

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY – CENTRAL ASIA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Introduction to International Relations (ICP110)

Fall 2013

Lecture: Tue 12.45

Seminars: Fri. 14.10 ; 15.35

Instructors

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Course description

The subject matter of International Relations includes some of the most pressing problems of human life – first and foremost the question whether war and conflict really are an inevitable part of the human condition, or whether and how stable peace can be found. Other important questions include whether we are all part of a common humanity or whether cultural differences keep us apart. In fact, IR deals with these big questions and many more besides, from traditional diplomacy to globalization, from international economic relations to the question of humanitarian intervention. In this introduction to International Relations (IR) students will acquire an understanding of international relations and how they are reflected in the discipline of IR.

The course will start with an overview of the main theoretical approaches – while this is not a theory course, IR is a very theoretical discipline and a good understanding of what is being discussed in other parts of the course depends on a basic grasp of these theoretical schools and the very different views of the world they represent. Theoretical part of the course will be based on the reading – Joshua Goldstein, *International Relations*, Longman, New York, 2001. Copies of the book are reserved by lecturer for students at the AUCA library.

On the other hand, knowledge of historical processes and events is important for understanding of international relations. Historical data is a necessary material for IR analysis. Therefore, this course will also focus on history of international relations. In parallel to IR theoretical approach it will cover major historical events that shaped international relations. Students invited to visit Oxford University International Relations Resource Center <http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/politics/intro/internationalrelations/> where they can find necessary documents, maps, videos, and timeline of IR events.

Thus, the course will have two tracks: theoretical and historical.

The course will also help students develop some of the analytical, presentation, and research skills that they will need to successfully complete a degree at AUCA. This course is compulsory for all those wishing to major in ICP.

Course aim

By the end of the course students should: 1) develop an understanding of International Relations, its concepts, theories, and sub-fields; 2) get knowledge on major historical processes that shaped International Relations. Also, students should develop research, academic reading, and debating skills.

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and participation

Your attendance in class lectures and seminars is important both for you and your classmates. For each missed class a student will lose 0,5% of the total grade. For more than 5 unexcused absences a student will be given F. In force majeure circumstances (beyond your will), you have to provide reliable and verifiable evidence.

Each lecture students will choose and suggest an article on relevant historical topic that is required to be read by the seminar. The group will then discuss and analyze the article.

Participation in class is important for developing presentation and communication skills, better comprehension of the concepts and ideas and creating a more productive learning atmosphere. Participation will be graded, with maximum of 15% of total grade. Students are expected to come to class well-prepared in order to engage in discussion, debate and other group activities.

Quizzes

The quizzes will draw upon materials covered in readings. They will require a short essay answer. Quizzes are worth 10% of the total grade.

Presentation

Each student will be assigned to make a presentation on a specific historical topic from the list available at the e-course. Presenters will be responsible for providing 15-20 minutes speech analyzing significance and influence of chosen historical event on international relations. The presentation will be assessed based on depth of research, clarity of argumentation and presentation, as well as ability of a presenter to relate the topic to a wider context. Presentation is worth 15 % of total grade.

Each student will provide a seminar group with an article on his/her historical topic. Suggested article should be sent to lecturer at least one week prior to presentation. If the article fits requirements of the course lecturer will upload it on the e-course. The seminar group is required to read it and be able to discuss after the presentation.

IR exam

One final 80-minutes long exam will be held on the content of lectures and reader J. Goldstein, *International Relations*, Longman, NY, 2001. It will count for 30% of the total grade.

History of IR exam

One final 80-minutes long exam will be held on the content of presentations and historical articles suggested by the students. It will count for 30% of the total grade.

Important ICP rules

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are unfamiliar with the definition of plagiarism, please read AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

The AUCA will soon adapt changes into the policy on academic honesty. The new rules will be explained to the class, but students should keep in mind that if a student is caught with a case of intentional plagiarism, the softest punishment would be an F for the assignment. If a student was caught with plagiarism in past, a she/he may face F for the course, suspension from the university.

Seminar tutor will provide a special session on plagiarism and ways to avoid it. Whenever you have questions or doubts, simply approach instructors and ask. We will always be happy to explain.

