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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Fall 2018

Introduction to International Relations

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Course Syllabus: Introduction to International Relations (DIPL 1711 AE)
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University (Fall 2018)
Time: 11:00AM – 1:30 PM (SH 08, Stafford Hall)

Instructor: Dr. M. Victoria Pérez-Ríos
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Phone: TBA
Office: McQuaid Hall, Room 110
Office Hours: Friday, 1:30-3:00

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) Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Seventh Edition (W. W. Norton & Company, 2016).

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

2) Stephen Hill, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in World Politics*, 18th Ed (McGraw Hill, 2018).

- **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.

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

² See criteria posted on Blackboard that I will use in grading class participation.

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 (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.**

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date (highly preferable) or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

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.
- **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).

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

- **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: Friday, October 19
Final exam: Thursday, December 13
- **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 Resources for Students

For a list of several venues through which you may receive help on assignments, go to: <http://blogs.shu.edu/advisertoolkit>.

IV. 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. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty— including fraud, copying, submitting another's work, submitting internet papers—will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

< <https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>>
<<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>>

V. **Disabilities**

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

VI. **Incompletes**

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor before the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

VII. **Class Calendar (Meeting Days)**

Week 1: August 31
Subject: Introduction
Readings: KM Ch. 1

Week 2: September 7
Subject: Approaches to IR and Historical Context
Sign up for countries, country presentations and debates
Readings: KM, Ch. 1&2

Week 3: September 14
Subject: Historical Background continued, Theories of IR
Readings: KM, Ch. 3

Week 4: September 21
Subject: The International System
Reading: KM, Ch. 4; SH, Unit 1, Issue 3
Debate 1: Is China Becoming a Dangerous Superpower?

Week 5: September 28
Subject: The State
Readings: KM, Ch. 5; SH, Unit 1, Issue 2
Debate 2: Should Russia Be Considered a Hostile Country?

Week 6: October 5
Subject: International Organizations—IGOs and NGOs
Readings: KM, Ch. 7; SH, Unit 4, Issue 2
Debate 3: Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?

Week 7: October 12
Subject: Regional IGOs: Council of Europe, OAS and the African Union
Readings: Handout

Week 8: October 19
Subject: **Midterm, Chapters 1-5**

Week 9: October 26
Subject: The Individual
Reading: KM, Ch. 6

Week 10: November 2
Subject: International Law
Reading: KM, Ch. 7; SH, Unit 4, Issue 4
Debate 4: Is U.S. Refusal to Join the International Criminal Court Wise?

Week 11: November 9
Subject: War and Strife
Reading: KM, Ch. 8; SH, Unit 3, Issue 3
Debate 5: Should the U.S. negotiate with North Korea?

Week 12: November 16
Subject: International Political Economy
Reading: KM, Ch. 9; SH, Unit 2, Issue 1
Recommended Film: Life and Debt
Debate 6: *Is Free Trade Helping to End World Poverty?*

Thanksgiving Recess: November 22-23

Week 13: November 30
Subject: Transnational Issues: Human Rights

Readings: KM, Ch. 10; SH, Unit 5, Issue 2

Debate 7: Should the United States Deport Unauthorized and Unaccompanied immigrant Children?

Week 14: December 7

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

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

Final Exam: Thursday, December 13, 2:30 – 4:30pm

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/
El País	https://elpais.com/elpais/inenglish.html

* 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