

IS 100: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2008

MWF 9:00am-9:50am

Buckman 216 – CRN19079

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Office hours: MWF 10:00-12:00 and by appointment

Course description:

Though introductory, this is a reading, writing, and thinking intensive course designed to serve as a foundation for all other IS courses. What you learn will also broadly prepare you to excel in courses in many other disciplines, including anthropology, history, and economics. By the end of the course you should be familiar with the various approaches to thinking about international politics, basic concepts like power and globalization, and areas such as international trade and non-state actors, among other things.

If you have a documented disability or other issue that requires assistance, please let me know by the end of the second week of classes and I will be happy to help or refer you to Student Disability Services (SDS).

Readings:

Readings are listed on the day they are DUE.

Our text is World Politics in the 21st Century: Student Choice Edition (\$95 from the bookstore). We will extensively use the online resources associated with the text, found at www.BetweenNations.org. This means you need to be very familiar with the site and should log on after the first class. We will also be reading several articles, all listed on www.BetweenNations.org. The customer service associated with the site is excellent so please contact them with any problems.

Because this is an international relations course, in addition to the required textbooks and articles students are expected to read on a regular basis from the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com), *Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com), *BBC World News* (www.bbc.co.uk), the *Economist* (found in the library), or another reputable print news source to be informally approved by the instructor. I highly recommend the blog from *Foreign Policy Magazine*, found at <http://blog.foreignpolicy.com>, for a quick way to catch up on the day's events.

Class policies:

- This syllabus is subject to change.
- Students are strongly encouraged to consult the Writing Center for help with their short writing assignments.
- Attendance is mandatory and you are expected to arrive before class begins so that we can start promptly at 9am. Please understand that if you miss a pop quiz or in class assignment this will negatively affect your grade. Any illnesses must be documented by a medical professional. Only if you provide documentation will you be allowed to make up missed work.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class so I suggest that you print your assignments several hours before they are due to avoid any technical difficulties.
- Turn your cell phones off.
- No use of laptops in class.
- I take the Honor Code very seriously and you should, too. No cheating or plagiarizing. More detail will be given when we go over writing assignments but you should familiarize yourself with the College's Honor Code policy, which can be found at www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1478.asp.
- Participation: I expect you to be an active participant in the class and so you should do the readings before class and keep up with the news daily. Our online site has a news feed on the right-hand pane to make your reading easier. The participation grade for the course is an earned grade so it is possible to fail this portion of the course. Our course will cover many controversial and emotional issues—I expect respectful class discussion at all times.
- Make-up exams: If you miss an exam for a documented illness or college-sponsored event you may take the exam *before* the scheduled exam date when possible, or soon after in rare instances.
- If you are a student athlete, you are responsible for informing me of when there will be conflicts and prepare to complete assignments early.
- The best way to get in touch with me is via email. However, do not *expect* that I will check or answer email after 5pm each day or on the weekends, though I often do. 99.9 percent of class business should be able to be taken care of during regular work hours.
- As part of our exploration of music and politics, we will occasionally listen to music or watch music videos that have controversial content. I have done my best to avoid the most controversial media, but there are still some songs with inappropriate language or graphic images (such as those from Abu Ghraib). We will watch these during the first 5-10 minutes of class and I will inform you of the specific content before we watch or listen. Anyone who would prefer not to participate in this segment is welcome to leave the classroom during this time and come back in for discussion. Leaving will not affect your grade in any way.

Grading:

94-100	= A	74-76	= C
90-93	= A-	70-73	= C-
87-89	= B+	67-69	= D+
84-86	= B	64-66	= D
80-83	= B-	60-63	= D-
77-79	= C+	59 & below	= F

Guidelines for determining grades on papers will be disseminated by the instructor in advance of assignment deadlines and students will be required to initial that they have received this information.

Requirements:

10% Pop quizzes (in class) and out of class assignments on www.BetweenNations.org.

20% Mid-term exam, Friday, 10/17 in class

5% Map Test, Friday, 10/24 in class

- A grade of 90% or above is required by the International Studies Department. You will be required to retake the test until you achieve this score. However, to encourage you to get it right the first time, the score you receive on the Map Test given in class will stand as 5 percent of your grade for the course. Even if you retake the test the initial grade will stand for the course. Correct spelling will be required and study resources are available in my Public Folder from the Shortcut to Acad_Dept_Pgm on the desktop of most campus computers.