Late submissions

Students are expected to duly respect all deadlines for submitting papers, essays and other types of homework. All due dates are announced beforehand, and are believed to provide sufficient time for preparing and submitting required works. The importance of respecting deadlines is related to 1) creating equal conditions for all students; 2) better organization of overall teaching and learning process.

Late submissions will be penalized, with deduction of 10% of the grade per day. Any submission which is late for more than 10 minutes will be considered as one-day late paper.

In cases of force majeure circumstances (serious illness etc.), a student is expected to provide documented evidence. ICP department reserves the right to check these evidences.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones must be turned-off during the class. This is the demonstration of your respect for the class and contribution to creating a better learning atmosphere.

Grading scale

100 – 96 = A	70 – 66 = C
95 – 91 = A –	65 – 61 = C –
90 – 86 = B+	60 – 56 = D+
85 – 81 = B	55 – 51 = D
80 – 76 = B –	50 – 46 = D –
75 – 71 = C+	45 – lower = F

Course schedule

Week	Topic of the week	Reading material
1	Introduction	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 1.
2	IR as a science (actors, levels of analysis, methods)	Goldstein, IR, Chapter 1, pp. 3-25.
3	History of International Relations	Goldstein, IR, Chapter 1, pp. 24-55.
4	Realism - Power politics	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 2, pp. 56 – 80
5	The International System	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 2, pp. 81 – 107
6	Liberalism - Alternatives to Power Politics	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 3, pp. 108 – 139
7	Analysis of Foreign Policy	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 4, pp. 162 - 194
9	Fall break	
10	International Conflict	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 5, pp. 196-230
11	International organization and law	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 7, pp. 292-329
12	International political economy	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 8, pp. 346-377
13	Integration	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 10, pp. 438-466
14	The environment	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 11, pp. 478-511
15	The North – South gap	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 12, pp. 526-551
16	International development	J. Goldstein, IR, Chapter 12, pp. 576-599
17	2 Final exams	

Additional reading

Additional required or suggested reading material will be provided either in hard copy or in electronic version updated to E-course.

Useful websites

There are numerous websites that you can use to complement your reading, especially when you are writing your research paper for this course.

The *Social Sciences Information Gateway* [<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk>] is a useful entry point for web resources in the social sciences, including IR.

Under <http://www.oup.com/uk/orc/bin/9780199285433/01student/weblinks/> you can find a collection of web-links (including free online academic articles) relating to themes in the chapters of Jackson/Soerensen's Introduction to IR, a book that we will be using in this course. Other relevant sites include www.csgr.org Website of Centre for the Study of Globalization and Regionalization at the University of Warwick. www.un.org Central website of the United Nations. <http://cwihip.si.edu> Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars: best source on the Cold War period, 1947-1991. www.the-times.co.uk/onlinespecials/wordonline provides a very useful archive for students interested in issues relating to international and global conflict. www.globalpolicy.org Global Policy forum. www.isn.ethz.ch for the International Relations and Security Network, an extensive collection of research and teaching materials relating to security and conflict. www.unsystem.org for all parts of the UN system. www.conferenceofngos.org Conference of non-Governmental Organizations, for info on NGOs. www.oneworld.org gateway to most of the active international NGOs. www.iisd.ca website of The International Institute for Sustainable Development. www.unfccc.de UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. www.ceifo.su.se The Centre for Research in International Migration and ethnic Relations at the University of Stockholm. www.lmap.ac.uk/cis/pathways The Department of Theology, Religious and Islamic Studies at the University of Lampeter in Wales has extensive internet links related to religion in general and Islam in particular. www.usip.org United States Institute for Peace. www.osce.org Home Page of the OSCE. www.amnesty.org.uk Amnesty International. www.europa.eu.int Official website of the European Union. www.oneworld.org An online gateway to over 750 associations that campaign for reform of global economy. www.iccwbo.org International Chamber of Commerce. www.unorg/gendernet provides a UN database on gender as well as access to many other sites. www.worldbank.org World Bank policy documents and discussions. www.twinside.org provides a view from the developing world with a range of papers on international political economy, development, environment and human rights issues. www.unifem.undp.org The UN Development Fund for Women. www.law-lib.utoronto.org International Human rights Database (DINA). www.diana.law.yale.edu is the Project Diana Online Human rights Archive at Yale Law School. www.state.gov gives you access to the State Department. www.arts.deakin.edu.au/IR/community contains articles on political community and information about other relevant IR websites.