

Sam Houston State University
Pol 380W Introduction to International Relations; Fall 2007
AB1, Room 307; 9:30 – 11:00

Professor: Dr. Rhonda Callaway

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Office Hours: T/Th 11:00 – 12:00; 2:00 – 3:00 and by appointment

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to give the student a broad overview of the field of international relations. In addition, the course introduces the student to various theories of how states relate to each other in the international community. The student will have an opportunity to consider contemporary issues in world politics within the context of the contending theories of global politics. Various themes in international relations including the importance of the state, the causes of conflict, the importance of economic factors, and differences between the developed and developing world will be considered throughout the semester.

Course Objectives:

In general, the student will

- learn specific terminology and fundamental principles as they pertain to international relations
- learn how to locate and use resources for problem-solving
- develop and/or enhance analytical and critical thinking skills

Required Readings – the texts for the class are as follows:

- Mingst, Karen *Essential of International Readings*. W.W. Norton & Company
 - Online study material available at <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/ir/>
- Mingst, Karen, and Jack Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, WW Norton & Company (noted as ER in the course schedule portion of the syllabus).
- Additional readings as indicated on the syllabus

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. **Students are to turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.** Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

The university has set clear guidelines regarding academic dishonesty, religious holidays, students with disabilities and visitors in the classroom. These can be accessed at <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/> but will also be posted in Blackboard under course information

In order to get the most out of this class you should read assigned materials before the classroom discussion on that topic. This is also the material that will be covered on the quizzes. It is your job to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to discuss the material. It may be helpful to take notes when reading the material and bring any questions to class.

Course Requirements

- a. Midterm and a final, each worth 25%
- b. Reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester for a total of 25% of the overall grade. There will be no make-up quizzes unless you have a university excused absence. I will drop the two (2) lowest quiz grades.
- c. Reading Response papers worth 25%. There will be five (5) responses throughout the semester to the readings in the *Essential Readings* textbook. I will post 7 opportunities to Blackboard through the assignment function. One response is mandatory and then you must choose four additional options. There will be due dates throughout the semester, thus you cannot decide to do all five at the end of the semester.
- d. Class attendance is expected. I do not give repeat performances, so if you are absent it is your responsibility to get the materials from a classmate. **I DO NOT POST POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS.** In addition, do not be late to class. Excessive absences and tardiness will result in a grade reduction.

Grading:

Course grades of 90 – 100 will be scored an A; a B is 80 to 89; 70 to 79 is a C; 60 to 69 is a D; below 60 is an F.

- If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is *your responsibility* to provide me with all of your work. To that end, it would be prudent to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. Any students caught cheating on an exam will receive a minimum punishment of a failing grade for the class.
- Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in anyway possible. I may be able to help you study more effectively or recommend other assistance. **Remember – I want you to do well in this course.**

Grades will be posted to Blackboard and it is the student's responsibility to calculate your own average during the semester. **Please note that there is no extra credit available for this course.**

Attendance Policy:

Anyone who misses a scheduled exam or assignment will receive a zero. Make up exams and other assignments will be given only if you have unavoidable circumstances (with documentation) and only if you **contact the instructor in advance.**

In order to do well in the course, it is required that you attend class regularly. Please note that I do not give repeat performances. Please be on time to class and plan to stay, as entering a class late or leaving early is always disruptive. Such a disruption is unfair to the rest of the class and will undoubtedly make you known to the instructor for all the wrong reasons. The following outlines the attendance policy for this class:

- **Perfect attendance will be rewarded. Those with perfect attendance will receive 3 additional points added to the final average.**
 - **NOTE: Perfect attendance means perfect...no absences for any reasons. Also note: being tardy is not perfect. If you are tardy, you will not receive any additional points. So...to receive full credit, you must be in class at 8:00am! No exceptions.**

Participation:

Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged. As students, you will get the most out of this class if you engage in the discussions. Every student in this class has an opinion, and each

of those opinions is valued in this class. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class.

Note: This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester. Readings should be completed prior to class.

