

POLS 2100-003

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Time: T, H 10:45 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
Room: MBH 102

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OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of International Relations. It will do so by surveying the key actors, issues, concepts, processes, patterns and the historical events of the study of world politics. Through a combination of readings, lectures, and student discussion we will explore the international arena in light of both historical and current events. During the semester, we will discuss a variety of topics ranging from the history of the international system to the contemporary problems facing international actors. The sources of foreign policy and the constraints placed upon states by the international system will also be investigated.

The main premise of this course will be developing a full understanding of world politics, which should start with systematic thinking and informed analysis. We should always be asking: 'what caused this?' and 'why did this happen?' rather than solely focusing on the narratives or the 'facts' of situations. The tools of systematic thinking will enable us to properly approach and learn about any occurrence in international politics.

In the course of the semester we will address five major themes. First, we will ask what is international relations, who are the players, and what are the rules of the game. In order to answer these questions we will begin by looking at various levels of analysis. Second, we will examine the dynamics and evolution of the inter-state system, gaining a better understanding of the causes of both conflict and cooperation. Third, we will explore the diverse world of non-state actors, paying attention to how international relations is influenced and organized by the international institutions like the UN, multinational corporations, and a host of non-governmental organizations. Fourth, we will investigate the intersection of politics and economics, considering issues of globalization, development, and trade. Finally, we will look at the growing impact of globalization on international relations as it relates to the military, economic and social issue areas, including terrorism, economic development, cultural change and environmental degradation.

At the end of the semester you will have a good idea regarding why this field of study is so important. We will see how the issues on the world stage affect each of us and in what sense we become a part of the global system and society. To that end, the course material will help you develop a global perspective. At the end of this course you should have the

vocabulary and tools to understand the field of International Relations. In addition, you will be better able to appreciate the political complexities of the world that you live in. You will gain an understanding of the events in it, and you will have at your disposal the tools to critically think about the past and the future of your world.

REQUIREMENTS

Quiz: October 4 (20%)

Midterm: November 6 (25%)

Final Exam: December 6 (30%)

Presentation and Participation: (15%)

Media Reports: (10%)

(Bonus)Map Quiz: December 6 (3%)

The Exams: The tests will consist of any combination of the following question types: multiple choice, short identifications, fill in the blank, and essay questions. They will be based on the assigned readings and lectures. The scope and format of the tests will be announced later in the form of sample questions or review sheets.

Participation: includes attendance, coming to class prepared and engaging in class discussion, exercises and activities.

Additionally, by the end of the semester you should become familiar with the names and the geographic locations of contemporary states. You will be given several map quizzes, among which only the final one will be graded and counted as extra-credit.

Media Reports (Current Events Papers): You are expected to submit a one-page (double spaced) report about current world events of that specific week relevant to our class discussions. You are free to choose articles from the following national and international news sources: The New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, The Economist, Newsweek, Time, Atlantic Monthly, and Le Monde. At the top of your paper you should indicate source(s), title and date of your piece, as well as your name. Although there is no strict format that I expect you to follow, you should make sure that you give a concise summary of the event or news, and, *more importantly, how you relate that specific event to our course topics*. The current events papers are due at the beginning of first class each week. No late papers will be accepted.

Presentations: We will dedicate one portion of class time for weekly discussion. During this time, the designated student groups will do their presentation and will initiate a class discussion with their comments/questions directed to the class. The presentations will be based on the *Case Histories in International Politics* (the particular topics are indicated for each class in the course outline). Although it is optional, students are encouraged to find relevant news articles on the issue/country to update the class about recent developments.

Each group presentation should last 10-15 minutes followed by 10-15 minute class discussion. The point of discussion section is to increase our knowledge of some important international issues/developments and also to make sense of the abstract concepts/theories in light of real life examples. To that end, the students in charge of leading the discussion should first introduce the subject to the class, discuss its relevance to the particular course topic, and raise critical questions and comments.

The assignment of topics and presentation dates will be announced during the first class.

OTHER POLICIES

Late Entry Policy: Make-ups for missed exams and incompletes for the course will be given at my discretion. In cases of serious and unavoidable circumstances, arrangements can be made to take the exams earlier and later (with the exception of final exam). Prior permission of the instructor is obligatory in any case. Make-up tests will be taken at the Test Center (Students Services Building, Rm. 498) with a fee of \$ 5 per exam.

