COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course largely focuses on the broad topics and themes that students will have encountered in some form of media in the past year. We go beyond a “current events” focus by examining in various detail the historical origins, progression, and perspectives behind events and themes in the news today. A primary goal of this class is to help students develop broad perspectives on the cause and consequence of global issues of the day. Students are provided the core language and concepts of International Studies as a foundation for becoming more educated and sophisticated participants in the global discussion. Students are encouraged to be critical consumers of course content and to share their own insights and experience.

International Studies is an inter-disciplinary approach to understanding the world around us. This course addresses the interplay of culture, history, economics, and politics as determinants for the behavior of people and states in the global community. The material taught in this introductory course provides much of the foundation for subsequent classes in International Studies and is also intended to assist students in developing critical thinking and communication skills.

BOOKS/ READINGS

- All readings posted on Blackboard

GRADES

Class Contribution (10%)

International Studies is intrinsically a fascinating subject, and we will all enjoy the course to the fullest if everyone participates in class discussions. So please do the reading before the class for which it is assigned and then be able to discuss it in class. Attendance will also be calculated as part of the course grade. Please come to class regularly and be on time.

Exams (50%)

Exams will be a combination of identifiers, short answers, and brief essays based on class content and current events in the international arena. Exams cover all lectures and assigned reading material. The final will largely focus on the second half of the semester, but will also pose questions calling for a cumulative understanding of course content.

Make-up exams will be allowed only if (1) I have been notified in advance of an adequate, university excused, absence before the time of the test or (2) in case of illness, I am given a note by a doctor (written on that doctor’s letterhead) indicating the nature of the illness. A make-up exam must be taken before the next scheduled exam. If these conditions are not met, a zero will be recorded as the student’s grade for the missed exam.
Technical Writing Assignments (20%)

The “Writing Assignment Packet” contains instructions and a reading that will be used for two short assignments. Each assignment due date is listed on the schedule. Our goal is to provide an introduction to abstract writing; concise analysis; and reporting that is more typical in non-academic settings.

Tech writing assignment 1: Abstract writing – Due Sept. 14 in class for peer editing.
Tech writing assignment 2: Critique and Prescription – Due Oct 19 in class for peer editing.

Essays (20%) – THERE ARE TWO
Paper format: 2 – 3 pages; 12 point Times font; 1 inch margins (all sides); double spaced.

1. Short Essay #1 (Due Sept 28 at start of class)
   - Students will write in response to the following questions.

   - Do you view the world as a “realist,” “pluralist/liberal,” or a “world systems” thinker? Does this impression of the world line up with the way you think the world “should” be?

   - Papers will be organized as formal essays – introductory paragraph with a thesis or thoughtful question, at least three supporting paragraphs, and conclusion. Minimum of 2 pages in length, maximum 3 pages. Students must support their argument by citing, refuting, or refining a position offered by a reading and/or class lecture and discussion. Papers must provide at least one specific citation and/or quote from a course reading. The focus is on the student illustrating critical thinking in progress.

2. Short Essay #2 (Due Nov 30 at start of class)
   - The second paper responds to one of the broad questions posed below. These papers will be structured in the same manner (although 2-3 pages in length) as the first short essay and must draw on themes and topics discussed in class and course readings.

   a. Do you side with Huntington, Fukuyama, Haass, or none of the above?
   b. What is the place of faith in global affairs?
   c. What is the relationship between justice and power in global affairs?
   d. Are you a Melian or an Athenian and why?
   e. How might the issues that you think are central to global affairs parallel or differ from people elsewhere in the world?
   f. How should the human family manage sustainability along with its need to develop?
   g. Ultimately, what should drive the decision-making process of America’s leaders? (such as ideology, morality, religion, self-interest, collective interest, “fairness”, etc)

NOTE: There may be one or more unannounced “pop quizzes” based on both the course readings and current foreign policy events in the media. These will count for a total of 10% of the grade, and Term Paper and Final Exam percentages will be adjusted accordingly.

Late Papers: Computer crashes, returned emails, and other technology gremlins:

A late paper, due to technology glitches, will still be considered late. Therefore, please consider the following standard recommendations.

