

Fall 2014

Introduction to International Relations

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Seton Hall University

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Course Syllabus: Introduction to International Relations (DIPL 1711)
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University (Fall 2014)
Time: AA: Monday: 11:00AM – 1:30 PM (Duffy Hall, 61)
AB: Monday: 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM (Duffy Hall, 61) (30/7 debates) 35; 8
AC: Tuesday 11-1:30 (Mooney Hall 29)

Instructor: Dr. Fredline M’Cormack-Hale
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Office: McQuaid Hall, Room 109
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30-3:00 and by appointment

I. Course Introduction and Objectives¹

This course is an introduction to the field of International Relations –its basic concepts, theories and central concerns such as war and peace, conflict and cooperation and poverty and prosperity. The course will provide you with an understanding of the basic concepts in the field, including sovereignty and globalization and power and interdependence. We will examine different levels of analysis that structure this inquiry, and learn the different ways in which scholars of global politics explain the evolution and functioning of the international system. The course will focus on the nation-state, historically the primary actor in IR, as well as examine the growing role of non-state actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs). Students will develop a basic understanding of different theoretical approaches and utilize these lenses to explain international events, applying this knowledge to explain and understand the foreign relations of specific countries in the international system. As a course designed to meet the Oral Communication Proficiency, students will also be expected to demonstrate and hone oral and written communications skills.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Familiarity with the basic concepts, theories and perspectives of IR to understand and predict world events of your time
2. A foundation from which to critically think about, analyze and relate current issues to contemporary IR theories
3. Sensitization to the way in which international affairs are viewed from non-American/western perspectives and sensibility of foreign relations of specific countries in the international system.
4. Honing of oral presentation techniques and ability to engage in effective verbal communication

II. Course Requirements

- **Required Texts:**

¹ The instructor reserves the right to change, add, or delete material or otherwise alter this document as she deems fit.

- Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft (6th Ed.), *Essentials of International Relations* (KM).
 - John T. Rourke (16th Ed), *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in World Politics* (JR)
- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. You are allowed two unexcused absences. After that, one point will be deducted for each unexcused absence up to a maximum of five points.
 - **Participation (10 points-breakdown is outlined below):** Oral Participation constitutes five points of your final grade. You are expected to read the required materials specified for each session prior to class - otherwise, following the lectures, understanding points of departure, taking good notes and contributing to class discussion would be very difficult, if not impossible. Class lectures are designed to be complementary to the required readings and will summarize, criticize, and analyze the reading materials. The remaining five points of participation will consist of written questions and feedback for debaters. The below is a detailed breakdown of the two components that constitute your class participation grade:
 - Class discussions and country discussions (**5 points**): Informed, factual, and relevant questions, comments, and discussions of assigned readings.² Also included are in-class discussions of foreign relation events happening in your country. Each student will select a country at the beginning of the semester. *You are required to read a foreign newspaper regularly throughout the semester and develop an expert understanding of the international relations of your focus country.* To be adequately prepared, you should read at least three articles a week. You can expect to be called at random to report on these events at any time during the class period. A central objective will be to relate the news, where possible, to the theories and approaches discussed in class.
 - Questions and feedback for debaters (**5 points**): Questions must be **typed** and the grading rubric printed out before class. These two items **must be brought in with you to class on the day of the debate.** Late questions and grading rubrics for whatever reason **will not be accepted.** If you are absent for the debate you will not receive any points for questions or rubric. [see how to do this online]
 - **Student debates (20 points):** During debates, you will have the opportunity to discuss and debate controversial issues in international relations, that is, issues on which there is disagreement, and reasonable, strong arguments can be made on both sides.

² See criteria by [Anthony Fleury](#) posted on Blackboard that I will use in grading class participation.

The debates will be run using a panel format, with two or three class members adopting the pro (yes) side of an issue and two or three others, the con (no) side. Panel members on both sides will present arguments on their respective sides. Following the arguments, the discussion will be opened up for questions, comments, and criticisms from the general class. For more details about this panel discussion format, roles of presenters and listeners and grading rubric, see the handout, "Taking Sides Discussions: Format and Guidelines" posted on Blackboard.

Each student will participate on a panel for one issue, selected at random at the beginning of the term.

