

Rhodes College
INTS 110: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (3:30-4:45)

Instructor: Dr. Nikos Zahariadis

Fall 2016

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Course Description: The introductory course in international relations is designed to be a survey of the problems and practice of global cooperation and conflict.

Course Objectives: Students will learn about current global events, the processes of peace, and the reasons for global conflict. We'll look at power, ideology, conflict, international organizations, international political economy, etc. to learn about and understand the nature of today's interdependent global system. Students will acquire historical perspective and are expected to develop critical thinking skills.

This is not a course that requires you to supply "correct answers" in classroom discussions. Rather, a basic principle of the course is that learning must be a challenge and that you must pull together material on your own to find answers. Hence lectures and discussions are designed to help you think through issues raised in class and assist you in drawing your own conclusions.

Sexual Misconduct Disclosure: I will do my best to help any student who comes to me with non-course-related concerns. Please keep in mind, however, that all faculty members are mandated to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that comes to their attention. That means that I cannot keep information about sexual misconduct confidential from the college if you share that information with me, but the college has specific confidentiality and anti-retaliation protections in place.

The Rhodes Counseling Center or the Student Health Services Staff can advise you confidentially. Also, the Title IX Coordinator can help you access other resources on campus and in the local community. The student policy is in the Student Handbook and it can be found on the web site at <http://handbook.rhodes.edu/title-ix>.

Honor Code: All papers and exams should be your own work. Students are expected to abide by the Honor Code, and I will be diligent about reporting all violations to the Honor Council.

Accommodations: Students with a documented disability in need of special accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services and also see the instructor to discuss your situation.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices are allowed only for legitimate classroom purposes (reading electronic texts, taking notes, etc.); do not use a personal device for any purpose unrelated to the class. All devices should be silenced. Cell phones should be put away unless you are asked to use them for a class activity; otherwise, they should be powered down. If there is a serious need to leave your cell phone on, such as a family emergency, please put it on vibrate mode and let the professor know. Violations of this policy will affect the student's final grade.

Learning Objectives

- ▶ Organizing evidence in support of a hypothesis
- ▶ Understanding the assumptions and logic of theoretical perspectives in international relations
- ▶ Explaining and communicating political and economic data in a concise logical manner
- ▶ Using knowledge to understand global political trends

Requirements: There will be three examinations: 1) on Sep. 29; 2) on Nov. 1; and 3) on Dec. 10 in class at 5:30-6:45 pm.

In addition, at the beginning of each period on the dates below, you will be given a geography quiz. Here students must identify six countries from a given area of the world. There will be five such quizzes given in the following order:

Sep. 20,	Europe
Oct. 4,	North and Central America
Oct. 13,	Africa
Nov. 10,	South America
Nov. 17,	Asia

To keep up with current events we will also review selected readings from the popular press. These will supplement our knowledge by seeing how material we examine in the text applies in real life.

You are also asked to complete a journal. Please select a topic of interest related to international relations, such as terrorism, US-China relations, the Syrian conflict, etc. Select 15 relevant articles from the popular printed or electronic press, such as CNN, BBC, Reuters, Memphis' *Commercial Appeal*, etc. and write a brief summary of each. Please write an introduction telling me what the topic is and some of the history (1-2 pages). Then write a conclusion consisting of two parts (1.5 pages each). The first part needs to state what you have learned throughout the semester about this issue and the second should tell us what we can do about it, if anything. The Journal is due on November 29.

Finally, you are asked to participate in class discussions and to keep up with all of your readings. I aim to provide an actively inclusive environment that promotes innovative thinking, appreciation of diversity of opinion, and civility of discourse. In our discussions it is inevitable that our views and perceptions will differ. I expect you to responsibly challenge anyone's assumptions and statements that differ from your own. Be prepared, however, to substantiate what you say with sound arguments. In so far as required readings go, it is your responsibility to be thoroughly familiar with them **before** they are discussed in class. Responsibility of course does not imply memorization of facts. You will do much better if you can understand the broad themes and spirit of the readings and then be able to use them in discussion. You should know that my lectures will supplement rather than substitute for material in the text. So it is your responsibility to be familiar and keep up with both.

Evaluation: You will be given a certain number of points for each assignment. Their sum at the end of the term will constitute your final grade. Hence:

Exam 1	100 points	of which:	A = 372+ points
Exam 2	100 "		A- = 360-371 "
Exam 3	100 "		B+ = 348-359 "
Participation	20 "		B = 332-347
Quizzes	60 "		B- = 320-331
Journal	20 "		C+ = 308-319 "
			C = 292-307
		C- = 280-291	
		D+ = 268-279 "	
		D = 252-267	
		D- = 240-251	
		F = 239-	

TOTAL	400 points		

Required Texts:

Paul D'Anieri (**D**), *International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs*, Wadsworth-Cengage, 2017.

Daniel Byman (**B**), *Al Qaeda, the Islamic State and the Global Jihadist Movement*, Oxford UP, 2015.

Naomi Klein (**K**), *This Changes Everything*, Simon & Schuster, 2014.

A Tentative Outline of Topics and Discussion Schedule

Week of Aug. 30: Why Study World Politics?

(Introduction; D Chap. 1)

Week of Sep. 6: Historical Background – *I will be absent this week so please read the first 5 chapters of B, turn in a 1.5 page synopsis, and be prepared to discuss it in class the following week.*

(D Chap. 2; B Chaps. 1-5)

Week of Sep. 13: Units and Levels of Analysis – Realism and Liberalism

(D Chap. 3)

Week of Sep. 20: Theoretical Perspectives – Marxism and Beyond

(D Chaps. 4, 5; B Chap. 6)

Week of Sep. 27: Foreign Policy

(D Chap. 6)

Exam I on Sep. 29

Week of Oct. 4: Conflict and Security

(D Chap. 8; B Chap. 7)

Week of Oct. 11: Terrorism

(D Chap. 9; B Chaps. 8-9)

Week of Oct. 18: The State and the Use of Force
(D Chap. 9)

Week of Oct. 25: International Organizations
(D Chap. 7)

Week of Nov. 1: International Law
(D Chap. 13)
Exam II on Nov. 1

Week of Nov. 8: IPE: Fundamentals and Trade
(D Chaps. 10-11; K Part I)

Week of Nov. 15: Money and Foreign Aid
(D Chap. 12; K Part II)

Week of Nov. 29: Development and the Environment
(D Chaps. 12, 14; K Part III)
Journal due: Nov. 29

Week of Dec. 6: Is the Nation-State Obsolete?
(D Chap. 15; Lecture)
Final Exam on Dec. 10

I am looking forward to working with you this term. Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions. Good luck!