

IR 101 (3): INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS SPRING 2016

Lecturer: Dr. Gonca Biltekin

Office: G157 / FPPR,
(G Building)

Lecture hours: Monday 10.40-12.30 Thursday 09.40- 10.30 (T172)

Debate hours: Thursday 10:40-12:30 (MA301)

Office hours: Monday 14.40-16:30

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Graduate assistant: Mine Nur Küçük
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PLEASE NOTE: Email is the preferred way of communication. Feel free to contact me via email at any time throughout the semester. When e- mailing, please write IR101-3 on the subject line. You can also visit me in the office outside office hours, but please make an appointment by email first.

Course Description

This course introduces students to world politics and central concepts and themes in IR such as power, globalization, nationalism, and ethnic conflict. Its goal is to acquaint students with the analytical, historical, and foundational knowledge needed to study recurrent patterns and current global political controversies and issues. The knowledge acquired in this course will allow students to understand, explain and analyze IR issues in more advanced courses in our curriculum.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand and evaluate diverse perspectives and views regarding international phenomena
- Comprehend central concepts and employ key methods of social inquiry
- Apply the appropriate level of analysis levels to past and present world events

Course Structure

The course combines lectures with debate hours. In order to introduce the basics of world politics, the first two hours of each week will be devoted to lectures. In the lectures, central concepts, perspectives and ideas relating to various topics and issues will be introduced. As lecture hours are limited, the information covered in the textbook chapters cannot be presented word for word. For that reason, regular

attendance, note taking, weekly reading, and studying before coming to the lectures will be to your benefit.

The third hour will involve a preparatory session for the debates. During this hour, we will build on the previous two hours and discuss your questions so as to cover the topic discussed as fully as possible and prepare you for the fourth, debate hour.

In the fourth hour a debate will be held under the guidance of the graduate assistant. The debate topics will be largely based on the “Points of View” sections of some of the chapters covered in the textbook. You will be graded on the basis of your participation. Please find below the debate participation grading system.

Course Policies and Procedures

All information regarding the course will either be announced in class or be sent to your Bilkent e-mail address. Please **check your e-mail regularly**.

In the classroom, you will be expected to act according to the rules of class conduct and of courtesy. Please refrain from disruptive behavior and make sure **your mobile phones are switched off during class time**.

Requests for midterm exam make-ups will be considered only for students with a medical condition. If an emergency arises, student needs to contact me before or immediately after the midterm exam. The opportunity to hold a make-up exam for your midterm will only be reserved for those with a valid letter from a medical professional, approved by Bilkent University health services.

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will in no way be tolerated. For detailed information on these issues please see <http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.htm>

Attendance will be taken at each class. Try to come to class regularly (see also ‘final exam visa’ below).

Final Exam Visa

To qualify for the final exam, students must: a) sit the midterm exam AND b) attend 70% of all lecture hours. Students who fail to satisfy both of these criteria will not be able to sit the final exam or the retake exam, and will obtain an FZ grade for this course.

Course Evaluation

Midterm Exam: 42%

Final Exam: 40%

Debates: 18%

Midterm and Final Exams

Both the midterm and final exam will be based on conceptual analysis and essay questions. When answering the questions, you will be expected to think critically and demonstrate adequate knowledge of the subject matter. I will be happy to provide you with tips on how to structure a good essay.

Debates

During the debates, you will be expected to participate in discussions; that will involve listening to your peers, expressing your views, and presenting arguments regarding the assigned readings. If you cannot attend the debate at a particular week please notify the graduate assistant in advance. There will be no make-up for the debates. Those who present a medical report approved by Bilkent University Health Services will be excused. There will be six debates, each of which will be graded on a scale of 3 points as follows:

3 points – Active participation

2 points- Partial participation

1 point- No participation, but in attendance and listening

Course Reading

Keith L. Shimko, *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings*, 4th Edition, (International Edition), Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013. The textbook is available for purchase at the Meteksan Store on campus.

Course Schedule

Week 1: 28 January 2016
Introduction to the Course

Week 2: 1 February 2016
Chapter 1 - Change and Continuity in International History

Week 3: 8-11 February 2016
Chapter 2 – Contending Perspectives on International Politics
Debate 1 - “Comparing IR theories”

Week 4: 15-18 February 2016
Chapter 3 – Power Politics

Week 5: 22-25 February 2016

Chapter 4 – War and Democracy

Debate 2: “Would democracy bring peace to the Middle East?” pp. 105-110

Week 6: 29 February & 3 March 2016

Chapter 5 – War and “Human Nature”

Week 7: 7-10 March 2016

Chapter 6– Free Trade

Debate 3: “Should free trade be replaced with fair trade?” pp. 156-161.

Week 8: 14-17 March 2016 **(No class This Week)**

Week 9: 21-24 March 2016 **(No class on Monday. We’ll use the spare hour on Thursday)**

Chapter 7 - The IMF, Global Inequality, and Development

Midterm Examination on Friday, 25 March (can be subject to change)

Week 10: 28-31 March

Chapter 8 - Globalization and Sovereignty

Week 11: 4-7 April

Chapter 9 – International Law

Debate 4: “Should the United States accept the International Criminal Court?” (pp. 234-239)

Week 12: 11-14 April

Chapter 10 – The United Nations and Humanitarian Intervention

Debate 5: “Humanitarian Intervention in Libya?” (pp. 262-267)

Week 13: 18-21 April

Chapter 11 – Nuclear Proliferation

Week 14: 25-28 April

Chapter 12- International Terrorism

Debate 6: “Did September 11 Reflect a Clash of Civilizations?” (pp. 319-322)

Week 15: May 2

Final exam review.