RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SYLLABUS - SUMMER 2014
5/27/14-7/3/14

Course: 790:102:12
Instructor: Cristina Gherasimov
Course Type: Hybrid
Class Meeting: Tue 6:00-9:40 pm, Hickman Hall, Room 130
Online Session: Wed 12:00 a.m. – Mon 12:00 p.m. following the in-class meeting
E-mail: cristina.gherasimov@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:
This introductory course to International Relations is a hybrid-type course, designed to provide you with the general background and conceptual tools necessary to understand and analyze contemporary international relations. The course will introduce you to the wide range of issues involved in the study of international relations including the history of the modern state system, the theoretical debates that have dominated the IR literature, the causes of international conflict and violence, international economic relations, as well as the hot topics of the 21st century, such as terrorism, the rise of China, and the workings of international institutions. The course will combine theory with practice to enhance your abilities to think critically about ongoing international events.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this course you will be able to:
• Recognize and explain the major historical developments that led the pathway to the current international system.
• Explain and analyze the causes and implications of the major international relations issues today.
• Apply critical thinking skills to interpret and debate major issues in international relations.
• Apply concepts about human and social behavior to particular questions or situations in international relations.
• More generally, evaluate the variety of topics within international relations and global affairs studies.

Course resources:
Since this is a hybrid course, we will have face-to-face classes once a week, on Tuesdays. In the period between Wednesday-Monday following the in-class session, we will engage in online activities equaling approximately four hours of class-time work as well as 4-5 hours of preparation (see the Course Overview for more details). We will use Sakai as a platform to communicate, discuss, ask questions, and hand in home assignments.

A. Assigned Readings *

All assigned materials (other than the textbook) will be available online (*) on Sakai (https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal). Not being able to access the site will not be accepted as an excuse for late assignments.

Students should also try to read one or more of the following newspapers on a daily basis: the Financial Times, The Economist, the New York Times, the BBC, or a comparable international paper. Keeping up-to-date with international events is a basic requirement for this class. It will enrich your experience in the course by allowing you to compare and contrast theoretical frameworks of analysis learned to real world issues.

B. Textbook


Other books that we’ll be using during the course but you don’t need to buy them (excerpts will be posted on Sakai):

- James Lee Ray, Global Politics (10th edition)

Course Grade Breakdown:

Your grade in the course will be determined by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Report on online discussions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3
b. Class discussions and debates

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online discussions (each week)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (in-class)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short essays (online)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation (in-class)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Course Requirements:**

**A. Reporting on Online Discussions**

Each class will start with two-three students reporting on the questions/puzzles/issues raised in the online discussions the previous week. You should monitor the discussions throughout the previous week and encourage debate by raising hot topics or provoking your colleagues with thoughtful comments. In class you should present:

a. Summary of topics/questions/puzzles that have been raised  
b. What were the hot issues that captured most attention?  
c. Why do you think the issues raised are important?

**B. Online Threaded Discussions**

During the online session, you are required to actively participate in the threaded discussions on Sakai under the Forums Section. Every week there will be a new Forum posted for you to engage in. You have to participate in active discussions with your peers based on the questions raised on the topic to be covered during that online session. You are required to post your initial post by Thursday 5p.m. at the latest, and then use the rest of the time by Monday 12p.m. to react to at least 3-4 posts of your peers with insightful comments.

**C. Quizzes**

Each in-class lecture will be followed by a quiz based on the materials assigned for that class and issues covered in the lecture. You will not be allowed to retake any of the quizzes unless you have a legitimate documented excuse.

**D. Short essays**

For each online session, you will have to answer three short essay questions that address the topic for that class (1 page-essay for each question, Times New Roman, size 12). You should reflect here on the materials covered in the readings for that session but also on the issues discussed in the Forum for that week. Essays should be submitted by Sunday 5:00pm.

**E. Student Presentations**
Each student should pick a topic from a list of additional topics to be passed in class during the first class (sign-up sheet) and prepare a 20-minute presentation addressing a theory of human or social behavior covered in the readings to a particular question or situation in international relations. The structure and content of the presentation of your choice has to be discussed with the instructor in advance. There will be 5 minutes of Q&A after each presentation and students should be ready to answer those questions thoughtfully.