10% Participation

35% Writing assignments

- **10% Policy memo**, due Monday, 10/6 in class
- **25% Short research paper** (6-8 pgs), due Wednesday, 11/19 (mandatory meetings with instructor 10/24-29; 1/5 of paper grade, or 5% of your final grade, is presentation of research)

20% Final exam, Monday, 12/15

Course calendar and schedule of topics, readings, and assignments:

Wednesday, 8/27 – Course introduction

Friday, 8/29 – The Importance of World Politics (1 of 1)

Discussion: the nature of international politics

- (1) Skim WP Ch. 1
- (2) “A World Enslaved,” by E. Benjamin Skinner, *Foreign Policy Magazine* March/April 2008,
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4173&page=0, online Lesson 1
- (3) Interview with David Held on globalization,
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/define/2004/04heldinterview.htm>, online Lesson 1
- (4) Article on African youths and soccer, online Lesson 1
- (5) “America’s” beer article, online Lesson 1

Wednesday, 9/3 – Approaches to World Politics (1 of 3)

Discussion: Paradigms, Realism, Liberalism

- (1) WP Ch. 2, pgs. 30-45 (stop at “Idealism”) and pgs. on “Liberalism,” 48-50
- (2) “Contemporary Realism,” by Morgenthau, online Lesson 2

Friday, 9/5 – Approaches to World Politics (2 of 3)

Discussion: Marxism

- (1) WP Ch. 2, pgs. 45-55
- (2) “Socialism and Communism after Marx,” online Lesson 2

Monday, 9/8 – Approaches to World Politics (3 of 3); Writing

Discussion: How to write a policy memo, Ecological paradigm

- (1) Policy memo tips #1, online Lesson 2
- (2) Policy memo tips #2, online Lesson 2
- (3) “Memo on Memos” handout, online Lesson 2
- (4) “Redefining Global Security,” from State of the World 2005 (pgs. 3-19), online Lesson 2

Wednesday, 9/10 – Analyzing World Politics (1 of 2)

Discussion: Concept of states, sovereignty

- (1) WP Ch. 3, pgs. 63-70
- (2) *Foreign Policy’s* “Failed States Index 2008”
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4350.

Friday, 9/12 – Analyzing World Politics (2 of 2)

Discussion: Levels of Analysis

- (1) WP Ch. 3, pgs. 71-95
- (2) “Will Democracies Fight a War” online, Lesson 3
- (3) “Case studies” online, Lesson 3

Monday, 9/15 – Power in World Politics (1 of 2)

Discussion: Concept and measurements of power

- (1) WP Ch. 4, pgs. 97-129
- (2) “Why it Matters to You (Power),” online Lesson 4

Wednesday, 9/17 – Power in World Politics (2 of 2)

Discussion: Soft power vs. Hard power

- (1) Nye on Soft Power, pgs. ix-32, online Lesson

Friday, 9/19 – Catch up, review day

Monday, 9/22 – Foreign Policy Formation and Execution (1 of 2)

Discussion: Foreign Policy

- (1) WP Ch. 5, pgs. 131-159

Wednesday, 9/24 – Foreign Policy Formation and Execution (2 of 2)

Discussion: US national defense and foreign policy

- (1) National Defense Strategy of the United States of America 2008, <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/2008%20National%20Defense%20Strategy.pdf>, online Lesson 5
- (2) Video: CNN’s Marshall Plan, online Lesson 5

Friday, 9/26 – Intergovernmental Actors (1 of 2)

Discussion: Intergovernmental actors

- (1) WP Ch. 6, pgs. 160-199

Monday, 9/29 – Intergovernmental Actors (2 of 2)

****Assignment due: “Turkey and the European Union,” saved to notebook on www.betweenations.org****

Discussion: Turkey, the EU, and other organizations

- (1) Turkey and the European Union, online Lesson 6
- (2) Explore websites under “Reference” section online Lesson 6

Wednesday, 10/1 – The Arts & Politics (1 of 2)

Discussion: Visual art and politics (Guest speaker Prof. David McCarthy)

- (1) Picasso readings on Guernica, online Lesson 7

Friday, 10/3 – The Arts & Politics (2 of 2)

Discussion: Art and politics

- (1) Chinese architecture article
- (2) TBA articles, online Lesson 7

Monday, 10/6 – Non-state actors (1 of 2)

****Policy memo due in class!****

Discussion: NGOs and social movements

- (1) WP Ch. 7, pgs. 201-229

Wednesday, 10/8 – Non-state actors (2 of 2)

Discussion: Corporations and terrorists as non-state actors

- (1) Browse news on your own for stories about corporations and terrorists as non-state actors. Bring stories for discussion.

