Traditionally, the study of International Relations considers patterns of behavior between states, largely issues pertaining to or avoiding conflict and war. While war continues to be a concern of the field, 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 sustainability in terms of the environment and global warming, globalization, and development issues. The course also examines the role of state-less actors in as variables in determining international relations.

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 the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

**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, including 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 keep them in mind as the course progresses.
Books to Purchase


Additional readings marked with an asterisk below 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. **Periodic Quizzes – 25 percent of the grade.** *It is a wise student who keeps up with reading assignments.*

2. **A take-home midterm – 25 percent of the grade.** The exam paper (3-5 pages) should incorporate issues covered by class discussions and the assigned readings. *It is a wise student who keeps up with reading assignments.*

3. **A take-home final – 40 percent of the grade.** The exam paper (5-8 pages) should include an evaluation of various theories of international relations regarding an event in international relations (to be determined). *It is a wise student who keeps up with reading assignments.*

4. **Attendance and participation – 10% of the grade.** Please note this carefully. Some students who scored “A” on all work received a B for the course because they did not attend class regularly or did not participate in discussions.

   I do take attendance each class. Undocumented absence is a deduction from your grade. I also note participation. Sitting quietly and saying nothing when questions are posed is an indication you are not prepared. DO NOT BE SHY!
Course Schedule
Tentative, Subject to Change

August 24: Introduction

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

NOTE: A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT WILL HAVE DONE THE ASSIGNED READINGS BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED.

Section 1 August 26: Anarchy & the Struggle for Power


Section 2 August 31: Theories


Section 3 September 2: Neorealism


Section 4 September 7: The Constructivist Critique of Neorealism


Section 5 September 9: Democratic Peace Theory

Section 6  September 16: Balance of Power, Psychology and the Origins of the First World War


Section 7  September 14: Critique of Democratic Peace Theory & the Persistence of Realism


Section 8  September 21: The Second World War


Section 9  September 23: The Origins of the Cold War

Section 10  September 28: The End of the Cold War


Section 11  October 5: Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy


Section 12  October 7: Neoliberal Institutions


Thursday, October 7: Midterm Exam Questions Distributed.

Exam Paper Due Noon, October 15 via e-mail.

Section 13  October 12 & 14: Coercive Diplomacy

Tuesday October 19  Fall Break

Section 14   October 21: Terrorism


Section 15   October 26: Decision to Invade Iraq


Section 16   October 28: The Occupation of Iraq

**Section 17  November 2: Afghanistan & Pakistan**


**Section 18  November 4: The Neoconservatives**


**Section 19: November 9: Global Issues – International Political Economy**


**Section 20  November 11: Global Issues – North-South Relations**

Section 21   November 16: Global Issues – Globalization

1. Thomas Friedman: *The World is Flat*, Chapter 2

Section 22   November 18: Global Issues – Environmental Degradation


Section 23   November 23: Global Issues – Climate Change


NOVEMBER 25   HOLIDAY
Section 24: November 30: Global Issues – New Actors in World Politics


Section 25: December 2: China

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

SUMMATION

DISTRIBUTION OF FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM IS DUE NOON (ET)

VIA E-MAIL ON DECEMBER 10, 2009.