

IS 100-01: Introduction to International Relations
Fall 2009
MWF 9:00am-9:50am
Buckman 216 – CRN10302

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Sciubba

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Office hours: MW 10:00-12:00; Tu 10:45-12:00 and by appointment

Course description:

In this course we will inquire together into what forces shaped the world you were born into, and what changes over the last couple of decades shaped the world we live in today. I have designed the course around two books: one historical, and one contemporary. The assignments, class discussions, and world politics textbook will help you analyze these works and apply basic knowledge of international relations to the events, issues, and scenarios described in them. This course is designed to serve as a foundation for all other IS courses. What you learn will also enhance your studies of many other fields, including anthropology, history, global health, environmental studies, and economics. By the end of the course you will be familiar with the various approaches to thinking about international politics, basic concepts like power and globalization, and areas such as international trade and institutions, 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).

Texts:

Collier, Paul. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Cold War: A New History*. New York: Penguin, 2005.

Mingst, Karen A. *Essentials of International Relations*, 4th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 2008.

Because this is an international relations course, you will benefit greatly if you 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* (access through the library), or another reputable print news source. 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.
- I expect you to attend class and arrive on time. Any illnesses should be documented by a medical professional. Only if you provide documentation will you be allowed to make up missed work.
- We will take the Honor Code very seriously. You can read the policy at www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1478.asp.
- We will all benefit if you are active and respectful participants in the class, do the readings before class and keep up with the news daily. The participation grade for the course is earned.
- 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, please inform 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, so that I may spend time with my family I often do not check or answer email after 5pm each day or on the weekends.

Requirements:

Three exams

The exams all have in-class portions that will cover terms and concepts in a definition and short answer format and the first two have a take-home essay portion, due at the beginning of the class following the exam. All exams are cumulative.

- **15% Exam 1**, Friday, 9/25. Take-home portion due in class 9/28.
- **20% Exam 2**, Friday, 11/13. Take-home portion due in class 11/16.
- **25% Exam 3**, Wednesday, 12/16 at 8:30am (same classroom).

Map Test, Friday, 10/16 in class (5%)

- The International Studies Department requires a grade of 90% or above on this test. You may retake the test until you achieve this score but you must earn a 90% by the last day of classes or you will not be allowed to take the final exam and therefore will receive a zero on the exam. The first score you receive on the Map Test given in class will stand as 5 percent of your grade for the course. Correct spelling is required and study resources are available in my Public Folder from the Shortcut to Acad_Dept_Pgm on the desktop of most campus computers.

Participation and journal responses (20%)

- You will have the opportunity to submit between 3-4 responses to the reading question on Moodle throughout the weeks before each exam, for a total of between 9-12 responses by the end of the semester. If you feel strongly motivated, you may submit up to 5 responses before each exam. You have total leverage to choose which days or questions to which you prefer to respond. These responses are an important part of the learning process because they will help prepare you for class discussion. They will

also prepare you for the essay questions on exams. I will not look for whether you are “right” or “wrong”, but will guide you in your attempts to “think on paper” and reason through the questions.

- All classes involve some level of discussion but in the following calendar I have marked several days as specific “discussion classes”. In these classes you will take charge of facilitating discussion and I will participate alongside you in collective inquiry. You should prepare a short list of questions and issues to talk about before each of these classes.

Final reflection essay (15%)

- The question you will address in your final essay will be given to you sometime during the semester. You should treat your final reflection essay as your opportunity to bring together all that you have learned throughout the course. You may turn in a first draft in class Monday, 11/30 for my comments. You may turn in the final draft to my office by noon, Monday, 12/14. Please double space and staple your essays.

Grade scale:

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 discussed in class in advance of assignment deadlines.

