

CAS IR271-PO171: Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2017
v1.0

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8–9:15 a.m., HAR 105.

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Introduction to International Relations

The aim of the course will be to introduce key issues, questions, and theories about international relations in historical context. Our focus will be on world politics since the First World War, and on how academic, political, and military elites have sought to learn from and explain international relations since that time.

Course Requirements

There are **four** course requirements:

1. Current events/key concepts quizzes (10%);
2. Class/section participation (10%);
3. A midterm examination (20%);
4. An issue analysis paper (25%); and
5. A final examination (35%).

Class participation is important preparation, both for mastering the course materials and for socializing to the vital task of learning to ask good questions. Students are therefore expected to attend every class, to show up on time and be prepared. Please note that IR271-PO171 is a **screen-free class** (this is true of lectures and discussion sessions). You may bring a recording device to class if you have any trouble keeping up, but nothing with a screen will be permitted to be active during lectures or discussion sections.

In addition, students will be required to follow international news closely during this semester. It is strongly suggested that you subscribe to either *The New York Times* or the *Christian Science Monitor*. Six web sites where you have access to daily newspapers with good international coverage are:

<http://www.nytimes.com/>
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
<http://www.csmonitor.com/>
<http://www.iht.com/>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/>
<http://www.ft.com>

You may have to register to get access, but it is free. You can also set up a process by which *The New York Times* (for example) emails you a daily copy of world headlines, with hyperlinks to the stories. Doing so is a great way to make sure you catch the news on the days you don't get around to reading the newspaper. In addition, <http://www.economist.com/>, as well as reading the *Economist* magazine weekly (the library subscribes), is a good source for international news. Most web sites

only give free access to some stories, however. You can also keep abreast of international issues by listening to news on National Public Radio (most readily available in this area on WBUR 90.9 FM).

There will be periodic *unannounced* quizzes on **world events** and **course concepts** in class during the semester. These quizzes will be about major world news events or course concepts and should be simple to answer if you are attending class regularly and following a newspaper and/or listening to National Public Radio regularly during the semester. **There will be no make-up quizzes**, but your lowest quiz grade for the semester will not be counted (if you miss a quiz that one will presumably be your lowest quiz grade and will be dropped). Quizzes, when given, are generally given in the first few minutes of class, so *please be on time*.

Course participants will also be required to take an in-class mid-term exam on **Thursday, 2 March**. The exam will consist of ten short ID questions (requiring one- or two-word answers), as well as two short essay questions (2–3 blue book pages each) and a single long one (6–8 blue book pages). Test booklets will be provided.

In addition, you will write a 6–8 page issue analysis paper on an issue in international relations *taking place during the semester*. Your paper will examine a *current* issue in the context of competing theories of international relations. One-page topic proposals will be due in your discussion section on **Friday, 1 April** (guidelines for topic proposals and the specifics of your paper requirement will be posted on our course conference). Final papers are due in class at our final formal meeting, **Tuesday, 2 May**.

Finally, course participants will take a final exam. This exam will draw from material we've covered in the entire course, but will focus mainly on material engaged since the mid-term exam. Details of the format of the final exam, and its specific date, will be posted on our course conference in due time.

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For important information about student and University rights and obligations, see:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/> and

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

Readings

The following **books** are required, and are available for purchase from the University Bookstore (or on Amazon.com):

Ikenberry, G. John. 2003. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. (ISBN: 978-0691050911)

Martel, Gordon. 2008. *The Origins of the First World War, Revised 3rd Ed.* New York: Pearson. (ISBN: 978-1405874311)

Arreguín-Toft, Ivan, and Mingst, Karen. 2016. *Essentials of International Relations, 7th Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton. (ISBN: 978-0-393-28340-2)¹

Mingst, Karen, and Jack L. Snyder. 2016. *Essential Readings in World Politics, 6th Edition*. New York: W.W. Norton. (ISBN: 978-0-393-28366-2)

Rhodes, Richard. 2002. *Masters of Death: The SS-Einsatzgruppen and the Invention of the Holocaust*. New York: Vintage. (ISBN: 978-0375708220)

Wiest, Andrew. 2002. *The Vietnam War, 1956–1975*. Oxford: Osprey. (ISBN: 978-1841764191)

¹ You will definitely need **7th** edition of the textbook and the 6th edition of the reader. If you buy the reader with the textbook, you save a little (the bundle is \$118.00).

