Traditionally, International Relations considers patterns of behavior between states, largely issues pertaining to conflict and war. As the 21st Century unfolds, the field has expanded to examine the role of stateless actors determining issues of human development. While war continues to be a concern of the field, others issues regarding sustainability have become paramount. While this course will consider traditional issues of state-to-state relations and the causes of war, it also examines issues of sustainability such as the environment, global warming, globalization, and development issues.

The course examines three main issues. **The first** is international relations theory, e.g. realism, and how this has been used and redefined. We will examine the nature of conflicts that inform our understanding of realism, including the two World Wars, the Cold War, the Gulf War, and Iraq and Afghanistan.

**The Second** is alternatives to realism, including the *End of History*, the *Clash of Civilizations*, Democratic Peace, and neo-conservatism.

**The Third** looks at current issues in international relations that cross state boundaries, include stateless actors and terrorism, plus sustainability, including globalization, environmental degradation, climate change, and the rise of new states, e.g. China, as a potential global power.

These issues overlap, so we will keep them in mind as the course progresses.

**Required Readings**


Additional readings are listed on the syllabus and are available on Blackboard.
Course Requirement

The key to success in this course is to have done all the required reading prior to each class session and to be prepared to participate in class discussions. Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

1. **Assigned presentations** of a current issue in international relations. Material should be taken from the media, especially major newspapers or magazines, e.g. *The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Newsweek,* or *Time.* Presentations should be limited to no longer than 5 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion. **This accounts for 15 percent of your grade.** *It is a wise citizen who keeps up with global issues that will drive government policies, which do impact our lives.*

2. **A take-home midterm** that should incorporate issues covered by class discussions and the assigned readings. *It is a wise student who keeps up with the readings.* Paper length should be 5-8 pages. You will be given several questions from which to choose. **This accounts for 35 percent of your grade.**

3. **A take-home final** that includes a different set of questions geared more toward an evaluation of various theories of international relations. This too will be based on class discussions and assigned readings. *It is a wise student who keeps up with the readings.* It will cover the entire course. Paper length should be 8-10 pages. **This accounts for 50 percent of your grade.**

There is no additional paper required given that you have two take-home exam papers.

Course Schedule

August 25: Introduction

1. Scope of Course
2. The Three Concentrations
3. Levels of Analysis

No assigned readings
Section 1 August 27: Classical Realism


Section 2 September 1: Neorealism


Section 3 September 3: Defensive & Offensive Realism


Section 4 September 8: Realism and the Origins of the First World War


Section 5 September 10: The Second World War


Section 6 September 15: The Origins of the Cold War


Section 7 September 17: The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism

Section 8  September 22: Democratic Peace Theory


Section 9  September 24: Critique of Democratic Peace Theory


Section 10  September 29: The End of the Cold War

4. *Francis Fukuyama: “The End of History,” Foreign Affairs,

Section 11  October 1: Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy


Section 12  October 6: Neoliberal Institutions


Section 13  October 8: Coercive Diplomacy


Section 14  October 13: Coercive Diplomacy and the First Gulf War

To be announced

Thursday, October 15: Midterm Exam Questions Distributed
Section 15  October 15: Terrorism


October 20: FALL BREAK

Section 16  October 22: Decision to Invade Iraq


Monday, October 26 at 23:59 hours: Midterm Exam Due via e-mail.

October 27, 2009  MANDATORY

4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Lecture by James Lindsay, Council on Foreign Relations.
   “Obama’s Foreign Policy.”
   Location to be announced.
Section 17  October 29: The Occupation of Iraq


Section 18  November 3: Afghanistan & Pakistan


Section 19  November 5: The Neoconservatives


Section 20: November 10: Global Issues – International Political Economy


Section 21  November 12: Global Issues – North-South Relations


Section 22  November 17: Global Issues – Globalization

Section 23  November 19: Global Issues – Environmental Degradation


Section 24  November 24: Global Issues – Climate Change

4. Additional reading to be announced.

NOVEMBER 26  HOLIDAY

Section 25: December 1: Global Issues – New Actors in World Politics


Section 26  December 3:  China

2. *Susan Shirk: China: Fragile Superpower, Chapter 1

SUMMATION

DISTRIBUTION OF FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM IS DUE 23:60 HOURS VIA E-MAIL ON DECEMBER 9, 2009.