

**Seton Hall University**  
**POLS1711AA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Spring 2015

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45am

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9-9:30am; 1:45-2:45pm (or by appointment)

Class location: SH 208

Office location: Jubilee 518

### Overview

This course is a broad introductory survey of international relations. It is designed to acquaint students with key theories, concepts, historical and contemporary events in international relations. Topics include international peace and security, international political economy, and global economic and social issues such as the environment, human rights, international migration, and poverty. Throughout the course, we will focus on several overarching questions: How do both states and non-state actors shape world politics? To what extent are relations among states in the international system characterized by conflict and rivalry? Why do disagreements sometimes escalate to the point of war? What conditions impede cooperation among states, and what factors foster global cooperation? These are some of the central questions to be explored over the course of the quarter. In so doing, the course has two primary objectives: (1) to critically evaluate dominant conceptions and issues in the international relations literature; and (2) to enable you to think theoretically and critically about international relations.

### Grades

Your evaluative outcome in this class can be very predictable if you abide by the following guidelines: participation; the careful and timely preparation of reading and writing assignments; and regular attendance.

- Attendance and participation (15%). The critical reading of texts and the frank exchange of ideas and opinions sharpens cognitive and intellectual skills as such students are expected to attend all lectures (promptly) and to participate actively in class discussions. At all times, students should respect their classmates' contributions, no matter what their differences. The purpose of these discussions is not to win imaginary debating points, but to learn beyond solitary reading and unexamined listening. No laptop (except on the day of your presentation) or cell phone use is permitted during class sessions.
- Oral Presentation (15%). Each student is required to give one oral presentation during the course of the semester. These presentations will be short (**8-10 minutes**), and will require students to take sides on clashing views in international relations. See attached list for issues. I must approve the topics or I will assign by/on **January 27**. The purpose of the preparation is an opportunity to demonstrate: grasp of the issue and important related points; proper use of supporting empirical evidence; identification of points of agreement and points of disagreement; incorporation of class readings and discussions; and effective organization and delivery of material. Consult, at least once, with the professor to discuss your research project. Also, present a one page outline to Professor and Classmates on day of presentation.
- Midterm (20%). Multiple choice questions and short answer/identification questions taken from readings and/or lectures.
- Final Exam (25%). Definitions, multiple choice questions, and a short essay
- Term Paper (25%). An **8-10 page double spaced essay** is due on the last day of class (**April 30**). Extensions will not be given. The essay must be based on your oral presentation. It must include a clear point of view and incorporate the comments and feedback received from class.

Please contact me well in advance before an assignment is due if you experience problems in meeting a deadline.

### Required Readings

- Karen Mingst, Essentials of International Relations, [Mingst]
- Reading packet (Handout/or Blackboard). All readings marked with asterisks will be available online.
- Daily reading of international news from is required. Standards like Washington Post or New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html> (International Section) are fine, but you should also consider foreign news sources. An excellent source for foreign language news

reports/commentaries translated into English is The World Press Review, available at [www.worldpress.org](http://www.worldpress.org)

## Come to class with readings!

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### Academic integrity

Plagiarism (writing someone else's words as if they were your own) and cheating on your exams will result in an F for the course.

### Course Grade

**A:** 90-100% **B:** 80-89% **C:** 70-79% **D:** 60-69% **F:** (hopefully not necessary)

**Letter +/-** within 3% (e.g. B+ 87-89% A- 90-92%)

### Students with disabilities

If you have a documented disability, you may be eligible for accommodations, in academic classes, the residence halls, food services areas, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act. To receive special accommodations or assistance, please self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 prior to the beginning of the semester. The staff at DSS will help you to develop a plan for accommodations. For more information, contact Linda Walter, Director of DSS, at (973) 313-6003 or visit the DSS web site at <http://studentaffairs.shu.edu/dss>

### Disclaimer:

This "syllabus" is subject to modifications to be announced during the semester.

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Week 1

### Introduction (Getting acquainted)

Mingst, Chapter 1

Week 2

### The Modern Context of IR

Mingst, Chapter 2,

Bruce Cummings, Is America an Imperial Power? Current History, Nov 2003, Vol. 102 Issue 667, p355.\*\*

**\*\*\*\*Deadline to submit/choose Oral Presentation topic\*\*\*\***

Week 3

### Contending paradigms in IR

Mingst, Chapter 3

**\*\*\*\*Start Oral Presentations\*\*\*\* (Feb 3)**

Week 4

### The International System

Mingst, Chapter 4

John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War," The Atlantic Monthly August 1990, pp. 35-50\*\*

Week 5

### The State and Foreign Policy Decision Making

Mingst, Chapter 5

Week 6

### The Individual Actor and Foreign Policy Decision Making

Mingst, Chapter 6

Daniel Gilbert, He Who Cast the First Stone Probably Didn't, New York Times OpEd Contributor, Monday, July 24, 2006\*\*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/24/opinion/24gilbert.html>

Week 7

**International Law and Organization**

Mingst, Chapter 7

Week 8 (March 10-12)

Spring Break

Week 9 (March 17)

**Midterms**

Week 10 (March 19, 24, 26)

**War and Strife**

Mingst, Chapter 8

Week 11 (March 31-April 9)

April 2 – No Class

**Politics of the World Economy**

Mingst, Chapter 9

Week 12 (April 14-16)

**Human Rights**

Mingst, Chapter 10

Week 13

**Globalizing Issues:**

**Environment, Population, and Disease in International Relations**

Mingst Chapter 11

Week 14 (April 28)

**Paradigms of World Politics in a Post Cold War Era**

Samuel Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations, Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993 (Entire debate).\*\*

**Finish Oral Presentations, Wrap up**

**Finals (as scheduled by the university)**

ISSUE	YES	NO
	(agree)	(disagree)
ISSUE 1. Do celebrities have an impact on International Relations?		
ISSUE 2. Will State Sovereignty Survive Globalism?		
ISSUE 3. Should the United States Decrease Its Global Presence?		
ISSUE 4. NGOs do more harm than good in many countries.		
ISSUE 5. Should Iran's Nuclear Program Evoke a Hard-Line Response?		
ISSUE 6. Is Capitalism the Best Model for the Global Economy?		
ISSUE 7. Should the Rich Countries Forgive All the Debt Owed by the Poor Countries?		
ISSUE 8. Is Preemptive War an Unacceptable Doctrine?		
ISSUE 9. Is the War on Terrorism Succeeding?		
ISSUE 10. Has America's ability to influence other countries waned?		
ISSUE 11. Is the United Nations Fundamentally Flawed?		
ISSUE 12. Should the United States Ratify the International Criminal Court Treaty?		
ISSUE 13. Is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Worthy of Support?		
ISSUE 14. Do Environmentalists Overstate Their Case?		
ISSUE 15. Is the pursuit of power dangerous to world peace and security?		
ISSUE 16: Humans are inherently evil		
<b>ISSUE 17: Any topic of your choosing</b>		