IRG 301: Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies

PAR 203 MWF 9—9:50 am Unique #39910

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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 United States 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, geography or anthropology—and instead ask students to take a more holistic view of global issues, rooted in historical inquiry.

Class time will be divided between lecture material (most Mondays and Wednesdays) and discussion (most Fridays). Students will be evaluated based upon their performance on weekly reading responses, three exams, 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:
- James Peck, *Ideal Illusions: How the U.S. Government Co-opted Human Rights* (Metropolitan Books, 2010).
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, *Making Globalization Work* (Norton, 2007).
- Ethan Watters, *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche* (Free Press, 2010).
- John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, *God is Back: How the Global Revival of Faith is Changing the World* (Penguin, 2009).
- Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World: Release 2.0* (Norton, 2011).

Grading Breakdown:

- **Attendance (5 percent):** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Five times during the semester, unannounced in advance, the instructor will have students sign in on a class roster. If you have a university-related conflict or medical or family emergency that prevents you from attending a class, alert your TA (providing relevant documentation) and you will not be penalized for a particular absence.

- **Reading responses (10 percent):** Students are expected to keep up with the weekly reading assignments. On Friday discussions marked with an "R" (see course schedule), students are required to respond to a reading question posted by the instructor on the class blackboard site (see: assignments). Reading responses should be no longer than one page, double-spaced (roughly 300 words). Students are expected to print out a copy of their response and turn it in at the end of class on Friday. No email copies will be accepted. Ten satisfactory responses will be sufficient for full credit.

- **Examinations (60 percent):** Three times during the semester students will take an exam covering the reading and lecture material from the previous month (see course schedule). These exams will consist of two sections: 20 multiple-choice questions (10 points) and one short essay (10 points). Note: the third exam will take place on the last day of class. It will cover material only since the second exam. There will be no final exam.

- **Essay (25 percent):** Students will write an essay of 3000 words (10-12 pages), using the material covered in lectures and in readings (no outside research is required or expected). The title of the essay should be: "Globalization: The Americanization of the World?" This essay will be due during the final exam period (see course schedule). Papers will be docked one letter grade for each day they are late. More specific expectations regarding the essay will be handed out by the instructor midway through the term.

- **Extra credit (up to 3 percent):** Students who attend a lecture/event dealing with an international/global issue and hand in a typed, one-page summary may receive a one-percent credit 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

Date	Topic
Aug. 24	Introduction
Aug. 26	Discussion: Peck, 1-84
Aug. 29	The Cold War
Aug. 31	Humanitarian intervention
Sept. 2	Discussion: Peck, 85-129; 177-229 **(R)**
Sept. 5	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
Sept. 7	An Age of Terror?
Sept. 9	Discussion: Peck, 230-285 **(R)**
Sept. 12	Economic globalization
Sept. 14	Free trade, fair trade?
Sept. 16	Discussion: Stiglitz, 3-101 **(R)**
Sept. 19	Tragedy of the commons
Sept. 21	Global debt
Sept. 23	Discussion: Stiglitz, 161-244 **(R)**
Sept. 26	The global reserve system
Sept. 28	Democratizing globalization
	Read: Stiglitz, 245-292 (no response)
Sept. 30	**First examination**
Oct. 3	Cultural imperialism
Oct. 5	INGOs and transnationalism
Oct. 7	Discussion: Watters, 1-63 **(R)**
Oct. 10	Human rights
Oct. 12	GMOs: the debate
Oct. 14	Discussion: Watters, 127-185; 249-255 **(R)**
Oct. 17	Creolization and culture
Oct. 19	"Cyberspace and the American Dream"
Oct. 21	Discussion: Micklethwait, Intro/Part III (pp. 1-27, 211-261) **(R)**
Oct. 24	"Anglosphere"
Oct. 26	"Globish the World Over"
Oct. 28	Discussion: Micklethwait, 263-321 **(R)**
Oct. 31	Global Christianity
Nov. 2	Global Islam
	Read: Micklethwait, 322-373 (no response)

Nov. 4	**Second examination**
Nov. 7	Five Roads to the Future
Nov. 9	"Asian values"
Nov. 11	Discussion: Zakaria, Chs. 1-3 **(R)**
Nov. 14	China: the next superpower?
Nov. 16	India: democratic alternative?
Nov. 18	Discussion: Zakaria, Chs. 4-5 **(R)**
Nov. 21	"Anti-globalization"
Nov. 23	Global terrorism
Nov. 25	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
Nov. 28	Geopolitics of energy
Nov. 30	Global ethics
	Read: Zakaria, Chs. 6-7 (no response)
Dec. 2	**Third examination**
Dec. 7	**Essay due by 5 pm in MEZ 3.230.**