

POL391T: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SPRING 2002

T, Th 5:00 - 6:15 PM, SB308

Professor Davidson-Schmich

davidson@miami.edu

(305) 284-2143

Jenkins 314J

Office Hours: T, Th 2:00 - 3:00 and 4:20 - 5:00

Course Web Site: <http://www.courses.miami.edu>

Course E-mail List: POL391T-022@listserv.miami.edu

I. Course Overview

This course is designed to help you to better understand the world events you see in the news and to develop opinions about appropriate foreign policy in a rapidly changing world. We will begin the course by examining four theoretical approaches to the study of international relations: realism, liberalism, radicalism, and constructivism. We will also examine three levels at which international politics can be studied: the individual level, the state level, and the system level. After a mid-term exam that covers these concepts, we will spend the rest of the course applying these theories to issues confronting policy makers today. Such issues will include keeping a country safe from outside attack, improving a country's position in the global economy, and debating what role human rights should play in international relations. Throughout the course we will follow current events and debate appropriate policies for pressing global issues that arise over the course of the semester. Class lectures and discussions will make regular reference to current events and each student will serve as a resident expert on a given area of current events.

II. Grading

Final grades will be based on the following:

- Current Events/ Maps/ Participation: 40%
 - Class Participation and Simulation Exercise: (5% of total grade)
 - Quizzes (10% of final grade)
 - Current Events Project : (25% of final grade)
- Mid-term Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

Class Participation: You are expected to complete all reading assignments before the class period assigned so that you may contribute to class discussion and ask for clarification of issues you did not understand. Coming to class on time each day with the readings completed is a baseline expectation for this course. To do well in terms of participation you need to actively take part in

class discussions by both voicing your own opinions and seriously considering the opinions of others. I am interested more in the quality of your contributions than the quantity or volume of what you say!

Simulation Exercise: During the second half of the semester, we will simulate international economic negotiations and each student will be assigned a role to play. You will complete a brief written assignment to prepare for your role and, after the simulation, you'll write a brief summary analyzing the events that transpired. Attendance at all sessions of the simulation is mandatory. If you cannot attend class April 9, 11, and 16, please notify me immediately.

Current Events and Map Quizzes: You are expected to read *The New York Times* every week day and be able to locate countries in the news on a world map. (There are maps of the world in your textbook that you can use to locate relevant countries.) Throughout the semester I will have a series of in-class pop quizzes. If you miss class the day of a quiz without having notified me in advance, you will receive a zero. Excused students will have a chance to do a make-up quiz.

Quizzes will be based on the stories that appear in the print edition of the *New York Times*. As a result, I strongly recommend you get a student subscription and read the hard copy of the paper. You'll want to look for relevant articles in the front section as well as in the World Business section. A subscription arriving at your door every day will remind you to keep up with events and often there are relevant paid political advertisements about foreign affairs in the paper. If financial hardship prevents you from subscribing, you may read the paper on-line; you'll want to focus your attention on the articles in the "International" section as well as foreign policy articles in the "National" section and the "World Business" part of the "Business" section.

Current Events Project: Each student will be assigned an area of the world or an issue to follow throughout the semester; you will be the class "expert" in your area and I reserve the right to call on you at any time to discuss what's going on in your part of the world. At the start of the semester you'll research the relevant background of your issue. Then throughout the semester you'll keep abreast of the news and try to tie it to theories discussed in class. On the last day of class you'll turn in a written analysis of developments from throughout the semester using the theories discussed in class.

Mid-Term and Final Exams: These will both be timed, written exams held in class. I will pass out a study sheet before both exams to help you prepare. The tests will cover material from class and from the assigned readings. Exams will ask you to show you understand concepts introduced in class and in the readings by applying them to real world events.

III. Readings

The following texts are required. The books can be purchased at the bookstore; the Pew Case Study is available behind the Cashier's Desk on the first floor:

- *Essentials of International Relations* by Karen Mingst
- *Essential Readings in World Politics* by Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder

- *Pew Case Study #217: The Cristóbal Colón Project* by Miguel A. Mendez
- *The New York Times* (you can either subscribe to paper or read it on-line at www.nyt.com).
- Articles below marked with an asterisk (*) will be handed out in class

IV. Schedule for the Semester

Date	Topic	Assignment
	<i>INTRODUCTION: KEY CONCEPTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</i>	
15 Jan	Introduction to International Relations	Mingst Ch. 1 Read Syllabus
17 Jan	A Brief History of International Relations	Mingst Ch. 2
22 Jan	The Levels of Analysis	Mingst pp. 57-62
24 Jan	Theories of International Relations	Mingst pp. 63-82
29 Jan	The Individual Level: Which Individuals Matter?	Mingst Ch. 6
31 Jan	The Individual Level: Gender and International Relations	Mingst & Snyder pp. 217-233 *Goldstein pp. 124-146
5 Feb	The State Level: Radicalism, Realism, and the National Interest	Mingst Ch. 5 Mingst & Snyder pp. 34-38
7 Feb	The State Level: Liberalism and Domestic Politics	Optional: Videos "Wag the Dog" or "13 Days"
12 Feb	The Democratic Peace Debate	Mingst & Snyder pp. 39-51; Ch. 11
14 Feb	Constructivism and the End of the Nation State?	Mingst & Snyder Ch. 5
19 Feb	The System Level: 4 views	Mingst Ch. 4
	<i>INTERNATIONAL SECURITY</i>	
21 Feb	The Causes of War	Mingst pp. 166-181
26 Feb		Mid-term Exam
28 Feb	How Best to Avoid War?	Mingst pp. 152-166; Mingst & Snyder Ch. 1
5 Mar	Terrorism as a Security Threat	* Reading TBA
7 Mar	Discussion: How Best to Protect Against Terrorism?	* Scott
	SPRING BREAK!	
19 Mar	The Clash of Civilizations?	Mingst & Snyder pp. 174-185
	<i>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY</i>	
21 Mar	International Political Economy: 4 Views	Mingst Ch. 8
26 Mar	IPE: The Post-War Economic Order/ Rich Countries	Mingst & Snyder pp. 289-307
28 Mar	IPE: The Post-War Economic Order/ Poor Countries	Mingst & Snyder pp. 308-324; 422-446
2 April	Poverty as a Security Threat	Mingst & Snyder 446-456 Mingst pp. 251-265
4 April	Economic Sanctions as a Policy Tool	* Reading TBA
	<i>SIMULATION: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS</i>	
9 Apr	Negotiations Day 1	Read Pew Case Study Simulation Memo #1
11 Apr	Negotiations Day 2	
16 Apr	Negotiations Day 3 / Wrap Up	

<i>INTERNATIONAL LAW, INSTITUTIONS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS</i>		
18 Apr	International Law	Simulation Memo #2 Mingst Ch. 9 Mingst & Snyder Ch. 9
23 Apr	Human Rights	Mingst pp. 265-273 Mingst & Snyder pp. 456-460
25 Apr	The Future of International Relations	Current Events Project Mingst pp. 273-278
7 May	Tuesday May 7, 2002 from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM	Final exam
16 May	Final Grades Available on EASY	