

**IRG 301: Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies**

JGB 2.202 MTWThF 8:30—10 am Unique #85865

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BAT 1.118

M 10 am—1 pm

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary major of International Relations and Global Studies. Drawing from the diverse scholarly perspectives of history, government, economics, sociology, geography, religious studies and anthropology, IRG 301 provides an overview of contemporary global issues, and offers students a window into the four thematic “tracks” they can follow as a major: 1) culture, media, and the arts; 2) international security; 3) science, technology, and the environment; and 4) international political economy.

Lectures and readings will center around a number of questions related to contemporary global concerns, such as: To what extent can the past several decades be described as an “American century,” and to what degree is this no longer the case? What were the fundamental pillars of the international economy after World War II, and how have they shifted since then? To what extent has economic and cultural globalization merely been a mask for Westernization? What are the consequences of the so-called “rise of the rest” – greater peace and prosperity among nations and peoples, or the greater likelihood of conflict and ecological catastrophe?

This course is primarily lecture-based, but with significant opportunity for classroom and online (blackboard) discussion.

**Learning Objectives:**

Through reading and lecture quizzes, and through an end-of-term essay, students will have the ability to evaluate the role of nation-states and international organizations in the contemporary era of globalization, describe the impact of diminishing natural resources for global affairs, and assess the ethical implications of cross-cultural understanding.

**Required Books:**

- Andrew Bacevich, ed., *The Short American Century* (Harvard, 2012).
- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox* (Norton, 2011).
- Michael Klare, *The Race for What’s Left* (Metropolitan, 2012).
- Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Cosmopolitanism* (Norton, 2006).

### **Grading Breakdown:**

- **Blackboard discussion board (10 percent):** At the beginning of the term students select which day they will serve as discussion leaders. These discussion leaders will be responsible for posting ONE question to the class blackboard site's discussion board the afternoon BEFORE that day's discussion – by 5 p.m. The question should be in reference to the reading for the following day's class. All other students are expected to respond to the question by 10 pm. Questions and responses do not need to be longer than a few sentences. These on-line postings should attempt to open up avenues for further discussion during class.
- **In-class participation (10 percent):** Students are expected to contribute to in-class discussion on a regular basis. In addition to posting on blackboard a question regarding the reading the night before class, discussion leaders are responsible for bringing into class a news article about an international event or issue directly or indirectly related to the day's reading, and presenting that event or issue to classmates in a brief (five-minute) presentation. Overall, the participation grade will be based on the consistency and quality of a student's in-class contributions during the semester.
- **Reading quizzes (30 percent):** Six 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 identification, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false, or a combination, and are designed to assess the student's reading comprehension. These quizzes will take place at the beginning of class; makeup quizzes will not be provided.
- **Lecture tests (30 percent):** Three times during the term (see schedule), students will take a test based on material covered in class from the previous unit. These questions may be multiple-choice, fill in the blank, true-false, as well as short-answer, or some combination thereof, and are designed to assess the student's ability to identify, understand and analyze terms and concepts from that unit's lectures.
- **Essay (20 percent):** Students will write an essay of 7-8 pages (2000-word minimum), with evidence drawn from course readings and lectures, due on the final day of class. (Papers will be docked one letter grade for each day they are late.) Essays should answer ONE of the following questions:
  - 1) To what extent has the United States guided the international political and economic order since World War II?
  - 2) To what extent have global trade and finance and the competition for scarce resources favored large, Western nations over smaller, non-Western ones?
  - 3) To what extent do national borders and national citizenship still matter in our current world of economic and cultural globalization?
- **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>
July 9	Introduction	
July 10	Examining global power	Bacevich, Ch. 1
July 11	Americanization?	Bacevich, Ch. 3 (Rosenberg)
July 12	Rise of INGOs	Bacevich, Ch. 6 (Iriye)
July 13	The Cold War	Bacevich, Ch. 8 (LaFeber)
July 16	End of History?	Bacevich, Ch. 9 (McCarraher)
July 17	TEST ONE	
July 18	Globalization in history	Rodrik, Intro., Chs.1-2
July 19	Bretton Woods	Rodrik, Ch. 4; Bacevich, Ch. 7
July 20	Global finance	Rodrik, Chs. 5-6
July 23	Paths to development	Rodrik, Chs. 7-8
July 24	A Chinese Century?	Rodrik, Chs. 9-10
July 25	Global governance?	Rodrik, Chs. 11-12
July 26	TEST TWO	
July 27	Colonialism and oil	Klare, Intro.
July 30	Geopolitics of energy	Klare, Chs. 1-2
July 31	Resource curse?	Klare, Chs. 3-4
Aug. 1	Climate change	Klare, Chs. 5-6
Aug. 2	The Green Revolution	Klare, Chs. 7-8
Aug. 3	TEST THREE	
Aug. 6	Positivism and relativism	Appiah, Intro., Chs. 1-3
Aug. 7	Universal values?	Appiah, Chs. 4-6
Aug. 8	Cultural globalization	Appiah, Chs. 7-8
Aug. 9	Global ethics	Appiah, Chs. 9-10
Aug. 10	ESSAYS DUE In-class film	