Course: 790:102:12  
Instructor: Cristina Gherasimov  
Class Meetings: M/W 7:15-8:35 pm, FS-AUD  
E-mail: cristina.gherasimov@rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: Thursdays 4-5 pm, Hickman 404

Course Description:
This introductory course is designed to provide students with the background and conceptual tools necessary to understand and analyze contemporary international relations. The course will introduce students 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 globalization, terrorism, the rise of China, and the workings of international institutions. The course will combine theory with practice to enhance students’ abilities to think critically about ongoing international events.

Course Objectives:
• Foster student interest in the major international relations issues today.  
• Acquire knowledge and develop critical thinking skills necessary for more specialized upper-level IR courses.  
• Give students a sense of the variety of topics within international relations and global affairs studies.

Course resources:

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 will enrich your experience in the course and allow you to bring to bear what you learn in class on real world issues.
B. Textbook


Other books that we’ll be using during the course (excerpts will be posted on Sakai):


Course Requirements:

Your grade in the course will be determined by three main components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News reports</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Before each class starting Feb 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA one class in advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final take-home exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA two weeks in advance</td>
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Course Activities:

*News Reports*

Every student will have to prepare a one-page news report (double space, Times New Roman, 12) for every class starting **February 10**. Based on the topic to be discussed in class next time, you will have to choose one piece of VERY recent international news from any journal or newspaper that you can access online. Please present briefly the news in your own words (no copy-paste!!!) and explain how it is related to the topic we will discuss that day in class. On the report please write down your name, date of publication of the news, the name of the journal/newspaper, and put down the link where I can access it online. The first news report is to
be handed in on February 10 before class starts. Also, an electronic version of the report is to be submitted as an attachment in Assignments section on Sakai before class.

**Quizzes**
Instead of a mid-term exam, there will be four pre-announced quizzes based on all the materials passed so far. Also, a course in international relations is incomplete if students lack the ability to locate countries on a map. To achieve this goal, there will be 4 map quizzes spanning the major continents of the world, also pre-announced. You will not be allowed to retake any of the quizzes unless you have a legitimate documented excuse.

You can find the blank maps that will be used for the quizzes under the following link: [http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/maps.htm](http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/maps.htm)

**Exam**
There will be one final take-home exam. You will be able to choose one of four questions to write an 8-10 page paper based on the knowledge you have acquired in class during the semester. Questions will be given out three weeks before the deadline. Only students with legitimate excuses are entitled to deadline extension.

**Course Policies:**
Students are responsible for all assigned readings and homework assignments prior to class and are expected to participate in class activities. The assigned readings 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. Excessive absence may result in a failing grade. Students who habitually leave the classroom, or who leave the classroom for long periods of time, will be penalized.

The instructor reserves the discretion to reduce a student’s final grade by a full letter if a student habitually breaks course policies.

**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.

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.

**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](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml). Students are also advised to refer to the Office of Student Conduct website: [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/](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.
Preliminary Course Overview:

Wed, Jan 22 – Introduction and Course Overview

Mon, Jan 27 – Where does IR fit in Political Science?

Readings:
*”How Do We Know What We Know?” by Roy Licklider
*Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” pp. 2-10
Introduction (read only xix-xxv) in Frieden, Lake, and Schultz 2009 (further FLS)
Chapter 1 in FLS (p. 2-14)

Wed, Jan 29 – Levels of Analysis and Actors in IR

Readings:
Chapter 2 in FLS (p. 38-73) – on actors
*David Singer “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations” (p. 84-97) in
International Relations in Perspective by Nau, H. (ed.), 2010

Mon, Feb 3 – Historical evolutions: key events (1815-1945)

Readings:
Chapter 1 in FLS (p. 10-20)
*Len Scott, “3. International history 1900-90,” pp. 54-60 in BSO.
*“The Evolving International System” pp. 26-29 in Goldstein textbook.

Wed, Feb 5 – The ‘modern’ era after 1945

Readings:
Chapter 1 in FLS (p. 22-36)
*Michael Cox, “4. From the cold war to the world economic crisis,” pp. 66-83 in BSO.
*“The Evolving International System” pp. 29-39 in Goldstein textbook.
* “From 11/9 to 9/11: The World of the 1990s” (Chapter 6) in International Relations” (p. 316-347) in International Relations in Perspective by Nau, H. (ed.), 2010

Mon, Feb 10 – IR Paradigms: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism

Readings:
*“Chapter 4: Liberalism” pp. 95-126 in JS.
*“Chapter 6: Social Constructivism” pp. 159-180 in JS.
Note: First News Report is due before class in hard copy and electronic form.

