Course Description

This is an extremely exciting time to study international relations. The bloodiest century in human history ended more than a decade ago, and for many there is great hope that the 21st century will be one of growing democracy, prosperity, and peace. The great ideological battles of our time seem to be over, as liberal democracy emerged victorious over fascism and communism in the aftermath of WWII and the Cold War. Since the end of the US-Soviet confrontation, the United Nations has taken on new life in trying to promote stability and resolve conflicts. The march of technology drives processes of globalization that truly do make the world a smaller place, as trade, travel, and communications link different peoples and cultures as never before. The prospect of a United Europe symbolizes the possibilities for peace and cooperation in a world that has learned the folly of its past mistakes. On the other hand, September 11 and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq remind us that war is still very much part of the global political landscape. More broadly, human nature has not changed, states still dominate international affairs, authoritarian political systems are still common, and hundreds of millions of people remain mired in unimaginable poverty. Growing interdependence may lead to growing exploitation, and globalization may promote environmental harm, economic inequality, and cultural imperialism. The entrenchment, and in many cases intensification, of ethnic and religious identification over the last century lead to the frightening possibility that Kosovo and Darfur, not Europe, represent the shape of things to come in much of the world.

In an effort to make sense of where the world is heading, this course provides a basic introduction to the concepts, processes and theories of international relations. A challenge for us throughout the course is to try to discover the degree of continuity versus change there has been, and will be, in global politics. Debate over the possibilities for a more harmonious and peaceful world has been going on for centuries. We will discuss the arguments and relative merits of the optimistic and pessimistic viewpoints—the liberal and realist paradigms. This course seeks to equip you with basic factual (empirical) knowledge of international relations, as well as acquaint you with some
theoretical frameworks for understanding IR. Finally, we will discuss a variety of pressing ethical issues related to foreign policy and the structure of the international system.

**Course Objectives**

This course has three core goals:

1) The student should acquire a fundamental factual knowledge of the conduct of international relations since World War II.
2) The student should understand the grand debate between realism and liberalism in international affairs and how past, current, and future empirical events support one or another of these theoretical perspectives.
3) The student should gain familiarity with some of the most important normative (ethical) debates in international relations.

**Course Grades**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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The exams will consist of short answer questions from the class lectures, multiple choice questions from the textbook, and short answer questions from the articles.

This is a Writing Across the Curriculum course. We will pay extra attention to writing as a result. The paper you will write requires you to analyze a particular issue from the assigned articles. I will give a Writing Workshop before the paper is due, and distribute a Paper Writing Tips document I have composed. Further, all students will have the opportunity to revise their paper in light of instructor comments. After the papers have all been graded, I will, with the permission of the authors, distribute to the entire class the best two or three papers so that we can review their strengths together in class.

**Course Readings**


You will also read approximately 4-5 journal articles addressing ethical issues in international affairs, pdf files of which will be posted on the course website.

Lectures are designed to supplement and highlight, not replace or summarize, the textbook.

**Important Course Policies**
Missed Exams

Students who cannot take an exam at the scheduled date and time must inform me beforehand. Students who fail to follow this procedure will not be permitted to take a make-up exam. I will use my discretion to determine whether students who do follow the procedure will be permitted to take a make-up exam without penalty.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be checked randomly approximately 15-20 times during the semester. You are allowed two absences without penalty. For every absence thereafter, your grade on the third exam will be reduced 2/3 of a grade. (E.g. If your grade on the third exam is a B, and you were caught absent 6 times, your penalty is 3 X 2/3 of a grade=2 letter grades. Thus your third exam grade changes to a D.) As a positive incentive to not skip class, if you are caught absent one or zero times, your third exam will increase by 2/3 of a letter grade.

WARNING: If you arrive late, or leave early, you will be considered absent. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet on days when I take attendance. I will not accept the excuse that the attendance sheet did not make its way to a student. Finally, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate. Do not come to me for copies of the lecture.

Absence Policy: There is no such thing as an excused absence in this course. All absences after the first two will be penalized, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE, INCLUDING ILLNESS. However, there is a way to erase the penalty for each absence you earn. You may write a one and a half to two-page synopsis (double-spaced, 12-point Times font, with separate cover sheet) of a journal article on any topic related to the course and turn it in within seven days of the absence. Synopses will be evaluated “pass/fail”: if you write a coherent and accurate summary, your absence will be excused. Otherwise, the penalty will remain. Sometimes a student turns in a synopsis that suggests to me that he or she has read very little of the article. These putative “synopses” will not receive any credit. The journal article must be at least fifteen pages in length, and you should attach a copy of the article to your synopsis when you turn it in. Some journals you may wish to consult to find articles for the synopses include World Politics, International Security, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Ethics & International Relations, Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Global Society, Orbis, Foreign Policy, and Foreign Affairs.

WARNING: If you are caught absent eight or more times, you will automatically receive an F for the course. This holds true regardless of whether you erase the penalty for absences applied to the final exam. Exceptions to this rule will be made only in rare circumstances where there is a prolonged illness or other chronic problem that I am informed about in a timely manner.
Grading Scale
All letter grades are converted to number grades for use by a computer program. A+=98, A=95, A-=92, B+=88, B=85, B-=82….F=55 NOTE: If you do not take an exam, your score is a 0, which, of course, is considerably worse than an F.

Course Outline

I. Actors and Issues in International Relations Jan. 17
Cpt. 1, “The Globalization of International Relations”

II. Power and Interests in International Relations Jan. 22, 24

III. The Paradigm Debate: Realism versus Liberalism Jan. 29, 31
Cpt. 2 “Realist Theories”
Cpt. 3, “Liberal and Social Theories”

IV. International Conflict and War Feb. 5, 7, 12
Cpt. 4, “Conflict, War and Terrorism”

V. Deterrence and the Quest for National Security Feb. 14, 19, 2

VI. International Organizations and the Quest for Peace & Cooperation Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 5

MIDTERM EXAM – Thursday, March 7
Cpt. 6, “International Organization, Law and Human Rights”

VII. International Law and the Quest for Peace & Cooperation Mar. 19, 21, 26

WRITING WORKSHOP - Thursday, Mar. 28

VIII. The Global Economic System: Trade Apr. 2, 4, 9
Cpt. 5, “Trade and Finance”

PAPER DUE, Thursday, April 4
IX. The Global Economic System: Capital and Investment  Apr. 11, 16

X. North-South Economic Relations  Apr. 18, 23, 25

Cpt. 7, “North-South Relations

PAPER REVISION DUE – Thursday, April 25

XI. Global Environmental Challenges  Apr. 30

Cpt. 8, “Environment and Technology”

XII. Realist/Liberal Debate Revisited – May 2

Exam 3 Wednesday, May 8, 3:10 – 5:10 p.m.