F. Final Paper

This is an optional assignment. If you want to improve your final grade, you’ll be able to write a paper based on your class presentation topic for extra credit. Details to be discussed with the instructor.

Course Policies:

Students are responsible for all assigned readings and homework assignments prior to class and are expected to participate in class and online activities. The assigned readings and online discussions are the basis for understanding each class session. All assignments are subject to be changed at the discretion of the professor.

Students are expected to arrive on time for class and remain for the full period. Coming in late and leaving early disrupts the class. Students who habitually leave the classroom, or who leave the classroom for long periods of time, will be penalized.

Student Communication

I will be available to talk with you anytime during my office hours or upon appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email to schedule a meeting. We can also talk by Skype, or the Chat room on Sakai if you have any questions.

If you experience a legitimate emergency which will prevent you from completing required coursework on time, I expect you to communicate with me at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Please state the nature of the emergency, and when you expect to turn in the coursework.

Participation Policy

The outcome of this course depends entirely on your active participation. Since it is a hybrid course, we will spend half of the course time online expressing opinions on readings, international current events, and giving feedback to each other's work. You are expected to complete the readings, participate in class and online discussions, give feedback to your peers, share how you connect readings to classroom experiences, and so on. You are expected to participate in a variety of ways throughout the semester, and your various assignments will incorporate participation as part of the grade. In summary, however, you will be expected to do the following:

- Log into our website platform at least 3-4 times a week to keep updated on assignments, and peer discussions.
- Use study guide resources, including PowerPoint presentation and chapter reviews, to help you engage with and understand the content that is presented throughout the semester.
- Participate in online discussions via the threaded discussion boards under the Forums Section, to illustrate your understanding of weekly readings and how they connect to your own projects and daily lives.

- Come to the six in-person class meetings.

- Meet deadlines for assignments so that you can keep on track, and make steady progress throughout the course.

**Participation Guidelines for Threaded Discussions**

- Discussions are the way we "participate" in online sessions. So it is important that you post thoughtful messages that move the conversation forward in some way. "Yeah, I agree," and "Me, too" are not acceptable postings and will not earn any points. Your participation in discussions can earn you points for each discussion. After the due date for the discussion, you will be graded on your overall participation in that discussion thread. Late posts are welcome for their intellectual value but will not be considered in your grade.

- Your posts should show that you have read the material in the text as well as your peers' posts and have applied all of that to the question at hand. You should do more than merely spit back what the text says; you should engage with the material by analyzing and interpreting it. Your posts should be grammatically clear enough not to present anyone with a problem in understanding your point. It's not a formal writing forum, but it's not Facebook either.

The following chart represents a rubric for grading the threaded discussion entries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Points</th>
<th>Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Demonstrates excellence in grasping key concepts; critiques work of others; stimulates discussion; provides sample citations for support of opinions; readily offers new interpretations of discussion material. Ideas are expressed clearly, concisely; uses appropriate vocabulary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Shows evidence of understanding most major concepts; will offer an occasional divergent viewpoint or challenge; shows some skill in support for opinions. Some signs of disorganization with expression; transition wording may be faulty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Has mostly shallow grasp of the material; rarely takes a stand on issues; offers inadequate levels of support. Poor language use garbles much of the message; only an occasional idea surfaces clearly; expression seems disjointed; overuse of the simple sentence and a redundancy with words and commentary; paragraphs often appear unrelated to each other. This student requires constant prompting for contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>A minimal posting of material. Shows no significant understanding of material. Language is mostly incoherent. Does not respond readily to prompting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credits:** GRADING RUBRIC FOR THREADED DISCUSSIONS

From John F. Bauer, “Assessing Student Work from Chat Rooms and Bulletin Boards.”