Course calendar:

Wednesday, 8/26 – Course introduction

Friday, 8/28 – Historical context

(1) Mingst, pgs. 23-37

Monday, 8/31 – Historical context

(1) Gaddis, Preface and pgs. 1-9

NOTE: DROP/ADD PERIOD ENDS 9/1

Wednesday, 9/2 – Basic concepts in IR

(1) Mingst, pgs. 37-52

Friday, 9/4 – Basic concepts in IR

Discussion class

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 10-28

Monday, 9/7 – NO CLASSES – LABOR DAY!

Wednesday, 9/9 – Basic concepts in IR

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 28-47

Friday, 9/11 – The Role of the State

(1) Mingst, pgs. 99-102 & 129-136

Monday, 9/14 – The Role of the State

Discussion class

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 119-134

Wednesday, 9/16 – The Role of the State

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

NOTE: EXTENDED DROP PERIOD ENDS

Friday, 9/18 – No class

Monday, 9/21 – The Role of the State

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 134-155

Wednesday, 9/23 – Student-led review and discussion

Friday, 9/25 – Exam #1

Monday, 9/28 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

Take-home portion of exam due

(1) Mingst, pgs. 163-181

Wednesday, 9/30 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

Discussion class

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 156-176 (top)

Handout: midterm evaluation

Friday, 10/2 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

Midterm evaluation due

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 176-196

Monday, 10/5 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

(1) Mingst, pgs. 181-193

Wednesday, 10/7 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

Class visit, Mr. Drew Smith

Friday, 10/9 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

Discussion class on Drew Smith's visit

Monday, 10/12 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

(1) Gaddis, pgs. 237-256

****HOMER-DIXON VISIT LECTURE 7PM BCLC (EXTRA CREDIT)****

Wednesday, 10/14 – IGOs, NGOs, and Civil Society

- (1) Gaddis, pgs. 260-266

Friday, 10/16 – MAP TEST (in class)

Monday, 10/19 – NO CLASS – FALL BREAK!

Wednesday, 10/21 – Red Dawn

Discussion class

View film Red Dawn on Moodle or through Barrett before class

Friday, 10/23 – Role of Theory in IR

- (1) Mingst, pgs. 55-68

Monday, 10/26 – Role of Theory in IR

- (1) Mingst, pgs. 68-78
(2) Gaddis, pgs. 83-106

Wednesday, 10/28 – Role of Theory in IR

- (1) Same as 10/26, continue discussion

Friday, 10/30 – Role of Theory in IR

Discussion class

- (1) Gaddis, pgs. 107-118

Monday, 11/2 – War and Peace

- (1) Mingst, pgs. 207-229

Wednesday, 11/4 – War and Peace

Discussion class

- (1) Gaddis, pgs. 50-68 & 79-92

Friday, 11/6 – War and Peace

- (1) Mingst, pgs. 232-245

Monday, 11/9 – War and Peace

Discussion class

- (1) Gaddis, pgs. 48-50

Wednesday, 11/11 – Student-led review and discussion

Friday, 11/13 – Exam #2

Monday, 11/16 – International Political Economy

Take-home portion of exam due

- (1) Mingst, pgs. 247-265

Wednesday, 11/18 – International Political Economy

(1) Collier, pgs. ix-xii & 3-13

Friday, 11/20 – International Political Economy

Discussion class

(1) Collier, pgs. 17-37

Monday, 11/23 – The Bottom Billion

(1) Collier, pgs. 53-75

Wednesday, 11/25 – Friday, 11/27 – NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING!!

Monday, 11/30 – Environmental issues

First draft of final reflection essay due

(1) Mingst, pgs. 287-309

Wednesday, 12/2 – Environmental issues

No readings, continue discussion

Friday, 12/4 – Environmental issues

Discussion class

(1) Collier, pgs. 38-52

****DEADLINE FOR ALL JOURNAL RESPONSES****

Monday, 12/7 – Solutions

Discussion class

(1) Collier, pgs. 99-123

Wednesday, 12/9 – LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Evaluation and review for exam #3

Monday, 12/14 – Final reflection essay due at noon in instructor's office

Wednesday, 12/16 – Exam #3, 8:30am (same classroom)