COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is an introductory lecture/seminar for master’s degree students pursuing non-academic careers and seeking foundational knowledge of international relations. The emphasis will be on core IR concepts and how they relate to real world issues. The seminar will investigate topics explored at greater length in other 700 level courses in the IR Department: power politics, liberal internationalism, statecraft, diplomacy, international political economy, international organization, non-state actors, foreign policy, security and defense, and on. Two texts provide the basis for learning the language of international relations.

Prof. Grimes teaches the course on Fridays and Prof. Miller teaches the course on Mondays. The weeks in the syllabus include the dates for both teaching days. We will also have guest lecturers during the semester—the dates of their class visit are indicated in the syllabus.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

Office hours are the best means of contact. Emails are usually answered within 24 hours. However, do not expect to use email for discussions or for queries requiring lengthy answers.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: 15%

Attendance is mandatory. The instructor has to be notified via email well in advance about any absences. More than two absences will result in your final grade being severely affected. Late arrival to class is unacceptable and will result in your final grade being severely affected.

PRESENTATIONS: 30%

There will be in-class team presentations on the readings each week. Presentations (consisting of a summary, critique, and policy example) will last around 2-15 minutes per student. Each student is expected to prepare a 2-page handout for distribution.
ROLE PLAYING EXERCISES: 15%

Cases are indicated at the end of the syllabus. Students will be divided into teams that present for and against the motion as well as arbitrate.

POLICY PAPER (10-15 PAGES): 40%

Written on a topic of the student’s choice, with the instructor’s approval (based on a 250 word abstract to be submitted by October 15) before proceeding. Papers should focus on a policy problem and present policy options and analysis of each. **This paper is due Friday, December 12 by 5pm.**

Late papers: The penalty for late submission of papers is a half letter grade reduction per day: e.g. from A to A-.

Please note: the exact format and details of presentations, role playing exercises and the final paper will be discussed in class.

GUEST LECTURES

We will have four guest lectures as indicated in the syllabus. Attending guest lectures is MANDATORY. We will notify you of the day/time/place of each lecture well in advance. If you absolutely cannot attend the lecture, you will need to notify your instructor 2 weeks in advance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. The CAS Academic Conduct Code can be found at http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/. If you have any questions as to how the Code pertains to your in this course please contact the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (available at BU Bookstore and some web sites)

The textbooks provide background readings to the instructor’s comments on weekly topics. Textbook material will not be discussed in detail in class but it will be assumed students have read the assignments understand the concepts presented.

The Jackson and Sørensen text has a website at which useful research materials for the course are located: www.oxfordtextbooks.co.uk/orc/jackson_sorensen4e/

OTHER READINGS

All other readings are either available from blackboard or provided with URLs for you to link to.

**Week 1 (Fri Sep 5, Mon Sep 8): Applied International Relations**

Jackson & Sørensen, Ch. 1, Ch. 2


**Week 2 (Fri Sep 12, Mon Sep 15): Power, Anarchy and International Relations**

Jackson & Sørensen, Ch. 3

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (1979), pp. 102-128

Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations* (1948), Ch. 1-2

Website Documents:
The Melian Dialog form Thucydides
[http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm)

**Week 3 (Fri Sep 19, Mon Sep 22): Liberalism and IR**

Jackson & Sørensen, Ch. 4,5


**Week 4 (Fri Sep 26, Mon Sep 29): Ideas and International Relations**

Jackson & Sørensen, Ch. 8

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics*, 1999, pp. 22-44 (22)

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch, “Ideational Change and the Emergence of the International Norm of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions,” *European Journal of International Relations* 12 July 2013, pp. 2-17 (15)


**Week 5 (Fri Oct 3, Mon Oct 6): International Organizations and Civil Society**


Website Documents for discussion:

International Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs): Pick an Organization: http://www.lib.msu.edu/publ_ser/docs/igos/igoswww.htm

**World Court Case Exercise**

**Week 6 (Fri Oct 10, Tues (substitute Mon) Oct 14): Domestic Politics and IR**

Jackson & Sørensen, Ch. 10


Bruce Bueno de Mesquita on game theory and prediction
http://www.ted.com/talks/bruce_bueno_de_mesquita_predicts_iran_s_future

Websites for Discussion:

U.S. Foreign Policy Process
http://fpc.state.gov/6172.htm
http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/
http://www.foreign.senate.gov/

Cuban Missile Crisis +50
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/cubanmissilecrisis

Week 7 (Fri Oct 17, Mon Oct 20): Beliefs and IR


Manjari Chatterjee Miller, Wronged by Empire, (Stanford, University Press 2013), p. 7-34 (27)

Yuen Foong Khong, Analogies at War (1992), pp. 3-19 (13)


Judith M. Brown, Nehru: A Political Life, Yale University Press, pp. 244-271. (27)


Week 8 (Tues Oct 28 EVENING): Ethnic Conflict and International Relations (Prof. Michael Woldemariam)


Timothy Shah and Monica Toft, “Why God is winning,” Foreign Policy magazine, July/August 2006, pp. 39-43. (14)


Week 9 (Nov 3 EVENING): Global Political Economy and Commerce (Prof. Cornel Ban)

Ravenhill, Ch. 9, 11-13 (142)


Website Documents for Discussion:

Joseph Stiglitz, “The Overselling of Globalization”

World Trade Organization “Final Agreement”
http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/ursum_e.htm#Agreement

World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement
http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/dispu_settl_e.htm

European Union Trade Policy
http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade

Week 10 (Fri Nov 7, Mon Nov 10) WTO Exercise and Global Finance

Ravenhill, Ch. 5-6 (80)

WTO Dispute Settlement Exercise

Web Resources for Discussion:

Ngaiire Woods, “Bretton Woods Institutions”

Finance and International Relations

Ravenhill, ch. 7-8, 10 (96)


Website Documents for Discussion:

Council on Foreign Relations, Global Governance Monitor (Finance)  

International Monetary Fund, “What the IMF Does”  
[http://www.imf.org/external/work.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/work.htm)

Bank for International Settlements  
[http://www.bis.org/about/history.htm](http://www.bis.org/about/history.htm)

**Week 11 (Fri Nov 14, Mon Nov 17): Environment and International Relations (Prof. Adil Najam)**

Ravenhill, Ch. 14. (30)


Website Documents for Discussion:

Council on Foreign Relations Global Governance Monitor (Climate Change)  


[http://epi.yale.edu/](http://epi.yale.edu/)


**Week 12 (Thurs Nov 24 EVENING): Non-Traditional Security (Prof. Noora Lori)**
Readings TBD

Week 13 (Mon Dec 1, Fri Dec 5): Ethics and International Relations


Martha Nussbaum, “On Capabilities and Human Development” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoD-cjduM40 (10 minutes)


*******************************************************************************

**World Court Cases (tentative selection*)**


**WTO Tribunal Cases (tentative selection*)**

DISPUTE DS476
European Union and its Member States — Certain Measures Relating to the Energy Sector
http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds476_e.htm

*Note: These cases can move quickly through the system and if already adjudicated by the time the class meets, a different case will be used.