New Directions for Teaching and Learning 91 (Fall 2002): 35.
**University Policies:**

*Reporting Absences*
Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

*Academic Integrity*
Students should acquaint themselves with the college policy on plagiarism. Full text of the Interim Academic Integrity Policy available at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml. Students are also advised to refer to the Office of Student Conduct website: http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/

*Special Needs*
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and contact the Office for Disability Services. Also, students are also strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor whenever there is a problem. If family or work obligations, or any other extenuating circumstance threatens to interfere with the student's attendance or his/her completion of the course work, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible.
WEEK 1 (5/27/14-6/2/14): IR FOUNDATIONS

5/27 – IN-CLASS
IR Foundations
• Where does IR fit in Political Science?
• Levels of Analysis and Actors in IR
• IR Paradigms: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism

Required Readings:
*Chapter 2 in FLS (pp. pp.42-47)
*"How Do We Know What We Know?” by Roy Licklider
*Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” pp. 2-10

Optional:
*David Singer “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations” (p. 84-97) in International Relations in Perspective by Nau, H. (ed.), 2010

Assignments:
Content Quiz #1 (Multiple Choice, in-class)

5/28/14-6/2/14 – ONLINE
IR Foundations: Historical Evolutions
• What Shaped Our World - Historical Evolutions

Required Readings:
*Chapter 1 in FLS (pp. 2-37)

Optional:
*Len Scott “3. International history 1900-90,” in BSO
*Michael Cox, “4. From the cold war to the world economic crisis,” in BSO.
*“The Evolving International System” pp. 29-39 in Goldstein textbook.

Assignments on Sakai:
1. Three essay questions (see topics under Assignments, Due: Sunday 5:00pm)
2. Threaded online discussions (under Forums section, Due: Wednesday-Saturday)
WEEK 2 (6/2/14-6/9/14): WAR AND PEACE

6/3 – IN-CLASS
War and Peace
  • Why are there wars?
  • Domestic politics and war

Required Readings:
Chapter 3 in FLS (pp. 80-123)

Optional:
Chapter 4 in FLS (pp. 124-166)

Assignments:
Content Quiz #2

6/3/14-6/9/14 – ONLINE
War and Peace
  • International institutions and war

Required Readings:
Chapter 5 in FLS (pp. 168-212)

Assignments on Sakai:
1. Three essay questions (see topics under Assignments, Due: Sunday 5:00pm)
2. Threaded online discussions (under Forums section, Due: Wednesday-Saturday)
WEEK 3 (6/9/14-6/16/14): INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

6/10 – IN-CLASS
International Political Economy
  • International Trade

Required Readings:
Chapter 7 in FLS (pp. 264-304)

Assignments:
Content Quiz #3

6/11/14-6/16/14 – ONLINE
International Political Economy
  • International Monetary Relations

Required Readings:
Chapter 9 in FLS (p. 350-385)

Assignments on Sakai:
1. Three essay questions (see topics under Assignments, Due: Sunday 5:00pm)
2. Threaded online discussions (under Forums section, Due: Wednesday-Saturday)
WEEK 4 (6/16/14-6/23/14): GLOBAL ISSUES

6/17 – IN-CLASS
International Development
  •  Foreign aid

Required Readings:
Chapter 10 in FLS (pp. 386-419)

Assignments:
Content Quiz #4

6/18/14-6/23/14 – ONLINE
Human Rights

Required Readings:
Chapter 10 in FLS (pp. 452-492)

Assignments on Sakai:
1. Three essay questions (see topics under Assignments, Due: Sunday 5:00pm)
2. Threaded online discussions (under Forums section, Due: Wednesday-Saturday)
WEEK 5 (6/23/14-6/30/14): TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS

6/24 – IN-CLASS
Transnational Politics
  • International law and norms

Required Readings:
Chapter 11 in FLS (pp. 420-450)

Assignments:
Content Quiz #5

6/25/14-6/30/14 – ONLINE
Transnational Politics
  • The global environment

Required Readings:
Chapter 13 in FLS (pp. 492-525)

Assignments on Sakai:
1. Three essay questions (see topics under Assignments, Due: Sunday 5:00pm)
2. Threaded online discussions (under Forums section, Due: Wednesday-Saturday)

WEEK 6 (6/30/14-7/3/14): THE FUTURE OF IR

7/1 – IN-CLASS
The Future of International Politics
Conclusions and Course Evaluation

Required Readings:
Chapter 14 in FLS (pp. 534-578)

Assignments:
Content Quiz #6

7/2/14-7/3/14 – ONLINE
No Class