The following articles and scanned materials will be available on our course conference (**blackboard**), **or** via Boston University's eJournals:

- Abrahms, Max. 2006. Why Terrorism Does Not Work. *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 2: 42–78.
- Bell, P.M.H. 1986. *The Origins of The Second World War in Europe*. New York: Longman: 127–161.
- Berman, Sheri. 2013. The Promise of the Arab Spring: In Political Development, No Pain Without Gain. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 1: 64–74.
- Bowden, Mark. 1999. *Blackhawk Down: A Story of Modern War*. New York: Penguin Books: excerpts.
- Collier, Paul. 2003. The Market for Civil War. *Foreign Policy*, May/June: 38–45.
- Crocker, Chester A.. 2003. Engaging Failing States. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 5: 32–44.
- Cukier, Kenneth, and Viktor Mayer-Schoenberger. 2013. The Rise of Big Data: How It's Changing the Way We Think About the World. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 3: 28–40.
- Falk, Richard. 1993. Hard Choices and Tragic Dilemmas: Intervention Revisited. *The Nation*, Vol. 257, No. 21: 755–762.
- Fall, Bernard B.. 1961. *Street Without Joy*. Harrisburg, PA: The Telegraph Press: excerpts.
- Farrell, Henry, and Martha Finnemore. 2013. The End of Hypocrisy: American Foreign Policy in the Age of Leaks. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 6: 22–26.
- Garrett, Laurie. 2013. Biology's Brave New World: The Promise and Perils of the Synbio Revolution. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 6: 28–46.
- Goldstone, Jack A.. 2010. The New Population Bomb: Four Megatrends that Will Change the World. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 89, No. 1: 31–43.
- Hoffman, Stanley, Robert Keohane, and John J. Mearsheimer. 1990. Correspondence: Back to the Future, Part II. *International Security*, Vol. 15, No. 2: 191–199.
- Hudson, Victoria and Den Boer. 2002. A Surplus of Men, A Deficit of Peace: Security and Sex Ratio in Asia's Largest States. *International Security*, Vol. 26, No. 4: 5–38.
- Jervis, Robert. 1988. The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons: A Comment. *International Security*, Vol. 13, No. 2: 80–90.
- Lucas, George R. Jr.. 2010. Postmodern War. *Journal of Military Ethics*, Vol. 9, No. 4: 289–298.
- Mearsheimer, John. 1990. Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War. *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 266, No. 2: 35–50. Also available online at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/foreign/mearsh.htm>
- Mueller, John. 1988. The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World. *International Security*. Vol. 13, No. 2: 55–79.
- Orwell, George. 1949. Appendix: The Principles of Newspeak. from 1984.
- Peterson, Peter M.. 1999. Gray Dawn: The Global Aging Crisis. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 78, No. 1: 42–55.
- Posen, Barry S.. 1993. The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict. *Survival*, Vol. 35, No. 1: 27–47
- Rorty, Richard, "Human Rights, Rationality, and Sentimentality," in Stephen Shute and Susan Hurley, Eds., *On Human Rights: The Oxford Amnesty Lectures, 1993* (New York: Basic Books, 1993), pp. 111–134.
- Ross, Michael L.. 2004. How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization*, Vol. 58, No. 1: 35–67.

