

**INTS 100: Introduction to International Relations**  
**Rhodes College, Fall 2009**  
**(CRN 10306 – Section 4)**

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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 three required texts for the course are available in the campus bookstore. The first text, *A World of Nations: The International Order Since 1945*, by William Keylor, provides a useful historical foundation of major world events over the past half century. Second, Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen's, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches* introduces several of the main paradigms (or theoretical frameworks) used in the study of international relations. An understanding of such paradigms is critical for all students of international relations. Finally, Robert Gilpin's *Global Political Economy* offers the perspective of one of the leading scholars of international relations on the globalization of the world economy and its implications.

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 Research Library* via the Barret Library home page. Third, on occasion students may find useful course materials on the college fileserver named: Acad\_Dept\_Pgm (Academic Departments and Programs). This fileserver can be accessed at: \\fileserver1\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**

- Robert Gilpin, *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*, Princeton University Press, 2001.
- Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Oxford University, 2007.
- William Keylor, *A World of Nations: The International Order Since 1945*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford Univ. Press, 2009.

### **Course Requirements**

The final grade for the course will be determined by several sources. There will be two mid-term exams (September 30 and November 4) and one final exam (December 15). 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 world map test, which involves identifying the 192 member countries of the United Nations. All students will take a map test in class on October 16 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 9) 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 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 (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 will adhere to the College's Honor Code.
- The instructor will be happy to discuss individual student progress at any time.

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic / Reading Assignment / Assignment</b>
Wednesday	<b>August 26</b>	Course Introduction; Overview of International Studies
Friday	28	What is International Relations (IR)? Why Study IR? Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 1
Monday	31	Levels of Analysis Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 223-237
Wednesday	<b>September 2</b>	Sovereignty Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 265-277
Friday	4	Studying IR, A Case Study: The Role of Nuclear Weapons Reserve Article: I. Daalder & J. Lodal – The Logic of Zero (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2008)
Monday	7	Labor Day Holiday – No Class
Wednesday	9	Approaches to IR (1): Realism; Realist Assumptions & Variants Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 3
Friday	11	The Security Dilemma Reserve Article: Kenneth Waltz, Int'l Conflict and Int'l Anarchy Res. Article: R. Jervis, Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma
Monday	14	Geopolitics Reserve Article: R. Kaplan – Center Stage for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009)
Wednesday	16	The Emergence of the Cold War Keylor, pp. 1-37 Q: How would a realist interpret the emergence of the Cold War? Note: Extended Drop Period Ends; Pass/Fail Option Ends
Friday	18	Approaches to IR (2): Liberalism; Liberal Assumptions and Variants Jackson & Sorensen, Ch. 4
Monday	21	Creating International Regimes: Bretton Woods, UN, NATO Gilpin, pp. 77-92 Keylor, pp. 37-45
Wednesday	23	The United Nations Reserve Article: Baehr and Gordenker – Charter and Structure of the UN & Membership and Decision-Making (Library Reserve)
Friday	25	The Political Economy of Regional Integration Gilpin, Ch. 13
Monday	28	The Emergence of the European Union Keylor, pp. 55-57; 65-69; 156-170 Q: How would the liberal paradigm explain the E.U.?

Wednesday	30	<b>First Exam</b>
Friday	<b>October 2</b>	Approaches to IR (3): Social Constructivism Jackson & Sorensen, Ch. 6
Monday	5	Ethnic Conflict in the Balkans Keylor, pp. 70-79
Wednesday	7	Decline of the Soviet Union and Its Satellites Keylor, pp. 136-149
Friday	9	The U.S. and Cuba: A Long-Running Conflict Keylor, pp. 183-208
Monday	12	Inter-American Relations Keylor, pp. 208-231 Q: How would the constructivist paradigm explain ethnic conflict in the Balkans, Soviet fragmentation and Inter-American relations?
Wednesday	14	Inter-American Relations (cont.) Reserve Article: Morning in Latin America – J. Castaneda (ProQuest – Foreign Affairs, 2009)
Friday	16	<b>Map Test</b>
Monday	19	Fall break – No Class
Wednesday	21	Using Realism, Liberalism, Institutionalism, and Constructivism to Explain the Arab-Israeli Conflict Keylor, pp. 355-71
Friday	23	The Arab-Israeli Conflict (cont.) Keylor, 371-87; 401-410 <b>First Essay Due</b>
Monday	26	Iran: Cold War, the Revolution, and the Islamic Republic Keylor, 387-393; 399-401
Wednesday	28	Iran: Cold War, the Revolution, and the Islamic Republic (cont.) Reserve Reading: M. Milani – Tehran’s Take (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009)
Friday	30	Iraq: The Gulf War and beyond Keylor, 393-399 Withdraw Period Ends
Monday	<b>November 2</b>	Iraq: A New U.S. Strategy Reserve Reading: R. Haas and M. Indyck - Beyond Iraq: A New US Strategy for the Middle East (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009)
Wednesday	4	<b>Second Exam</b>
Friday	6	Leading Approaches to the Study of International Political Economy Jackson and Sorensen, Ch. 7
Monday	9	Neoclassical Economics and the Nature of the Market Gilpin, Ch. 3
Wednesday	11	Hegemonic Stability Theory Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 195-202 Gilpin, pp. 93-102
Friday	13	Development and Underdevelopment Jackson and Sorensen, pp. 202-221
Monday	16	Africa and International Relations Keylor, pp. 413-427
Wednesday	18	Africa (cont.) Reserve Reading: P. Lyman and K. Robinette – Obama and Africa: Matching Expecations with Reality (ProQuest – <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> , 2009) Reserve Reading: E. Kapstein – Africa’s Capitalist Revolution (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009) Q:How do the leading IPE approaches explain African development?

Friday	20	International Trade: Free Trade vs. Protectionism Gilpin, pp. 196-217
Monday	23	International Trade: Postwar Trade Regime and the WTO Gilpin, pp. 217-233
W, F	25, 27	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class
Monday	30	The Chinese Civil War and the Korean War Keylor, pp. 232-257 <b>Second Essay Due</b>
Wednesday	<b>December 2</b>	The Normalization of U.S. – Sino Relations Keylor, pp. 267-288
Friday	4	Contemporary U.S.-Sino Relations: The China Challenge Reserve Article: F. Bergsten – A Partnership of Equals (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2008) Reserve Article: Y. Funabashi – Keeping Up with Asia (ProQuest – <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2008) Q: How do the leading IR paradigms explain U.S.-Sino relations?
Monday	7	The Debate over Globalization: What are the key debates? Gilpin, Ch. 14 Keylor, pp. 449-459
Wednesday	9	Ecopolitics Reserve Article: G. Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons
Thursday	December 10	Reading Day
Tuesday	December 15	<b>Final examination 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.</b>