On the day of the debate, each panelist must also provide the instructor with a short statement (maximum two pages, 12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced) on your preparation and research for the debate. The following should be addressed: 1) a summation of your position stand in the debate and the reasons for your stance; 2) the distribution of work within the group, including a letter grade for each group member and justification for grade; 3) What you liked about the assignment; 4) what difficulties you had with the assignment; 5) A list of references consulted in the preparation for the debate (any reference style can be used, but be consistent. The reference list is not included in the page limit). **Failure to provide this statement will result in a one-point deduction of your final score for the debate that corresponds to the number of days that the assignment is tardy.**

Your performance on this panel and two-page statement will count for 20 points toward your final grade. If you are absent on the day you are scheduled to present, you will receive a 0 grade. **There will be no make up opportunities.**

- Students not presenting for that week must come to class with one **typed** question or comment for the Yes and No readings respectively (two questions in total).
- You are also expected to comment on, and grade the presentation using the Taking Sides Grading rubric for Presenters³ (posted on blackboard). These questions and grading rubric will be collected at the end of each class and comprise the other 5 points of your general participation grade (See "Questions and feedback for debaters" under "Participation" above). At the end of the debate, listeners will determine which group was most persuasive.
- Again, failure to bring in your questions and grading rubric to class on the day of the debate will result in **no points** for that particular debate. Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

³ Adapted from "Using Taking Sides," <http://www.dushkin.com/usings/guide/ho12.mhtml>, Retrieved December 1, 2008.

- **Country Presentations (10 points)** You will be expected to make a **5-minute presentation** at some point in the semester, in which you discuss a foreign policy issue between your country and another one of your choice from a theoretical perspective (details of this assignment are posted on blackboard).
- **Exams (60 points):** There will be a midterm worth 30 points and a final exam worth 30 points (60 points in total). Except in serious cases of emergency, no make up exam will be granted (see absences and late work section below).
- **Absences and Late Work:** Absences from either the midterm or final will result in a **zero** point for that examination unless you have a *written, legitimate excuse* (doctors note etc. for that absence) explaining the reasons for your absence on that particular day. If you have a last minute emergency it is your responsibility to let me know and properly document your emergency as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours). In case of approved emergency, a makeup exam will be administered at a time suitable to the student and instructor, and will most likely differ from the first exam. The same policy applies to late papers and they will generally not be accepted. Should the instructor decide to do so, points will be deducted corresponding to the number of days the assignment is handed in after the due-date.
- **Critical Deadlines:**
Midterm exam: October 20/21
Final exam: TBD
- **Assignments Weighting and Grading:** There are a total of 100 possible points for this course. The relative weight of each assignment is as follows:

Participation	10 points
Debates	20 points
Country Presentations	10 points
Midterm exam	30 points
Final exam	30 points

Grading Scale

A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82, C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D 63-66, D- 60-62, D+ 67-69, F 59 and below

III. Academic Integrity

All students are required to abide by Seton Hall's rules concerning academic integrity, which are discussed in detail in the college catalog. Students are expected to submit their own work, and to give credit when and where credit is due. Any form of cheating -- fraud, copying, submitting another's work, submitting internet papers, plagiarism, etc. -- will result in an "F" for the course.

IV. Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation for disabilities must have their disability on file with the appropriate office at Seton Hall University before they can be accommodated. Please let me know at the earliest should you need any prescribed attention.

V **Class Calendar**

Week 1: August 25-August 29

Subject: Introduction

Readings: KM Ch. 1

Week 2: September 1-5 (Sept 1– Memorial Day Holiday)

Subject: Approaches to IR and Historical Context

Sign up for countries, country presentations and debates

Readings: KM, Ch. 1&2

Week 3: September 8-12

Subject: Historical Background continued, Theories of IR

Readings: KM, Ch. 3

Week 4: September 15-19

Subject: The International System

Reading: KM, Ch. 4; JR Unit 1, Issue 3

Debate 1: Issue 3. Is China Becoming a Dangerous Superpower?

Week 5: September 29-October 3

Subject: The State

Readings: KM, Ch. 5; Unit 1, Issue 2

Debate 2: Should Russia Be Considered a Hostile Country?

Week 6: October 6-10

Subject: International Organizations—IGOs and NGOs

Readings: KM, Ch. 7; JR Issue 8

Debate 3: Issue 14. Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?

