

**INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(PSC 3030-003)**

**Department of Political Science
Metropolitan State College Denver Co.**

Spring 2010

Dr. Tahira S. Khan

Class Time: Mon, Wed 2:30-3:45pm

Office Hours: Tue, Thu 12:00-2:30pm (or by appointment)

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Course Description

*“Teacher, if he or she is indeed wise, does not teach you to enter the house of wisdom but leads you to the threshold of your own mind.”
(Khalil Gibran: poet, painter and thinker)*

Course Description

This course focuses on the major theories, issues and challenges in international relations from the World War 1 (1914-1919) to the beginning of the 21st century. Students will be introduced to various issues and challenges, which have emerged in international relations such as *wars (international/civil), ethnic conflicts, religious violence, economic crisis and environmental threats* etc. These issues and challenges will be examined through various theoretical approaches such as *realist, liberal, Marxist, feminist and environmentalist*. It is expected that by the end of the course students will be able to (a) understand various theoretical approaches to study IR; (b) become familiar with the deep connections between national politics and international relations; (c) theoretically analyze current wars and conflicts as well as cooperation.

Course Requirements

- Class attendance, participation and one presentation
- Completion of weekly reading assignments
- One Mid-term exam (in-class)
- Final Research Paper

Grading and Evaluation

- Attendance and participation: 10%
- Presentation: 20%
- Mid-term exam: 30%
- Final Research Paper: 40%

Presentation and participation format

Students are expected to read all the assigned readings before coming to class and participate in the discussion related to the weekly topics. General class participation can be in the form of *questions, comments and concerns*. (You can enhance your knowledge about current international relations events/occurrences by reading internet versions of some international newspapers. i.e. New York Times, Guardian, Dawn, The Hindu etc.) Besides, every week, one student will be asked to make a short presentation based on the required weekly readings and lead discussion for at least 20 minutes. Class discussion will be based on two or more questions, which should be sent to me one day before this class. Please bring copies of the main points and synthesis of the readings and questions for everyone on the day of your presentation. One presentation and regular participation by each student throughout the course will account for 30% of the final grade.

Text books

Karen A. Mingst, *Essentials of International Relations* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company) 2008

Scott Burchill *et al*, *Theories of International Relations* (New York: Palgrave) 2005

Newspaper sources

I strongly recommend that you read one or more newspapers or weekly magazines before coming to the class. Below are some internet links of some newspaper.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

<http://www.jerusalem.com>

<http://www.economist.com>

<http://www.aljazeera.com>

<http://www.hindu.com>

<http://www.dawn.com>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Important Notes

- *Course syllabus* contains all the information which you require throughout the semester. Please consider this document as your semester guide. If you have any question or need any information, read the syllabus and then contact me. Do not waste your time by asking questions such as, where is my office? What are my office hours or email address?
- *Class attendance* is mandatory and I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. More than 10 minutes late arrival will mark absence. More than 3 unexcused absence will take your attendance grade down.
- *Class participation* grade will be determined on the basis of your questions and comments related to the topic of the day. You are free to express your political views but in respectful and unbiased manner.

(Frequent absences and lack of participation throughout the semester will affect your overall grade. Every student is not expected to participate in every. The instructor do reserve the right to ask questions/comments related to assigned readings randomly.)

- *Make-up exams* are not allowed in this class. In the case of illness/emergency, the student has to provide some kind of proof and communicate with the instructor in her office. Exam should be taken within one week after the missed date.
- *Communication with Instructor* can be done by email. I do check my email multiple times a day. Please do check your Metro email daily as I will be communicating with the class if any change in readings or class schedule is made.
- *Office Hours* time can be utilized to discuss or share your academic problems or personal limitation for this course. If you cannot come to me during the office hours, please make an appointment by email. You will be given the first available time.
- *Final grade* calculation will be done by letter grade. The standard formulation of the letter grade is; A (90% and above) B (80 to 89%) C (70 to 79%) D (60 to 69%) and below 60% is an F.

No cell phones, ipods, or laptops in this class please!!!!

Weekly Reading Assignments

Week one

January 22

Introduction

Week two

January 25

Why and how to study IR?

Mingst Ch. 1

January 27

How did we get to this world and world system?

Mingst Ch. 2

Week three

February 1

How do we think/understand IR conceptually and theoretically?

Mingst Ch. 3

February 3

Why do we use theories in IR?

Burchill etal Ch. 1

Week four

February 8

Theories of Realism

Burchill etal Ch. 2

February 10

Theories of Liberalism in IR
Burchill etal Ch. 3

Week five**February 15**

Theories of Marxism
Burchill etal Ch. 5

February 17

Critical theory
Burchill etal Ch.65

Week six**February 22**

Constructivist theories
Burchill Ch. 8

February 24

Feminist theories of IR
Burchill etal Ch. 9

Week seven**March 1**

Environmentalism and green politics in IR
Burchill etal Ch. 10

March 3

How and why do we use Levels of Analysis: World System Level
Mingst Ch. 4

Week eight**March 8**

Level of institution: The State
Mingst Ch. 5

March 10

Level of individuals: Leaders and policy makers
Mingst Ch. 6

Week nine**March 15**

Revision of topics

March 17

Mid terms exam!!!!

Spring Break !!! March 22-26

Week ten**March 29**

Non-state actors in IR
 NGOs, Corporations, Religious organizations

March 31

Wars and conflicts
 Mingst Ch. 8

Week eleven**April 5**

Wars and conflicts: Case studies
 USSR and Afghanistan war (1979-1988): When local becomes international....

April 7

Gulf War 1991

Week twelve**April 12**

War on terror: Post 9/11 Afghan war

April 14

War on terror: Post 9/11 war in Iraq

Week thirteen**April 19**

Recent conflicts: War in Gaza

April 21

Issues and challenges in global politics: Economic and energy crisis
 Mingst Ch. 9

Week fourteen**April 26**

Issues and challenges in global politics: Poverty, health and disease
 Mingst Ch. 10

April 28

Issues and challenges in global politics: Environment and human rights
 Mingst Ch. 10

Week fifteen**May 3**

The impact of globalization
 Mingst Ch. 10

May 5

Future of globalization?

Revision !!!! FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE: MAY 10, 2010