- _____, 2014. Oil, Economic Growth, and Political Institutions. In Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, Eds.. *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 5th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton: 631–658.
- Sageman, Marc. 2003. The Global Salafi Jihad. Statement of Marc Sageman to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, July 9, 2003.
- Shaw, Timothy Samuel, and Monica Duffy Toft, 2006. Why God is Winning. *Foreign Policy*, July/August, pp. 38–43.
- Singer, Peter. 2010. Is Violence History? A Review of Steven Pinker's *Better Angels of Our Nature*. *The New York Times*, 6 October.
- Toft, Monica Duffy. 2002. Differential Demographic Growth in Multinational States. *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 56, No. 1: 71–94.
- Toft, Monica Duffy. 2002. Indivisible Territory, Geographic Concentration, and Ethnic War. *Security Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 2: 82–119.
- Tuchman, Barbara. 1996. *The Proud Tower: A Portrait of the World Before the War, 1890–1914*. New York: Ballantine, chapter 2.
- Williams, Phil. 1994. Transnational Criminal Organizations and International Security. *Survival*, Vol. 36, No. 1: 96–113.

Introduction

TH 19JAN Introduction

[Note for first class: normally listed readings must be done before coming to class, but for our first meeting you may defer them until after we meet (say, later on Thursday or Friday). They should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete]

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations (EIR)*, chapter 1;
2. Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Essential Readings in World Politics (ERWP)*, pp. 3–11;
3. Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," *ERWP*, pp. 12–16;
4. Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace" [excerpt].

T 24JAN Realism

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, "Realism (and Neorealism)," pp. 76–82;
2. Morgenthau, "A Realist Theory of International Relations," *ERWP*, pp. 55–59;
3. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," *ERWP*, pp. 60–77;
4. Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence," *ERWP*, pp. 350–358;
5. Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *ERWP*, pp. 359–373.

TH 26JAN Challenges to Realism

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, pp. 83–97, and "The Effectiveness of Female Marines in Combat: A Fair Test?" pp. 98–99;
2. Tickner, "Man, the State, and War," *ERWP*, pp. 115–122;
3. Lenin, from "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism," *ERWP*, pp. 23–30;
4. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *ERWP*, pp. 78–92;
5. Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *ERWP*, pp. 93–114;
6. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *ERWP*, pp. 208–214.

Part 2: Interstate War, Part I

T 31JAN WWI: The Great War, 1914–1918

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, pp. 26–38;
2. Martel, *The Origins of the First World War*, chapters 1–3, and documents 4, 23, 27 and 29.

TH 2FEB Explaining WWI

1. Martel, *The Origins of the First World War*, chapter 4;
2. Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power," *ERWP*, pp. 124–130.

Part 3: Interwar

T 7FEB [no class]

TH 9FEB Why Peace Failed, I

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, chapters 4–5;
2. Ikenberry, *After Victory*, chapter 1 (skim), chapter 5 (read).

T 14FEB Why Peace Failed, II

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, chapter 6;
- b** 2. Bell, *The Origins of WWII*, pp. 127–160.

Part 4: Interstate War, Part II

TH 16FEB WWII in Europe

Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, chapter 8.

T 21FEB no class [Monday schedule]

TH 23FEB Mass Murder Under the Third Reich

Rhodes, *Masters of Death*, chapters 1–4, 7–8.



T 28FEB WWII in the Pacific

b Dower, *War Without Mercy*, excerpts.

Part 5: The Long [Interstate] Peace?

TH 2MAR Midterm Examination

- International history for review: *EIR*, pp. 38–44.
- You will have **sixty** minutes to complete your exam.

[Spring Recess]

T 14MAR The Coming of the Long Peace

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, chapter 7;
2. Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception," *ERWP*, pp. 223–236;
3. Yarhi-Milo, "Eye of the Beholder," *ERWP*, pp. 237–260;
3. Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *ERWP*, pp. 35–41.

TH 16MAR International Political Economy

1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, chapter 9;
2. Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," *ERWP*, pp. 468–475;
3. Frieden, "The Governance of International Finance," *ERWP*, pp. 511–525;
- b** 4. Ross, "Oil, Economic Growth, and Political Institutions."