Periodically back up your work on an external drive device, floppy disc, or CD. If you do not have CD burnable capabilities and/or a disc drive, then email yourself copies of the paper periodically. Point being, make sure your paper exists somewhere in addition to on your hard drive.
Do not email your papers as a means to meet the deadline. Hard copies must be submitted on the day due.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a representation of another person's work as your own (for example, directly quoting from another source without using quotation marks). See the University of St. Thomas' Regulation on “Scholastic Dishonesty” for discussion and range of available penalties. Plagiarism will be punished to the maximum extent possible. If a student is found to have committed an act of scholastic dishonesty, I will recommend the most severe penalty.

OTHER MATTERS

ADA Statement
Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with me as early as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crocker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953. Additionally, you will need to register with the Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crocker Center.

NEWS ON THE WEB

General Sources
CNN World  www.cnn.com/world/
BBC  www.bbc.com
The Economist  www.economist.com
Financial Times  www.ft.com
New York Times  www.nyt.com
Washington Post  www.washingtonpost.com

Asia
Far Eastern Economic Review  www.feer.com
Asia Times  www.atimes.com
Japan Times  www.japantimes.co.jp
South China Morning Post (out of Hong Kong)  www.scmp.com
Taipei Times  www.taipeitimes.com

Europe
EuropaWorld  www.europaworld.org
The Economist  www.economist.com
European Voice  www.european-voice.com
The Times  www.thetimes.co.uk
International Herald Tribune  www.iht.com

Americas
New York Times  www.nyt.com
Buenos Aires Herald  www.buenosairesherald.com
The Economist  www.economist.com
Yale news sources for Latin America  www.library.yale.edu/Internet/latinamericanews.html

Africa
All Africa (links)  http://allafrica.com/
Kidon Links to African Papers  www.kidon.com/media-link/africa.php
World Papers.com (links)  www.world-newspapers.com/africa.html
**LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE**

I will try to maintain the following calendar. Any changes to the reading material will be announced in class. The student is responsible for keeping up to speed with the reading material and assignments should be read before the day of a particular class.

**INST 1351 Introduction to International Studies – Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Aug 22 | **Introductions and Syllabus**
Discuss Technical Writing Assignments & Essays (Tech Assignment #1 due on Sept 14 in class) |
| 24    | **The World Around US Powerpoint: Overview of Global Conditions**      |
| 29    | Continue: The World Around US Powerpoint: Overview of Global Conditions |
| 31    | Continue: The World Around US Powerpoint: Overview of Global Conditions |
| Sept 7| **Some Quick History** - View video “Post-War Hopes, Cold War Fears in class”
UST Library Films on Demand |
| 12    | **Some Quick History**: 9/11 Frontline video, “Bush’s War” on PBS.org
http://video.pbs.org/video/1278730554, parts 1-8 in class |
| 14    | **Some Quick History – Review of 20th and 21st Century events**
Discuss Post-War Hopes, Cold War Fears & Bush’s War
Presentation on Using Library resources
Technical/Diplomatic Writing Assignment #1 Due in class. Peer editing exercise. |
| 19    | **Perspectives on Global Affairs: Theory, Images, & International Relations** |
| 21    | Perspectives on Global Affairs: Theory, Images, & Int. Rel. (continued) |
| 26    | Perspectives on Global Affairs: Thucydides |
| 28    | Finish Perspectives **Short Essay #1 Due** |
| Oct 5 | **MID-TERM EXAM** |
| 5     | **International Governmental Organizations**: World Trade Organization |
| 12    | International Governmental Organizations: The World Bank Group |
| 17    | International Governmental Organizations: The International Mon. Fund |
| 19    | Finish IGOs
Technical/Diplomatic Writing Assignment #2 Due in class. Peer editing exercise. |
| 24    | **Development**: “What is ‘development’?” |
| 26    | Development: What Democracy is; Capitalism and Democracy, |
| 31    | Development: What Democracy is; Capitalism and Democracy, |
| Nov 2 | Finish Development: http://library.fundforpeace.org/fsi13-multisector |
| 7     | **Racing to the Future**: The End of History |
| 9     | Racing to the Future: The Clash of Civilizations |
| 14    | View and discuss Clash of Civ video in class |
| 16    | Racing to the Future: The Age of Non-Polarity |
| 21    | Globalization – Begin readings and discussion |
| 23    | **Globalization**: Complexities & Contradictions; Will Globalization Go… |
| 28    | Globalization: The World is Flat; Jihad vs. McWorld |
| 30    | Globalization Wrap-up, Nye Video, & Current Events
**Short Essay 2 Due in class** |
| Dec 5 | Last Day of Class – Review for Final Exam |

Final Exam: TBA