Week 7: October 13-17 (No Class, Oct 13-14 – Fall Break)

Week 8: October 20-24

Subject: **First exam, Chapters 1-5 (October 20&21)**

Week 9: October 27-31

Subject: The Individual [*Lumumba Film Assignment; Instructor Away*]

Reading: KM, Ch. 6

Week 10: November 3-7

Subject: International Law

Reading: KM, Ch. 7; JR, Issue 15

Debate 4: Issue 15. Is U.S. Refusal to Join the International Criminal Court Wise?

Week 11: November 10-14

Subject: War and Strife

Reading: KM, Ch. 8; JR, Issue 13

Debate 5: Issue 13. Is the Use and Threat of Force Necessary in International Relations?

Week 12: November 17-21

Subject: International Political Economy

Reading: KM, Ch. 9; JR Issue 8

Recommended Film: Life and Debt

Debate 6: Issue 8. Is Economic Globalization Good for Both Rich and Poor?

Week 13: November 24-28 (27-28 Thanksgiving)

Subject: Transnational Issues: Human Rights

Readings: KM, Ch. 10, JR Issue 16

Debate 7: Issue 16. Should the United States Ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women?

Week 14: December 1-5

Subject: Transnational Issues: (Environment, World Health & Crime)

Reading: KM, Ch. 11; JR Unit 5, Issue 18:

Week 15: December 8-12 (Dec 8, Last day of Classes; canceled from 1:00 – 2:00)

Subject: Wrap up

Final Exam: TBA

SELECT FOREIGN DAILY NEWSPAPERS (IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

Asia

The South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)**	http://www.scmp.com/
The China Daily (Beijing)	http://www2.chinadaily.com.cn/english/home/index.html
The People's Daily English Edition (Beijing)	http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/
The Daily Yomiuri (Japan)	http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/
The New Straits Times (Malaysia)	http://www.nst.com.my/
The Straits Times (Singapore)**	http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg
The Times of India	www.timesofindia.com
The Hindustan Times	http://www.hindustantimes.com/
Indian Express	http://www.indianexpress.com/
The Manila Times (Philippines)	http://www.manilatimes.net/

Down Under

The Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)	http://www.smh.com.au/
The Australian	http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/
The Dominion Post (Wellington NZ).	http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/dominionpost/0,,0a6000,00.html

Canada

The Globe and Mail (Toronto)	www.theglobeandmail.com
The Toronto Star	http://www.thestar.com/
The Ottawa Citizen	http://www.canada.com/ottawa/ottawacitizen/index.html

Africa

Daily Mail and Guardian (South Africa)	www.mg.co.za
The Star (Johannesburg)	http://www.thestar.co.za/
The Daily Nation (Nairobi)	www.nationaudio.com
The Daily Graphic (Ghana)	http://www.graphic.com.gh/
Mmegi (Botswana)	http://mmegi.bw

The Middle East

Haaretz English Edition (Israel)	www.haaretzdaily.com
The Daily Star (Beirut, Lebanon)	www.dailystar.com.lb
Turkish Daily News (Istanbul)	http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/index.php

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Jamaica Observer	www.jamaicaobserver.com
Trinidad and Tobago Express	http://www.trinidadexpress.com/
The Daily Nation (Barbados)	http://www.nationnews.com/index.php
Bolivia Times	www.boliviatices.com/
The Tico Times (Costa Rica).....	http://www.ticotimes.net/

Europe

The Times (London)	www.thetimes.co.uk
The Guardian (London)	www.guardian.co.uk
Financial Times (London)*	http://news.ft.com/home/uk
The Independent (London)	www.independent.co.uk
The Daily Telegraph (London)	www.telegraph.co.uk
The Irish Times	http://www.ireland.com/
The Moscow News English Edition	http://english.mn.ru/english/
The Prague Post	http://www.praguepost.com/

* Make sure you follow the UK, not the American, edition of the newspaper

** Requires a paid subscription

Compilation websites of newspapers from around the world (some of these sites include search function and also allow you to personalize your news):

World Newspapers	http://www.worldpress.org/gateway.htm
Internet Public Library	http://www.ipl.org/div/news/
Reference Desk	http://www.refdesk.com/paper.html