COURSE OUTLINE

- 8/21 **Organization of the Course/ Introductions/Why Study IR**
Scope of the Course/ Hand out syllabus
- 8/23 **Levels of Analysis**
Mingst Ch 1 (skim); Ch 3 (read pages 55-61)
Walt, “IR: One World, Many Theories” – ER (4-11)
- 8/28 **Systemic Theories: Realism and Liberalism**
Thucydides’ “Melian Dialogue” – ER (18-20)
Machiavelli, “The Prince” readings available at:
Chapter V <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince05.htm>
Chapter XV <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince15.htm>
Chapter XVII <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince17.htm>
Chapter XVIII <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince18.htm>
Chapter XXI <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince21.htm>
NOTE: Don’t panic, these are relatively short, please print and bring to class.
- 8/30 No Class – APSA Conference
▪ **READING RESPONSE #1.** Students must submit one page essay describing the lessons learned from the Melian Dialogue and the Prince. Assignment is posted in blackboard under the assignment function and must be submitted back through blackboard. **The assignment is due on by Friday, 8/31, 5:00pm.** Late assignments will not be accepted. This is the one mandatory reading response. Remember, you must choose four more.
- 9/4 Mingst Ch 3 (65-71)
Morgenthau, “Realist Theory...” – ER (49-53)
Morgenthau, “The Balance of Power.” – ER (124-129)
- 9/5 **12th Class Day – Last day to drop without a Q and receive 100% refund**
- 9/6 Mingst Ch 3 (62-65)
Wilson’s 14 Points – ER (26-28)
Kant’s “Perpetual Peace” – ER (20-24)
Doyle’s “Liberalism and World Politics – ER (73-82)
- 9/11 **Critical Theories – Marxism and Feminism**
Mingst Ch 3 (71-74)
Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment” – ER (86-93)
- 9/13 Tickner, “Man, the State, and War” – ER (94-101)

- 9/18 **The International System – putting it together**
Mingst Ch 4
Waltz, “Political Structures...” – Posted to Blackboard
Wolforth, “The Stability of a Unipolar World” – Posted to Blackboard
READING RESPONSE #2 – the assignment will be posted to blackboard regarding the International System. The assignment is due on Monday, September 24 by 5:00pm.
- 9/20 **Power and the Statist Approach**
Mingst Ch 5 (101-120)
Krasner, “Sovereignty” – ER 143-149
- 9/25 **Evolution of European States to WWII**
Mingst Ch 2
- 9/27 **Evolution of Non-European States to WWII**
Herbst, “Responding to State Failure” – Posted to Blackboard
Rotberg, “Failed States in a World of Terror” – ER (157-163)
READING RESPONSE #3 – the assignment will be posted on blackboard regarding why states fail. The assignment is due on Friday, October 5 by 5:00pm.
- 10/2 **EXAM 1**
- 10/4 **Domestic or State Level Theories: Foreign Policy Decision Making**
The Cuban Missile Crisis
Kennan – “The Source of Soviet Conduct” - ER (28-33)

NOTE: 10/5 Last day to drop without an F
- 10/9 **Decision Making and the Individual**
Mingst Ch 5 (121-133)
Herman and Hagan – “International Decision Making” ER (182-189)
- 10/11 **Perception and Misperception**
Jervis “Hypotheses on Misperception” – ER (189-202)
- 10/16 **The Individual Level: Do individuals matter?**
Mingst Ch 6
Stoessinger, “Why Nations Go to War” – posted to Blackboard
READING RESPONSE #4 – the assignment will be posted to blackboard regarding the role of the individual in international relations. The assignment is due on Monday, October 22, by 5:00pm.
- 10/18 Movie

