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):


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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:


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;
4. Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace” [excerpt].

T 24JAN Realism
1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, EIR. “Realism (and Neorealism),” pp. 76–82;

TH 26JAN Challenges to Realism
2. Tickner, “Man, the State, and War,” ERWP, pp. 115–122;
5. Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” ERWP, pp. 93–114;
Part 2: Interstate War, Part I

T 31JAN WWI: The Great War, 1914–1918
1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, EIR, pp. 26–38;

TH 2FEB Explaining WWI
1. Martel, The Origins of the First World War, chapter 4;

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;

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
1. 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;

TH 16MAR International Political Economy
1. Arreguín-Toft & Mingst, EIR, chapter 9;

T 21MAR Nuclear Weapons
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, ”Human Rights, Rationality, and Sentimentality;”
b 2. Rorty, ”Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” ERWP, pp. 445–466;
b 3. 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;
4. Hardin, ”The Tragedy of the Commons,” ERWP, pp. 638–648;
b 5. Williams, ”Transnational Criminal Organizations and International Security.”
**TH 20APR Terrorism**
1. Tuchman, *The Proud Tower*, chapter 2;
2. Sageman, “The Global Salafi Jihad;”
3. Abrahms, “Why Terrorism Does not Work;”
4. Kurth Cronin, “Behind the Curve...;”

**T 25APR Demographic Change, Religion, and Global Politics**
1. Hudson and Den Boer, “Missing Women and Bare Branches;” ERWP, pp. 660–665;
2. Duffy Toft, “Differential Demographic Growth in Multinational States;”
3. Peterson, “Grey Dawn;”
5. Shaw & Toft, “Why God is Winning.”

Part 10: Going Forward

**TH 27APR Virtual Worlds, Synbio**
2. Lindsay, “The Impact of China on Cybersecurity,” ERWP, pp. 666–679;
3. Lucas, "Postmodern Warfare;”
5. Garrett, “Biology’s Brave New World.”

**T 2MAY Course Review**
[no assigned readings]