

IRG 301: Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies

Unique #85840

MEZ 1.120, MTWThF 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Dr. Michael R. Anderson

Office: MEZ 3.230

Office hours: MTWTh 1-2 p.m. and by appt.

E-mail: mra@mail.utexas.edu**Course Description:**

This course serves as an introduction to the College of Liberal Arts' interdisciplinary major, International Relations and Global Studies. Students will engage with many broad questions relating to the contemporary world, including: How has the modern international system come into being? What are the major opportunities and challenges related to the world-wide movement of capital, goods and ideas we have come to define as globalization? To what extent does the West (and the United States in particular) dominate the geopolitical, economic and cultural landscape today? Finally, are we entering a "post-American world," and if so, what global repercussions might this entail? This course will attempt to transcend the disciplinary boundaries of social sciences—whether political science, economics, or anthropology—and instead ask students to take a more holistic view of global issues, rooted in historical inquiry.

Class time will be divided evenly between lecture material and discussion. Students will be evaluated based upon their performance in online and in-class discussions, in-class quizzes on the reading and lectures, and a final essay.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the term, students will have the ability to:

- 1) describe a broad array of global issues confronting international actors
- 2) evaluate the role of the United States in the contemporary era of "globalization"

Required Books:

- David Rieff, *At the Point of a Gun: Democratic Dreams and Armed Intervention* (Simon and Schuster, 2006).
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work* (Norton, 2007).
- James L. Watson, ed., *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia* (2nd edition, Stanford University Press, 2007).
- John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, *God is Back: How the Global Revival of Faith is Changing the World* (Penguin, 2010).
- Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World* (Norton, 2008).

All other readings will be posted online on the class blackboard site.

Grading Breakdown:

- **Blackboard discussion board (5 percent):** At the beginning of the term students will select which week they will serve as discussion leaders. These discussion leaders will be responsible for posting ONE question to the class blackboard site's discussion board BEFORE that week's discussion – by Sunday at 5 p.m. (or Monday, July 4, at 5 pm). All other students are expected to respond to ONE of the questions posted by midnight on Sunday. These questions and answers should be in reference to the reading for the following day's class (Monday). Questions and responses do not need to be longer than a brief paragraph (roughly two or three sentences). They should attempt to open up avenues for further discussion during class on Monday and throughout the week.
- **In-class participation (10 percent):** Students are expected to contribute to in-class discussion on a regular basis. It is expected that they will be keeping up not only with the assigned readings, but also with international news. At the beginning of the term students will select one day on which they will be responsible for bringing into class a news article about an international event or issue relevant to the course, and present that event or issue to classmates in a brief (five-minute) presentation. In general, the discussion grade will be based on the consistency and quality of a student's contributions during the semester.
- **Reading quizzes (20 percent):** Seven times (unannounced in advance) during the term, the instructor will ask students to answer short questions covering the reading assignment for that day. These questions may be multiple-choice, fill in the blank, or true-false (or a combination of the three), and are designed to assess the student's reading comprehension.
- **Lecture quizzes (40 percent):** Four times during the term (see schedule), the instructor will have students take a quiz based on material covered in lectures from the previous week. These questions may be multiple-choice, fill in the blank, true-false, as well as short-answer (or a combination of the four), and are designed to assess the student's ability to identify, understand and analyze specific terms and concepts from that week's lectures.
- **Essay (25 percent):** Students will write an essay of 3000 words (10-12 pages), using lecture material as well as the books by David Rieff, Joseph Stiglitz, James Watson, John Micklethwait/Adrian Woolridge and Fareed Zakaria. The title of the essay should be: "Globalization: The Americanization of the World?" This essay will be due on the final day of class. Papers will be docked one letter grade for each day they are late. More specific detail regarding the requirements for the essay will be handed out by the instructor.
- **Extra credit (up to 3 percent):** Students who attend a lecture/event dealing with an international/global issue and write a one-page summary may receive a one-percent bonus to their final average. No more than three lectures/events total may count. Students must receive prior permission from the instructor.
- **Overall semester averages** will earn the following letter grades:

93-100: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B	80-82: B-
77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-	67-69: D+	63-66: D
60-62: D-	0-59: F			

University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an “F” in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Technology in Classroom: To facilitate a positive learning environment and minimize distractions in class, all cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away. In addition, students will not be allowed to use a laptop computer during class unless they provide documentation regarding its necessity as a learning aid and disable Internet access during class.

Religious Holidays: According to UT-Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of an impending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If a student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Student Privacy: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student’s performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
June 2	IR and world order	Realism article (BB)
June 3	Globalization	Stearns article (BB)
June 6	Liberal internationalism	Rieff, 1-57
June 7	Humanitarian interventionism	Rieff, 59-93
June 8	21 st century geopolitics	Rieff, 141-180
	Lecture Quiz #1	
June 9	Economic globalization	Stiglitz, 3-60
June 10	Free trade, fair trade	Stiglitz, 61-132
June 13	Tragedy of the commons	Stiglitz, 133-210
June 14	Global debt and currency	Stiglitz, 211-268
June 15	Democratizing globalization	Stiglitz, 269-306
	Lecture Quiz #2	
June 16	Cultural imperialism?	Watson, 1-109
June 17	The Green Revolution	Watson, 110-197
June 20	Religion and world order	<i>God</i> , 1-27; 211-261
June 21	Global Christianity	<i>God</i> , 263-321
June 22	Global Islam	<i>God</i> , 322-373
	Lecture Quiz #3	
June 23	Five Roads to the Future	Zakaria, 1-48
June 24	A new Asian hemisphere?	Zakaria, 49-86
June 27	The rise of China	Zakaria, 87-128
June 28	The rise of India	Zakaria, 129-166
June 29	Anglo-American legacies	Zakaria, 167-214
June 30	The “war on terror”	Zakaria, 215-260
July 1	The future of energy	TBA
	Lecture Quiz #4	
July 4	NO CLASS DAY	
July 5	Global ethics	Singer article (BB)
July 6	No class – writing day	
July 7	Essay Due in MEZ 3.230 by 1 pm.	