- 10/23 **War and Managing Insecurity**
Why does war occur?
Mingt Ch 8 (198-216)
Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy” – ER (297-301)
- 10/25 **Unlimited Self-Defense: The Cold War: Nuclear Capability and Deterrence**
Mingst Ch 2 (38-48 - review)
Mingst Ch 8 (224-228)
Mueller, “The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons” – ER (341-347)
- 10/30 **Limited Self-Defense: The Arms Race and Arms Control**
Mingst Ch 8 (218-224)
Singh, “Against Nuclear Apartheid” - posted to Blackboard
READING RESPONSE #5 – the assignment will be posted to blackboard regarding the debate over nuclear weapons. The assignment is due on Monday, November 5, at 5:00pm.
- 11/1 **International Security and Abolition of War**
Just War Theory, Collective Security, and Intervention
Mingst Ch 8 (217)
Doyle, “International Intervention” – ER (347-357)
- 11/6 **Threats to the State: Nationalism**
Rudolph, “Modern Hate” - posted to Blackboard
Van Evera, “Hypothesis on Nationalism and War” – posted to Blackboard
READING RESPONSE #6 – the assignment will be posted to blackboard regarding the role of nationalism and war. The assignment is due on Monday, November 12, at 5:00pm.
- 11/8 **Threats to the State: Terrorism**
Mingst Ch 8 (212-216)
Cronin, “Behind the Curve” – ER (367-378)
Pape, “Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” – ER (382-398)
- 11/13 **International Organizations**
Mingst Ch 7
Mearsheimer, “The False Promise...” – ER (283-290)
- 11/15 Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction” – ER (253-257)
Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction” –ER (258-261)
READING RESPONSE #7 – the assignment will be posted to blackboard regarding whether there is such a thing as international law and jurisdiction. The assignment is due on Tuesday, November 20 at 5:00pm.
- 11/20 Class doesn't meet – Reading Response due at 5:00pm.
- 11/22 Thanksgiving

	The Environment and Human Rights
11/27	Mingst Ch 10 (274-296)
11/29	Mingst Ch 10 (296-313) Sen, “Universal Truths” – ER (477-480)
	International Political Economy and the Environment
12/4	Mingst Ch 9
12/6	Held, et al, “Globalization” – ER (462-471) Friedman, “Backlash” – ER (471-477)
12/11	FINAL EXAM 8:00am – 10:00am

General Guidelines for Writing a Paper

It is my experience that many papers are fraught with unacceptable grammar and style mistakes. Term papers should be written in **formal English**. Formal writing aspires to higher grammatical levels than those used by sports commentators. Thus, papers for political science courses are generally not creative writing exercises. As the number of grammatical mistakes, sentence fragments, and awkward sentences rises, the grade for your paper will drop. I have created a list of many of the common problems.

1. Don't use no double negatives.
2. Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent. When you have a singular noun (antecedent), such as "Mexico," do not use a plural pronoun, such as "they" or "their."
3. Join clauses good, like a conjunction should.
4. When dangling, watch your participles.
5. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
6. Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
7. Try not to ever split infinitives.
8. Its important to use your apostrophe's correctly. Use the apostrophe to signal the possessive, not for plural nouns.
9. Don't' write runon sentences they are hard to read.
10. It behooves the writer to avoid archaic expressions.
11. Don't use hyperbole, not one writer in a million can use it effectively.
12. Avoid clichés like the plague.
13. Mixed metaphors are a pain in the neck and should be thrown in the lake.
14. A truly good writer is always especially careful to practically eliminate the too-frequent use of adverbs. Avoid filler words like "essentially," "basically" and the egregious "totally." These words are rarely, if ever, found in well-written work.
15. Placing a comma between subject and predicate, is not correct.
16. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
17. Corect spellin is essential. (USE YOUR SPELL CHECK).
18. Always proofread your copy to see if you any words out.
19. Don't use contractions in formal papers.
20. Don't use quotations marks for emphasis. In fact, quotations should be avoided. Use your own words and you must cite your sources. Overuse of quotes will be detrimental to your grade.
21. A writer should choose one set of pronouns and stick with it. He or she should not use both genders, or he or she will use his or her readers. Nor should s/he attempt to us a combined form of the pronouns. Nor should they substitute a plural form of the pronoun. The best solution is often to rewrite the sentence so you don't need to specify a gender.
22. Avoid the use of ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
23. Avoid unnecessary redundancy.
24. The passive voice is to be avoided.
25. Avoid random Capitalization of words. This is not German, we only Capitalize proper nouns.
26. Be careful in using the verb "to be". Generally only one form of this verb should be used in a sentence...so, do not use, "the reason being is...."
27. Edit, edit, edit. Take pride in your work. If you don't, I won't.
28. Above all, writing should be sincere, whether you mean it or not.

Even after you have long forgotten much of the course material, hopefully good writing skills will follow you wherever you go. The number one complaint from employers is the inability of workers to write effectively and efficiently.