Students who accumulate five or more unexcused absences will have their grade for the class lowered by a full letter.

Map Test	10%
Mid-term I	20%
Mid-term II	20%
Final	20%
Quizzes	5%
Paper	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:

There will be no make-up exams or quizzes 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.

Late papers will be lowered by half a letter grade 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.

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings on time and to participate in class discussions. In order to make informed and insightful comments the students need to keep up with current events. Therefore, the students are strongly encouraged to follow on a daily basis a reputable newspaper, such as The New York Times (at www.nytimes.com), or international media sources such as The Economist at (www.economist.com), or Financial Times (www.ft.com). Although basic knowledge of current international news is expected, this is not a current events course.

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.

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

Entering or leaving the room while class is in progress is not acceptable, so please plan your arrival to the classroom accordingly.

Course Schedule

Week 1

- 8/27 Introduction to the course
- 8/29 Jackson and Sorenson, "Why Study IR?" (LIBRARY RESERVE)

Week 2

- 9/1 **Labor Day: No Class**
- 9/3 Baylis et al., Ch. 1: The Evolution of International Society
- 9/5 Baylis et al., Ch. 3: International History, 1900-90

Week 3

- 9/8 Baylis et al., Ch. 3: International History, 1900-90 cont'd
- 9/10 Baylis et al., Ch. 4: From the Cold War to the War on Terror
- 9/12 Baylis et al., Ch. 5: Realism
Jackson and Sorenson, Ch. 3: Realism (LIBRARY RESERVE)
Betts (Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue"; Hobbes, "The State of Nature")

Week 4

- 9/15 Baylis et al., Ch. 6: Liberalism
Jackson and Sorenson, Ch. 4: Liberalism (LIBRARY RESERVE)
Betts (Kant, "Perpetual Peace")
- 9/17 Baylis et al., Ch. 7: Contemporary Mainstream Approaches
Betts (Keohane and Nye, "Power and Interdependence")
RECOMMENDED: Betts (Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics";
Mansfield and Snyder, "Democratization and War")
- 9/19 Baylis et al., Ch. 8: Marxist Theories of International Relations
Betts (Lenin, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism")

Week 5

- 9/22 Baylis et al., Ch. 9: Social Constructivism
Betts (Wendt "Anarchy is What States Make of It")
Recommended: Stephen Walt, International Politics: One World, Many
Theories (LIBRARY RESERVE)

9/24 Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 9: Foreign Policy
Mid-term Exam Review

9/26 **Mid-Term Examination I**

Week 6

9/29 Baylis et al., Ch. 12: The Changing Character of War

10/1 Baylis et al., Ch. 13: International and Global Security

10/3 Baylis et al., Ch. 13: International and Global Security
Betts (Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War”)

Week 7

10/6 Baylis et al., Ch. 13: International and Global Security cont’d
Betts (Gilpin, “Hegemonic War and International Change”)
John Mearsheimer, Zbigniew Brzezinski, “Clash of the Titans,” Foreign
Policy January/February 2005.

10/8 Baylis et al., Ch. 21: Terrorism and Globalization
Betts (Crenshaw, “The Logic of Terrorism”; Betts, “The Soft Underbelly of
Primacy”)

10/10 Baylis et al., Ch. 22: Nuclear Proliferation
Betts (Waltz, “The Spread of Nuclear Weapons”; Jervis, “Cooperation Under
the Security Dilemma”)

Week 8

10/13 **Map Test**

10/15 Baylis et al., Ch. 14: International Political Economy in an Age of
Globalization
Paper Topics Due

10/17 Jackson and Sorenson, Ch. 6: Classical Theories of IPE (LIBRARY
RESERVE)

Week 9

10/20 **Fall Recess: No Class**

10/22 Jackson and Sorenson, Ch. 6: Classical Theories of IPE (LIBRARY
RESERVE) cont’d

10/ 24 Jackson and Sorenson, Ch. 7: Contemporary Debates on International Political Economy

Week 10

10/27 Baylis et al., Ch. 15: Gender in World Politics

10/29 Baylis et al., Ch. 16: International Law

10/31 Baylis et al., Ch. 17: International Regimes
Baylis et al., Ch. 19: Transnational Actors and International Organizations in Global Politics

Week 11

11/3 Baylis et al., Ch. 18: United Nations

11/5 Mid-Term Exam II Review

11/ 7 **Mid-Term Examination II**

Week 12

11/ 10 Baylis et al., Ch. 23: Nationalism

11/12 Baylis et al., Ch. 24: Culture in World Affairs
Betts (Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations,” Fukuyama, “The End of History”)

11/14 CLASS CANCELLED

Week 13

11/17 Baylis et al., Ch. 25: Regionalism in International Affairs

11/19 Baylis et al., Ch. 26: Global Trade and Finance

11/21 Baylis et al., Ch. 20: Environmental Issues
Papers Due

Week 14

11/24 Betts (Cooley, “The War Over Water”; Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict”); Betts (Weiner, “Security, Stability, and Migration”)

11/26 **Thanksgiving Break: No Class**

11/28 **Thanksgiving Break: No Class**

Week 15

12/1 Baylis et al., Ch. 27: Poverty, Development, and Hunger

12/3 Baylis et al., Ch. 29: Human Rights

12/5 Baylis et al., Ch. 30: Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics

Week 16

12/8 Baylis et al., Ch. 32: Globalization and the Post-Cold War Order

12/10 Final Exam Review