

INTS 100: Introduction to International Relations
Rhodes College, Spring 2011
(CRN 21333)

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“With many sovereign states, with no system of law enforceable among them, with each state judging its grievances and ambitions according to the dictates of its own reason or desire – conflict, sometimes leading to war, is bound to occur. To achieve a favorable outcome from such conflict, a state has to rely upon its own devices, the relative efficiency of which must be a constant concern.”

Kenneth Waltz
Man, The State, and War

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the study of international relations. As an academic subject, international relations is comprised of two major sub-fields: international relations (which involves studying the nature of relationships between nation-states, particularly with regard to conflict and cooperation) and international political economy (which focuses on global economic relations). The goal for the course is to improve your abilities to analyze and understand past, contemporary, and future world politics. We will pay particular attention to historical, theoretical and institutional foundations and also discuss contemporary issues. Since events absorbing our attention today may be well forgotten tomorrow, concepts that are useful in probing a broad range of international political activity will be emphasized.

Course Readings

The assigned reading material will play a prominent role in the lectures, class discussions, the examinations and, ultimately, your learning. It is very important that you keep up with the reading assignments throughout the semester. The two required texts for the course are available in the campus bookstore. The first text, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond*, by William Keylor, provides a detailed historical foundation of major world events over the past century. Second, Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen's, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches* introduces several of the main theoretical paradigms used in the study of international relations. This book will be helpful as we seek to apply theoretical tools to better understand the events of the past, present, and future.

In addition to the texts, other required readings are available at the one of three sources. First, several readings have been placed on a two-hour reserve at the circulation desk of the Paul Barret Library. A Rhodes-ID card is needed to borrow such readings. Second, additional course readings can be found using library databases such as ProQuest Central via the Barret Library home page. Third, on occasion students may find useful course materials on the college files server named: Acad_Dept_Pgm (Academic Departments and Programs). This files server can be accessed at:
\\files server1\Acad_Dept_Pgm\Intl_Stu\Ceccoli_Stephen\Public. Finally, please see me if you are interested in other supplementary materials or if you are having difficulty keeping up with the reading.

Required Texts

- William Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond*, 5th ed. Oxford Univ. Press, 2005.
- Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, 4th edition, Oxford University, 2010.

Course Requirements

The final grade for the course will be determined by several sources. There will be two mid-term exams (February 16 and April 1) and one final exam (May 3). The mid-term exams may include a combination of in-class and take home components. Students are also required to complete two short (roughly 4-5 typed, double-spaced pages) essays. Specific details for all writing assignments will be provided at a later time. (Note: I will gladly review and return comments on any of the short essays that are submitted at least five days prior to the due date.) Attendance and participation in class are very important. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and explore related questions. As part of satisfactorily fulfilling the attendance and participation component of the course, all students are required to attend two campus lectures (on a theme related to international relations) during the semester and submit a one page, single-spaced reflection of the lecture within one week of the lecture. Finally, an occasional quiz over the daily reading assignment may contribute to the participation component of the course.

In addition to your written assignments, the Department of International Studies requires the successful completion of a world map test, which involves identifying the 192 member countries of the United Nations. All students will take a map test in class on March 4 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 the world map test by the last day of classes (April 29) will not be allowed to take the final exam (and will receive a grade of 0 for the final exam). Review maps and a master list of the 192 countries are available for download on the Academic Departments and Programs fileserver and I would be happy to provide other map resources upon request. Though specific details regarding the map test will be available at a later date, 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 reviewing the maps in advance of the map test, preparing for the map test is solely an individual responsibility.

Your final grade for the course will be derived as follows:

Two Midterm Exams (40%)	Final Exam (20%)	Two Essays (20%)
Map Test (10%)	Attendance and Participation (10%)	

Course Objectives

Students should keep in mind that this is an introductory course and that we will attempt to follow an ambitious schedule. Your instructor firmly believes that there is virtue in flexibility, however. I will adjust the course schedule to meet the pace of the class if or when necessary. I have identified the following objectives for the course:

- 1.) Develop a solid understanding of several conceptual frameworks (or paradigms) used in the analysis of world politics;
- 2.) Gain a greater appreciation for the historical underpinnings of twentieth century world events;
- 3.) Improve knowledge of world geography and geopolitics;
- 4.) Enhance critical thinking and effective writing skills; and

5.) Gain a broader understanding of international relations and international political economy as fields of inquiry.

Guidelines

- Excessive (as determined by the instructor) absences may result in a diminished (or failing) course grade.
- Each student (including those taking the class pass/fail) must complete all assignments.
- All work should be completed on time. Late work will not be accepted.
- All students should adhere to the College’s Honor Code.
- The instructor will be happy to discuss your individual progress at any time.

Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topic / Reading Assignment / Assignment
Wednesday	January 12	Course Introduction; Overview of International Studies
Friday	14	What is International Relations (IR)? Why Study IR? Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 1
Monday	17	Martin Luther King Observance – No Class Keylor, Prologue: The Global Context of International Relations
Wednesday	19	Sovereignty Res. Article: T. Biersteker – State, Sovereignty, and Territory Res. Article: S. Krasner – Sovereignty
Friday	21	The Security Dilemma Reserve Article: Kenneth Waltz, Int’l Conflict and Int’l Anarchy Res. Article: R. Jervis, Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma
Monday	24	Approaches to IR (1): Realism; Realist Assumptions Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 3
Wednesday	26	Realism (cont.) Res. Article: Thucydides – The Melian Dialogues Res. Article: WJ Korab-Karpowicz – How IR Theorists Can Benefit by Reading Thucydides
Friday	28	Realism (cont.) – Discussion of Keylor Prologue Try to identify realist elements from Keylor’s overview
Monday	31	Geopolitics Reserve Article: R. Kaplan – Center Stage for the 21 st Century (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009)
Wednesday	February 2	The Emergence of the First World War Keylor, Ch. 1 Q: How would a realist interpret the emergence of the World War I?
Friday	4	Approaches to IR (2 and 3): Liberalism and Institutionalism Jackson & Sorensen, Ch. 4
Monday	7	Liberalism (cont.) Res. Article: Oye – The Conditions for Cooperation in World Pol.
Wednesday	9	Restoring the Peace following World War I Keylor, Ch. 2
Friday	11	Liberalism (cont.) Keylor, Ch. 3
Monday	14	The Interwar Years Q: How would the liberal paradigm explain the Interwar Years?
Wednesday	16	First Exam
Friday	18	Approaches to IR (3): Social Constructivism Jackson & Sorensen, Ch. 6
Monday	21	Social Constructivism (cont.) (ProQuest) Reserve Article: Ted Hopf, The Promise of Constructivism

Wednesday	23	The Emergence of the Second World War Keylor, Ch. 5
Friday	25	Q: How would the constructivist paradigm explain the Second World War?
Monday	28	The Origins of the Cold War and the Creation of the Postwar Order Keylor, Ch. 8
Wednesday	March 2	The United Nations and other International Institutions Keylor, Ch. 8 (review again) Res. Article: S. Hoffman - The Use and Limits of Int'l Law
Friday	4	Map Test
Monday	7	Leading Approaches to the Study of International Political Economy Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 7
Wednesday	9	Neoclassical Economics and the Nature of the Market Res. Article: R. Gilpin – The Nature of Political Economy
Friday	11	Development and Underdevelopment Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 202-221
	14/16/18	Spring Break – No Class
Monday	21	The Americas: U.S.-Latin American Relations Keylor, Ch. 6
Wednesday	23	Inter-American Relations Keylor, Ch. 13 Reserve Article: Morning in Latin America – J. Castaneda (ProQuest – Foreign Affairs, 2009)
Friday	25	Africa and International Relations Reserve Article: TBA First Essay Due
Monday	28	Keylor, Ch. 14
Wednesday	30	Keylor, Ch. 19
Friday	April 1	Second Exam
Monday	4	Balance of Power in Asia Keylor, Ch. 7
Wednesday	6	Keylor, Ch. 11
Friday	8	Keylor, Ch. 18
Monday	11	Contemporary U.S.-Sino Relations: The China Challenge Reserve Article: F. Bergsten – A Partnership of Equals Reserve Article: Y. Funabashi – Keeping Up with Asia (Both available from ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i>)
Wednesday	13	The Middle East: The Arab-Israeli Conflict Keylor, 271-280, 359-64
Friday	15	Arab-Israeli Conflict (cont.) Keylor, Ch. 20
Monday	18	Iran: The Revolution and the Islamic Republic Keylor, 237-240, 356-9
Wednesday	20	Iran: Cold War, the Revolution, and the Islamic Republic Reserve Reading: M. Milani – Tehran's Take (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009) Second Essay Due
Friday	22	Easter Recess – No Class
Monday	25	Ecopolitics and Global Environmental Issues Reserve Article: G. Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons
Wednesday	27	Global Environmental Issues (cont.) ProQuest Res. Article: EMBO Report-GM Directive Deficiencies in the EU
Saturday	30	Reading Day
Tuesday	May 3	Final examination 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

