

Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies

IRG 301 (40100 – 40115)

MEZ 1.306

Monday/Wednesday 9:00-10:00 am

Dr. Stephanie S. Holmsten

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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:

- Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox* (Norton, 2011)
- Michael Klare, *The Race for What's Left* (Metropolitan, 2012)
- Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Cosmopolitanism* (Norton, 2006)

Required Articles:

Articles are marked with “**BB**” and posted on the class blackboard under “Course Documents”. If you are not successful downloading the articles from Blackboard, you can also use the library website to find the articles.

Grading Breakdown:

- **Attendance (5 percent):** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken during every class period. You are allowed 3 absences before your attendance grade is affected. 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 under “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. Eight satisfactory responses will be sufficient for full credit.
- **Examinations (65 percent):** Three times during the semester students will take an exam covering the reading and lecture material (see course schedule). These exams will consist of two sections: 20 multiple-choice questions (40 points) and two short essays (60 points). The first two exams are worth 20% each and the final exam is worth 25% of your final grade. Note: the third exam will take place during our scheduled final exam time. All three exams only cover material discussed in the preceding section of class. No exam is cumulative.
- **Essay (20 percent):** Students will write an essay of 5-7 pages, double-spaced (roughly 1,500 words), using the material covered in lectures and in readings (no outside research is required or expected). I will provide three choices for your essay topic from which you can choose one. This essay is due April 26, at the end of class (see course schedule). Papers will be docked one letter grade for each day (including Saturday and Sunday) 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 an academic 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

Week 1 (Jan. 14-18) Globalization Introduction
Jan. 18 Discussion:

BB: Sen, Amartya. (2002). How to Judge Globalism. *The American Prospect* 13(1)

BB: Barber, Benjamin. (1992). Jihad vs. McWorld. *The Atlantic* 269(3).

Global power

Jan. 21 *MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – no class*

Week 2 (Jan. 23-25) Examining Global Power
Jan. 25 Discussion: **(R)**

BB: Krasner, Stephen. (1976). State Power and the Structure of International Trade. *World Politics* 28(3): 317-347.

BB: Jervis, Robert. (1978). Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma *World Politics* 30(2): 167-214. (SKIM)

BB: Garrett, George. (1998). Global Markets and National Politics: Collision Course or Virtuous Circle. *International Organization* 52(4): 787-824. (SKIM)

Week 3 (Jan. 28- Feb. 1) World War II and Americanization
Feb. 1 Discussion: **(R)**

BB: Kennedy, David M. (2012). The Origins and Uses of American Hyperpower. in Andrew Bacevich, ed. *The Short American Century* (Harvard University Press) 2012: 15-37.

BB: Snyder, Jack. (2004). One World, Rival Theories. *Foreign Policy* 145: 52-62.

BB: Frieden, Jeff. (1988). Sectoral Conflict and Foreign Economic Policy, 1914-1940. *International Organization* 42(01): 59-90. (SKIM)

Week 4 (Feb. 4-8) The Cold War and the End of History

Feb. 8 Discussion: **(R)**

BB: LaFeber, Walter. (2012). Illusions of an American Century. in Andrew Bacevich ed., *The Short American Century* (Harvard University Press) 2012: 158-186.

BB: Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. (1998). International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization* 52: 887-917.

Week 5 (Feb. 11-15) International Organizations and the Bretton Woods
Feb. 15 Discussion: Rodrik, Ch. 4 **(R)**

BB: Ruggie, John Gerard. (1982). International regimes, transactions, and change: embedded liberalism in the postwar economic order. *International Organization* 36: 379-415. (SKIM)

Feb. 18 First examination

Global Governance (Rodrick)

Week 6 (Feb. 20-22) Globalization in History
Feb. 22 Discussion: Rodrik, Intro, Chs. 1-2

Week 7 (Feb. 25- March 1) Global Finance
March 1 Discussion: Rodrik, Chs. 5-6 **(R)**

Week 8 (March 4-8) Paths to Development
March 8 Discussion: Rodrik, Chs. 7-8 **(R)**

March 11-15 SPRING BREAK – no class

Week 9 (March 18-22) Global Governance?
March 22 Discussion: Rodrik, Chs. 9-10 **(R)**

Geopolitics of energy (Klare)

March 25 Second examination

Week 10 (March 27-29) Geopolitics of Oil
March 29 Discussion: Klare, Intro and Chs. 1-2

Week 11 (April 1-5) Colonialism and the Resource Curse
April 5 Discussion: Klare Chs. 3-5 (skim Ch. 4) **(R)**

Week 12 (April 8-12) Climate Change and Food
April 12 Discussion: Klare, Chs. 7-8 **(R)**

Cultural globalization (Appiah)

Week 13 (April 15-19) Universal Values
April 19 Discussion: Appiah, Intro and Chs. 1-4 (skim Ch. 2) **(R)**

Week 14 (April 22-26) Cultural Globalization
April 26 Read: Appiah, Chs. 5-8

April 26 Essay due in class

Week 15 (April 29- May 3) Global Ethics
May 3 Discussion: Appiah, Chs. 9-10 **(R)**

May 8, Wednesday **Final examination 2:00-5:00pm.**