**Wed, Feb 12 – The Future of the International System: Competition, Hegemony, Integration, or Anarchy?**

*Readings:*
- “History and the Hyperpower” by Eliot Cohen, *Foreign Affairs*, 83, 4 (July/August 2004), pp. 49-63
- “The Day After” by Stephen Krasner, *Foreign Policy*, 146 (January/February 2005), pp. 68-70
- “A World Without Power” by Niall Ferguson, *Foreign Policy* (July/August 2004), pp. 32-39
*Global Politics*, chapter 13

**Mon, Feb 17 – War and Peace I: Realist Explanations for War**

*Readings:*

**Wed, Feb 19 – War and Peace II: Bargaining Explanations for War**

*Readings:*
- Chapter 3 in FLS
- Fearon, J. “Rationalist Explanations for War” in International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary issues by Jervis Art, 2013 (p. 57-65)

**Mon, Feb 24 – War and Peace III: Domestic Explanations for War**

*Readings:*
- Chapter 4 in FLS

**Wed, Feb 26 – Democracy and War**

*Readings:*
- Katel, Peter “Exporting Democracy” in Global Issues: Selections from the CQ researcher. 2006 (p. 233-241)
- Jost, Kenneth “Russia and the Former Soviet Republics” in Global Issues: Selections from the CQ researcher. 2006 (p. 257-277)
*Global Politics*, pp. 195-205

**Mon, Mar 3 – Alliances: Cure or Causes for War?**
Readings:
Chapter 5 in FLS
”Alliances” in Goldstein textbook (p. 63-71)

Wed, Mar 5 – Foreign Policy

Readings:
*Jackson, R. & Sorensen, G. Foreign Policy (Chapter 9 in Intro to International Relations: Theories and Approaches), 2010, p. 225-248.
*Chapter 4 on Foreign Policy in Goldstein textbook p. 126-148

Mon, Mar 10 – International Law and International Organizations

Readings:
Chapter 11 in FLS (p. 420-433)
*Chapter 7 on IOs, Law, and Human Rights (p. 232-264) in Goldstein textbook

Wed, Mar 12 – Global Governance or False Promise?

No Readings for this class
In-class Debate: Can Institutions Make a Difference?

SPRING BREAK – no classes

Mon, Mar 24 – International Political Economy I: International Trade

Readings:
Chapter 7 in FLS (p. 264-311)

Wed, Mar 26 – International Political Economy II: International Financial Relations

Readings:
Chapter 8 in FLS (p. 312-349)

We’ll watch The Corporation in class.

Mon, Mar 31 – International Political Economy III: International Monetary Relations

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

Wed, Apr 2 – International Development

Readings:
Chapter 10 in FLS (p. 386-419)
Optional:
“More than 1 Billion People Are Hungry in the World—But What if the Experts Are Wrong?” by Abhuit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, *Foreign Policy*, 186 (May/June 2011), 66-72

**Mon, Apr 7 – Civil Wars**

*Readings:*
Chapter 6 in FLS (p. 219-242)

Optional:

**Wed, Apr 9– Failed States and Nation-Building**

*Readings:*

**Mon, Apr 14 – Terrorism**

*Readings:*
Chapter 6 in FLS (p. 242-263)

Optional:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-13318372
Kiras, James “Terrorism and Globalization” in BSO p. 370-384

**Wed, Apr 16 – Weapons of Mass Destruction**
Readings:
Chapter 14 in FLS (p. 538-548)
*Howlett Darryl “Nuclear Proliferation” in BSO p. 386-400

Optional:
Cooper, Mary “Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism” in Global Issues: Selections from the CQ researcher. 2006 (p. 71-89)

Mon, Apr 21 – The Rise of China

Readings:
Chapter 14 in FLS (p. 548-557)
*Katel, Peter “Emerging China” in Global Issues: Selections from the CQ researcher. 2006 (p. 305-324)

Optional:

Wed, Apr 23 – Human Rights

Readings:
Chapter 12 in FLS (p. 452-491)

Mon, Apr 28 – The Global Environment

Readings:
Chapter 13 in FLS (p. 492-533)

Wed, Apr 30 – The Future of International Relations

Readings:
Chapter 14 in FLS (p. 557-578)

Mon, May 5 – Conclusions and Course Evaluation

FINAL PAPER DUE MAY 9 - 12:00PM
Please submit your final paper both online (in your DROPBOX) and in hard-copy