Friday, 10/10 – Nationalism’s Power in World Politics (1 of 2)

Discussion: Nationalism and ethnic conflict

- (1) WP Ch. 9, pgs. 262-289

Monday, 10/13 – Nationalism’s Power in World Politics (2 of 2)

Discussion: Nationalism and ethnic conflict

- (1) Huntington’s “Clash of Civilizations” at <http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/ramadan/cartoons/clash.pdf> and linked online Lesson 9
- (2) Ajami’s “The Summoning” at <http://www.astepback.com/IR/The%20Summoning.pdf>, and linked online Lesson 9

Wednesday, 10/15 – Review for midterm

Friday, 10/17 – Midterm exam!

Monday, 10/20 (no class) FALL BREAK

Wednesday, 10/22 – Political geography

Discussion: Political geography

- (1) WP Ch. 8, pgs. 230-261

*****Friday, 10/24-Wednesday, 10/29 – Scheduled meetings with professor to discuss research paper*****

Friday, 10/24 – Map Test

*****Map Test!!** in class***

Monday, 10/27 – Global Violence, Wars, Weapons, Terrorism (1 of 2)

Discussion: Wars and weapons and how to write a research paper

- (1) WP Ch. 10, pgs. 290-310 (until Terrorism)
- (2) Clausewitz “On War,” online Lesson 10

Wednesday, 10/29 – Global Violence, Wars, Weapons, Terrorism (2 of 2)

Discussion: Terrorism and deterrence

- (1) WP Ch. 10, 310-324
- (2) Watch Mutually Assured Destruction video, online Lesson 10

Friday, 10/31 – Human Rights, Women, and Global Justice (1 of 2)

Discussion: Human rights and women's rights

- (1) WP Ch. 11, pgs. 328-346
- (2) Genocide in Rwanda, online Lesson 11

Monday, 11/3 – Human Rights, Women, and Global Justice (2 of 2)

Discussion: Women's rights and feminist theories

- (1) WP Ch. 11, pgs. 347-367

Wednesday, 11/5 – Review, catch up or other in class

Discussion: TBA

Friday, 11/7 – International Political Economy and Developed Countries (1 of 2)

Discussion: IPE and trade

- (1) WP Ch. 12, pgs. 368-387
- (2) "Theories of International Political Economy," online Lesson 12

Monday, 11/10 – International Political Economy and Developed Countries (2 of 2)

Discussion: IPE

- (1) WP Ch. 12, pgs. 388-399
- (2) "Does Free Market Work," online Lesson 12

Wednesday, 11/12 – The Politics of Development (1 of 3)

Discussion: Development and MDGs

- (1) WP Ch. 13, pgs. 400-416
- (2) Examine the UN's Millennium Development Goals online at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Friday, 11/14 – The Politics of Development (2 of 3)

Discussion: Development and democracy

- (1) WP Ch. 13, pgs. 419-433
- (2) "Globalization and Fair Trade," online Lesson 13

Monday, 11/17 – The Politics of Development (3 of 3)

Discussion: The Bottom Billion

- (1) Chapter from The Bottom Billion, online Lesson 13

Wednesday, 11/19 – The Global Environment (1 of 3)

****Short research paper due at the beginning of class!****

Discussion: Environment and sustainable development

- (1) WP Ch. 14, pgs. 434-455

Friday, 11/21 – The Global Environment (2 of 3)

Discussion: Addressing environmental challenges

- (1) WP Ch. 14, pgs. 456-473

Monday, 11/24 – The Global Environment (3 of 3)

Discussion: Environmental security

- (1) Policy Briefs: The UN and Environmental Security, online Lesson 14

Wednesday, 11/26 (no class – Thanksgiving break)

Friday, 11/28 (no class – Thanksgiving break)

Monday, 12/1 – Presentations

Wednesday, 12/3 – Presentations

Friday, 12/5 – Presentations

Monday, 12/ 8 – Presentations

Wednesday, 12/10 – Review for final exam

Monday, 12/15 – FINAL EXAM