

**INTS 100: Introduction to International Relations**  
**Rhodes College, Spring 2008**  
**(CRN 28434)**

Stephen Ceccoli

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Office Hours: Mon & Wed 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Tues 5:00-6:00 p.m. in 214 Barret Library and by appointment

MWF 9:00-9:50

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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 four 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 useful 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. Third, Michael Klare's *Blood and Oil* offers a provocative, yet insightful examination of the influence that a single resource such as petroleum has on international relations. Finally, *China: The Balance Sheet* is a brief manuscript from two leading think tanks on the recent transformation of China and what the authors describe as “the China challenge.”

In addition to the texts, other required readings are available at the one of three sources. First, several reserve 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 JSTOR and ProQuest Direct 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*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford Univ. Press, 2005.
- Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Oxford University, 2007.
- Michael Klare, *Blood and Oil*, Owl Books, 2005.
- C. Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, *China: The Balance Sheet*, Public Affairs, 2006.

### **Course Requirements**

The final grade for the course will be determined by several sources. There will be two mid-term exams (Feb. 13 and March 24) and one final exam (April 29). The mid-term exams will 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 map test. All students will take a map test in class on February 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (April 23) 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 fileservers 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 review 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 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 as a field 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.
- I expect all students to adhere to the College's Honor Code.
- I will be happy to discuss your individual progress at any time.

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic / Reading Assignment / Assignment</b>
Wed	January 9	Course Introduction; Overview of International Studies
Fri	11	What is International Relations (IR)? Why Study IR? Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 1
Mon	14	Levels of Analysis Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 223-237
Wed	16	Sovereignty Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 265-277
Fri	18	No Class – Professor Attends Conference Stephen Walt, International Relations: One World, Many Theories (Available via the Barret Library online database ProQuest Direct) Keylor, Prologue: The Global Context of International Relations
Mon	21	No Class – Martin Luther King Observance
Wed	23	Approaches to IR (1): Realism; Realist Assumptions Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 3
Fri	25	The Security Dilemma Reserve Article: Kenneth Waltz, Int'l Conflict and Int'l Anarchy Reserve Article: R. Jervis, Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma
Mon	28	Hegemony, Neorealism, and other Realist Concepts Review readings from the previous two days
Wed	30	Imported Oil and the Dependency Dilemma Klare, Preface, Chs. 1-2 Q: How would a realist interpret the points raised in the Klare reading? Note: Extended Drop Period Ends; Pass/Fail Option Ends
Fri	February 1	Approaches to IR (2 and 3): Liberalism and Institutionalism Jackson & Sorensen, Ch. 4
Mon	4	International Organization and Law Reserve: A. Bennett, Basic Principles and Organization of the U.N.
Wed	6	The United Nations Reserve Article: A. Bennett, Some Basic Issues of the U.N.
Fri	8	The European Union Keylor, Ch. 17
Mon	11	The European Union (cont.) Article: M. Teitelbaum and P. Martin, Is Turkey Ready for Europe? (Can be found using Proquest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , May/June 2003) Q: How would the liberal paradigm explain the U.N. and E.U.?
Wed	13	<b>First Exam</b>
Fri	15	Approaches to IR (3): Social Constructivism Jackson & Sorensen, Ch. 6

Mon	18	Constructivism (cont.) Article: A. Wendt, Constructing International Politics (Can be found using JSTOR – <i>International Security</i> , Summer 1995)
Wed	20	<b>Map Test</b>
Fri	22	The Outbreak of War in Europe: World War I Keylor, Ch. 1
Mon	25	The Interwar Years Keylor, Ch. 2
Wed	27	Q: How would the constructivist paradigm explain WW I and the interwar years? Carefully review readings from the previous four class periods
Fri	29	World War II Keylor, Ch. 5
MWF	March 3-7	Spring Recess – No Class
Mon	10	The Emergence of the Cold War and the Formation of a Bipolar World Keylor, Ch. 8
Wed	12	Using Realism, Liberalism, Institutionalism, and Constructivism to Explain the Cold War Keylor, Ch. 9 <b>First Essay Due</b>
Fri	14	Latin America and International Relations Keylor, Ch. 13
Mon	17	Latin America (cont.) Keylor, Ch. 21
Wed	19	The End of the Cold War – A Period of Transition Keylor, Ch. 16
Fri	21	Easter Recess – No Class
Mon	24	<b>Second Exam</b>
Wed	26	Leading Approaches to the Study of International Political Economy (IPE) Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 7
Fri	28	Hegemonic Stability Theory Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 195-202
Mon	31	Development and Underdevelopment Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 202-221
Wed	April 2	Africa and International Relations Keylor, Ch. 14
Fri	4	Africa (cont.) Keylor, Ch. 20
Mon	7	Q: How do the leading IPE approaches explain African development? Carefully review readings from previous five class periods
Wed	9	A Foreign Policy Case Study: Oil and National Security Klare, Ch. 3
Fri	11	Klare, Ch. 4,6
Mon	14	Klare, Ch. 7, Afterword Reserve Article: G. Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons <b>Second Essay Due</b>
Wed	16	A Foreign Policy Case Study: The China Challenge Keylor, Ch. 11
Fri	18	China: The Balance Sheet, Preface, Chs. 1-2 Q: What is the China Challenge?
Mon	21	China: The Balance Sheet, Chs. 3-4 Q: How do the leading IR paradigms explain China's behavior?
Wed	23	China: The Balance Sheet, Chs. 5-6 Q: How do the leading IR paradigms explain China's behavior? (cont.)
Tuesday	29	<b>Final examination 5:30-8:00 p.m.</b>