T 21MAR Nuclear Weapons

- b** 1. Jervis, "The Political Effects of Nuclear Weapons;"

- b** 2. Mueller, "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons;"
- 3. Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb," *ERWP*, pp. 398–401.

TH 23MAR Film Discussion

- 1. *Judgment at Nuremberg*, Stanley Kramer, 1961 (186 minutes);
- 2. *Apocalypse Now*, Francis Ford Coppola, 1979 (153 minutes);

T 28MAR The [Two] Indochina Wars

- b** 1. Bernard Fall, *Street Without Joy*, excerpts.
- 2. Wiest, *The Vietnam War*.

Part 6: After the Long Peace, What?

TH 30MAR Interwar or Perpetual Peace?

- b** 1. Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War;"
- b** 2. Hoffman, Et al., "Correspondence: Back to the Future, Part II;"
- 3. Ikenberry, *After Victory*, chapter 6.
- b** 4. Singer, "Is Violence History?"

T 4APR Ethnic Conflict, Civil War

- [guest lecture]
- b** 1. Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict;"
- b** 2. Ross, "Oil, Drugs, and Diamonds;"
- b** 3. Toft, "Indivisible Territory, Geographic Concentration, and Ethnic War;
- b** 4. Collier, "The Market for Civil War."

Part 7: Intervention and Nonintervention

TH 6APR Intervention, Failed States

- b** 1. Falk, "Hard Choices and Tragic Dilemmas;"
- b** 2. Rorty, "Human Rights, Rationality, and Sentimentality;"
- 3. Finnemore, "Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention," *ERWP*, pp. 445–466;
- b** 4. Crocker, "Engaging Failing States."

T 11APR Hard Cases

- b** 1. Bowden, *Blackhawk Down*, excerpts;
- 2. Power, "Bystanders to Genocide," *ERWP*, pp. 263–283;
- 3. *Three Kings*, David O. Russell (1999), excerpts shown in class.



Part 8: Conflict(s) in the Middle East

TH 13APR Conflict in The Middle East

- b** 1. Nye, "Conflicts in the Middle East;"
- b** 2. Berman, "The Promise of the Arab Spring."

Part 9: Other Contemporary Issues

T 18APR [Some] Transnational Issues

- 1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, *EIR*, chapter 11;
- 2. Donnelly, "Human Rights and Cultural Relativism" *ERWP*, pp. 583–596;
- 3. Garrett, "Ebola's Lessons," *ERWP*, pp. 680–688;
- 4. Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *ERWP*, pp. 638–648;
- b** 5. Williams, "Transnational Criminal Organizations and International Security."

TH 20APR Terrorism

- b** 1. Tuchman, *The Proud Tower*, chapter 2;
- b** 2. Sageman, "The Global Salafi Jihad;"
- b** 3. Abrahms, "Why Terrorism Does not Work;"
- b** 4. Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve...;"
- b** 5. Kilcullen, *The Accidental Guerrilla*, excerpt.

T 25APR Demographic Change, Religion, and Global Politics

- 1. Hudson and Den Boer, "Missing Women and Bare Branches;" *ERWP*, pp. 660–665;
- b** 2. Duffy Toft, "Differential Demographic Growth in Multinational States;"
- b** 3. Peterson, "Grey Dawn;"
- b** 4. Goldstone, "The New Population Bomb;"
- b** 5. Shaw & Toft, "Why God is Winning."

Part 10: Going Forward**TH 27APR Virtual Worlds, Synbio**

- b** 1. Cukier & Mayer-Schoenberger, "The Rise of Big Data;"
- 2. Lindsay, "The Impact of China on Cybersecurity," *ERWP*, pp. 666–679;
- b** 3. Lucas, "Postmodern Warfare;"
- b** 4. Orwell, *1984*, Appendix: "The Principles of Newspeak."
- b** 5. Garrett, "Biology's Brave New World."

T 2MAY Course Review

[no assigned readings]