Academic Honesty: I expect academic honesty in this class. Cheating and presenting somebody else's work or ideas as your own are serious offences. You should make sure to include citation information whenever you draw on others' work. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice: Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted along with the request for special accommodations. For more information, please contact the Center for Disabled Student Service, 160 Union Building, 581-5020, www.disability.utah.edu.

READINGS

Textbooks:

- Karen A. Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations*, 3rd edition, W. W. Norton & Company, 2004.
- Kendall W. Stiles, *Case Histories in International Politics*, 5^h edition, Pearson Longman, 2006.

FYI: The website of the textbook offers some resources such as reviews of chapters, quizzes and links to political news on the web: <http://www.wwnorton.com/web/ir/>

The lectures and class discussions will complement each other. For the tests, *the students are responsible from everything covered in class lectures and discussions as well as the assigned readings.*

Also note that for most weeks, there will be some *additional readings* besides the required textbook and those will be available online through the Web CT (<https://webct.utah.edu/webct>). Students are encouraged to keep an eye on Web CT to

check occasional announcements, suggested readings, study guides and grades. It may also serve as a useful tool for student communication and online discussion.

COURSE OUTLINE

August 21

Introduction

August 23-28

Historical Evolution of the International System

-Mingst, Ch. 1, 2.

-Stiles Case # 8.

August 30

No Class

September 4

Understanding International Relations: Theory and the Levels of Analysis

-Mingst, pp. 55-61; 83-4, 96-105, 137-144.

-Kenneth Waltz, "Man, the State and War", in *Conflict and Cooperation*, Second Edition, Marc A. Genest (ed) Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 12-28.

- Stiles, Case # 1.

September 6-11

Power Politics, War and International Security

-Mingst, 108-121, Ch. 8.

- Stiles, Cases # 5, 6.

September 13-18

Contending Theoretical Perspectives: Realism

-Mingst, 65-70.

- Hans J. Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism," *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, Fifth Edition, Revised, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978), pp. 4-15.

- Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," *Theory of International Politics*, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979), pp. 79-106.

- Stiles, Cases # 2.

September 20-25

Liberalism

-Mingst, 62-64.

- Robert O. Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998): 82-96.

- Bruce Russett, "Why Democratic Peace," *Debating the Democratic Peace*. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996), pp. 83-115.

- (Suggested) Axelrod and Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions," *World Politics*, Vol. 38, No. 1. (Oct., 1985), pp. 226-254.

- Stiles, Cases # 6, 12.

September 27-October 2

Radical Approaches and Recap of IR Theory

-Mingst, 71-82

-Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories", *Foreign Policy*, November-December 2004, pp. 53-62.

- Stiles, Cases # 7, 18.

October 4

Quiz

October 9-11

Fall Break-No Class

October 18-23

Foreign Policy Analysis

-Mingst Ch. 5 (pp. 121-126), Ch. 6.

- (Suggested) Graham Allison, "Essence of Decision" in *Conflict and Cooperation*, Second Edition, Marc A. Genest (ed), Thomson Wadsworth, pp. 460-85.

-Stiles, Cases # 4, 9.

October 25

TBA

October 30-November 1

American Foreign Policy

-Robert Jervis, "Explaining the Bush Doctrine," *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 118 (Fall 2003), pp. 365-388.

-G. John Ikenberry, "America's Imperial Ambition," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 81, no. 5 (September/October 2002), pp. 44-60.

-Peter W. Singer, "Time for Hard Choices: The Dilemmas Facing U.S. Policy Towards the Islamic World" *Brookings Institution Analysis Paper*, October 2002.

(<http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/singer/20021001.htm>)

- Stiles, Cases # 10, 3.

November 6

Midterm

November 8-13

International Organization- International Law

- Mingst, Ch. 7
- Madeleine K. Albright, "United Nations", *Foreign Policy*, September-October 2003, pp.16-24.
- Jesse Helms, "American Sovereignty and the UN," *The National Interest*, winter 2000-1, pp. 31-4.

- Stiles, Cases # 13, 11.

November 15-20

International Political Economy

- Mingst, Ch. 9
- Theotonio Dos Santos, "The Structure of Dependence," *American Economic Review*, vol. 60 (May), pp. 231-36.

- Stiles, Cases # 15, 17.

November 22

Thanksgiving-No Class

November 27-29

Globalization

- Mingst, Ch. 10
- Jessica Stern, "Al Qaeda–The Protean Enemy," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 82, no. 4, July/ August 2003, pp. 27-40.
- Moises Naim, "The Five Wars of Globalization," *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2003, pp. 28-37

- Stiles, Cases # 16, 19.

December 4

Conclusion

December 6

*****Final Examination***