

**Introduction to International Relations (POL 380.01; 3 hours)**  
**Sam Houston State University Fall 2008**  
**T/TH 11:00 – 12:20; AB4 205**

Professor: Dr. Rhonda Callaway

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Office Hours: T/TH 9:30-11:30; W 10:00 – 11:00; and by appointment

**Course Description:**

The post 9-11 world is constantly changing and our understanding of world politics continues to evolve. This course introduces tools that will help us grapple with the changing nature of international politics. **This is not a course about current events, but about cause and effect in world affairs.** We want to know what occurred, but also why. As such this course will focus on theories, or models, that help us link cause and effect. Various themes in international relations including the importance of the state, the causes of conflict, the role of economic factors, globalization, terrorism, and the struggle in the developing world will be considered in this course. Student preparedness and participation in class discussions will be geared toward understanding and applying theories to real world international issues. Hopefully you will find this class exciting, as you begin to apply theories to political events around the world!

**Course Objectives:**

In general, the student will

- Learn specific terminology and fundamental principles as they pertain to international relations
- Learn how to locate and use resources for problem-solving
- Develop and/or enhance analytical and critical thinking skills

**Required Text:**

- Mingst, Karen, *Essentials of International Relations*, 4th Edition, Norton and Company.
- Mingst, Karen, and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Norton and Company
- Any additional readings will be posted to Blackboard

**Course Requirements:**

There will be 6 analytical paper assignments throughout the semester. Students must complete 4 (including the REQUIRED first paper assignment and three others chosen by the student). Each of these papers will be worth 10% each. As any discussion of world politics is difficult without some knowledge of geography, we will have 5 map quizzes throughout the semester. Your map quiz average will be worth 15% of your total grade. In addition, students will form groups

and complete a course project, including a paper and a class presentation, worth 15% and 10% respectively. The final 20% of your grade will be based on your participation in class.

Analytical Papers	40%
Map Quizzes	15%
Group Paper	15%
Group Presentation	10%
Participation/(reading quizzes)	20%

### **Grading:**

Course grades of 90 - 100 will be scored an A; a B is 80 to 89; 70 to 79 is a C; 60 to 69 is a D; below 60 is an F.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. That means that if you are late to class, your assignment is counted late. You should also note that map quizzes may be given at the beginning of class and students who are late to class will not be allowed to take the quizzes. There will generally be no make-up quizzes. If you know you are going to be absent the day of a map quiz due to a university excused event, you will be allowed to schedule your quiz **EARLY**. Exceptions may be made with medical documentation, provided that you contact the instructor in advance.

If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is *your responsibility* to provide me with all of your work. To that end, it would be prudent to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. You should also always make a copy of a paper/assignment prior to handing it in to me. Any students caught cheating in this course will receive a minimum punishment of a failing grade for the class.

### **Reading:**

In order to get the most out of this class you should read assigned materials before the classroom discussion on that topic. It is your job to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Reading critically requires you to plan to spend time reading, thinking analytically about what you are reading and how it fits in with the rest of the class.

**Critical reading often requires students to read material more than once.** It may be helpful to take notes when reading the material and bring any questions to class. You are expected to come to class having read the material critically and prepared to discuss it.

### **Reading Quizzes:**

If it becomes clear that students are not completing the assigned reading, I will begin to give quizzes and in-class writing assignments. These assignments may be announced or unannounced, and will presume that you have critically read all of the assigned material up to that point. There are no make-up reading quizzes - instead I will drop your lowest quiz grade. **You will not do well in this class if you do not come to class and do the assigned readings.**

As an incentive to read and outline the material, students may turn in a 2 page outline of 10 assigned readings (not including chapters in *Mingst*) for  $\frac{1}{2}$  point each on your final grade. This means if you turn in 10 outlines, you may earn **up to 5 points on your final grade**. In order to earn credit, you must turn these outlines in the first day that reading is listed on the syllabus, due at the beginning of class. (So in order to earn points for the Snyder reading, you must turn in that outline no later than September 3<sup>rd</sup>). Each outline must be typed, double-space, Times New Roman 12 point font with one inch margins and include your name and the chapter number at the top.

### **Attendance and Participation:**

**Attendance is MANDATORY** in this class. As this is an upper level class and we will cover a good deal of material every class period, missing even one class will likely be reflected in your overall grade. It has been my experience that poor attendance will result in a poor grade in the class. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Poor attendance will be reflected directly in your participation grade and indirectly in your exam grade. Please be on time to class and plan to say, as entering a class late or leaving early is always disruptive. Such a disruption is unfair to the rest of the class, and will result in you being counted absent.

A large part of this course is discussion oriented. As such, **participation** in class discussions is strongly encouraged. Keep in mind, a significant portion of grade depends upon your active participation. As students, you will get the most out of this class if you engage in the discussions. Participation specifically refers to offering your view or opinion and actively talking about the assigned reading in class. The participation requirement applies to all students, even those who are shy. Although participation is not equal to attendance or reading, it obviously requires that both. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class.

### **Participation and Attendance Grading:**

A student with 2 absences will lose a letter grade from their overall participation score. A student with 3 absences will lose two letter grades from their overall participation score. A student with 4 absences will automatically lose ALL of their participation grade.

### **Other Important Policies:**

Assignments are always due at the beginning of class and are considered late if you are late to class. Late assignments will be penalized by one letter grade per day.

Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in anyway possible. I may be able to help you study more effectively or recommend other assistance. **Remember - I want you to do well in this course.**

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.* **Please be aware that plagiarized work will result in an "F" in the course.** See the following web address for more information on academic dishonesty. [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/810213.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/810213.html)

In general, plagiarism is defined as using another person's words and/or ideas as if they were your own. Your papers **must** be original work. If you use the exact words from another source in your academic papers, you must set off such quotes in quotation marks. After the closing quotation, you must provide an accurate citation which includes the author, date of publication, and page number. If you paraphrase, you still need to provide a citation. Use the Harvard style for citations within the text and for the reference page. The following is a helpful website: [http://www.library.uq.edu.au/training/citation/harvard\\_5.pdf](http://www.library.uq.edu.au/training/citation/harvard_5.pdf)

The citation within the text should look like the following:

The events of the Easter Uprising led to many Irish men and women immigrating to the United States. It was these ex-patriots that served as the link between the United States and Ireland. Adams goes so far as to argue that the survival of the IRA was in part due to "The enormous Irish-American population has always felt a strong sentimental attachment to 'the old country' and this has been translated into a steady stream of cash and guns to the IRA" (Adams 1986, 134).

The complete citation must be provided in a bibliography.

Adams, James. 1986. *The Financing of Terror: How the groups that are terrorizing the world get the money to do it.* New York: Simon and Schuster.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. **Students must turn off all cell phones while in the classroom, this includes text messaging. The use of cell phones or other technical devices will not be tolerated. If you would prefer to text then do not come to class. Use of such a device during class time will result in a loss of one letter grade per offense. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.** Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. The student must inform the professor in advance. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester.

The Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 restricts release of certain student information, such as grades. In accordance with the law, I will not be able to give grades out over the phone or e-mail. Please - DO NOT ASK.

**Instructor Evaluation:** Please be aware that you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form at the end of the semester.

## I. Theories and Actors

August 26	Introduction	Mingst Chapter 1
August 28	History	Mingst Chapter 2
Sept 2-4	Movie	Mingst Ch 3 & 4, Walt "One World, Many Theories" (Blackboard) Thucydides "Melian Dialogue"(ER)
Sept 9	Theories of IR: Realism	Mearsheimer "Anarchy and Struggle for Power" (ER)
Sept 11	Theories of IR: Liberalism	Wilson "The Fourteen Points" (ER) Doyle "Liberalism and World Politics" (ER)
Sept 16	Theories of IR: Marxism	Lenin "Imperialism" (ER) Wallerstein "Rise and Future Demise..." (ER)

### Map Quiz #1: Europe

Last Day to clear topic and group with professor

Sept 18	The State and Power	Mingst Ch 5 Krasner "Sharing Sovereignty" (ER)
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<b>September 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Paper #1 Due (REQUIRED): Liberalism vs. Realism</b>
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Sept 23	Individual and FP DM	Mingst Chapter 6, Jervis "Hypotheses on Misperception" (ER) Kennan "Source of Soviet Conduct" (ER)
Sept 25	IGOs and NGOs	Mingst Chapter 7

## II. Conflict

Sept 30	Causes of Conflict	Mingst Chapter 8 Clausewitz "War as an Instrument of Policy" (ER)
Oct 2	Conflict in the Post Cold War	Huntington "Clash of Civilizations", Fukiyama "End of History", Bush "The National Security Strategy of the United States" (All in ER)
Oct 7	Systemic Theories of Conflict	Morgenthau "The Balance of Power" (ER) Thompson "Systemic Leadership..." (ER) Organski and Kuegler "Power Transition Theory" (Blackboard)
Oct 9	State and Individual Theories	Posen "Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict" (ER) Stoessinger "Why Nations Go To War" (Blackboard)
	<b>Map Quiz #2: Americas</b>	
Oct 14-16	Dr. Strangelove	Mueller "The Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons" (Blackboard) Jervis "The Utility of Nuclear Deterrence" (Blackboard)
Oct 21 <sup>th</sup>	Nuclear Deterrence	Schelling "The Diplomacy of Violence" (ER) Jervis "Cooperation..." (ER) Sagan "How to Keep the Bomb from Iran" (ER)

October 21<sup>h</sup>

**Paper #2 Due: Power Transition vs. Balance of Power**

Oct 23	Terrorism	Mingst (p.212-216); Hoffman "Defining Terrorism" (Blackboard) Mueller "Six Unusual Propositions" (Blackboard)
Oct 28	Terrorism	Pape "Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" (ER) Abrahms "Why Terrorism Does Not Work" (ER)

<b>October 28 Paper #3 Due: Deterrence and Dr. Strangelove</b>
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Oct 30	Cooperation/Democratic Peace	Mearshimer "False Promise..." (ER) Kant "Perpetual Peace" (ER)
	<b>Map Quiz #3: Middle East</b>	
Nov 4	No Class - Election Day	

### III. Special Topics and Conclusion

Nov 6	IPE	Mingst Chapter 9
Nov 11	Globalization	Wolf "Why Globalization Works" (ER) Naim "The Five Wars..." (ER)

<b>November 11 Paper #4 Due: Terrorism</b>
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Nov 13	Oil	Friedman "The First Law of Petropolitics" (ER)
Nov 18	Environment and Human Rights	Mingst Chapter 10 Harrelson-Stephens and Callaway (Blackboard)

<b>November 18 Paper #5 Due Globalization</b>
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Nov 20<sup>th</sup>

International Law

Kissinger "The Pitfalls of  
Universal Jurisdiction",  
Roth "The Case for Universal  
Jurisdiction"

**Map Quiz #4: Asia**

Nov 25 - 27

No Class - Prep for Class Presentations

<b>November 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Paper #6 Due International Law</b>
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December 2 - December 11 Class Presentations

December 18 - Class Presentations and **Final Map Quiz #5: Africa** (11:00 - 1:00)