

IR 210, Spring 2009

International Relations: Introductory Analysis

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Hours: Wed 10:30 am-12 pm
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A NOTE on OFFICE HOURS: Because unexpected meetings and assorted similar events pop up all the time, office hours must inevitably be flexible (that is to say, I have to cancel them from time to time). If I can't be there as scheduled, I'll always let you know as far in advance as possible, and will of course try to arrange alternative times for meetings. It's always a good idea, in any case, for you to *schedule an appointment* with me in advance, since my volume of visitors is high. You're perfectly welcome to stop by during office hours without making an appointment if you'd like, just in case no one happens to be visiting at that time. But you'll be doing yourself a favor if you make an appointment first.

Goals and Requirements of IR 210

This course has three main objectives: (1) to review international history intensively—that is, world history as understood through the lens(es) of international relations; (2) to introduce the core analytical concepts and vocabulary of International Relations (IR) the discipline; and (3) to use some of the IR concepts and vocabulary—along with the main ideas propounded by Buzan and Little in their innovative history—to analyze certain fundamental issues currently vexing world leaders. We will take up this third task together as a class during the last month of the term. It will also be the approach you'll be asked to take in writing the paper at the end: analyze a *particular* global issue that we haven't already discussed in detail from three contrasting theoretical perspectives. (More details on the paper will be forthcoming.)

IR 210 will make use of two brilliant textbooks this term: Barry Buzan and Richard Little's *International Systems in World History* (2000), and John Baylis and Steve Smith's edited volume, *The Globalization of World Politics* (2008). Both are unusually important books but differ significantly in their content and purpose, as you will soon discover. The bottom line is that once you have mastered Baylis and Smith in the context of Buzan and Little, you will have a substantially more sophisticated understanding of international relations than you've ever had before and will be ready to excel in the higher-level IR courses. On the practical level, your reading of the *New York Times* and general consumption of "the news" will become significantly more nuanced and thoughtful. Cobwebs that you didn't even know were there before will suddenly be cleared away; light bulbs will go off throughout your head; and you'll be amazed at what you didn't know before about the way the world works (or doesn't).

All of this presumes, of course, that you will study—that you'll read the books, attend the lectures and discussion sections (participating actively), prepare for, and do well on, the exams, and write an excellent short paper. Here is how we will add these components together to calculate your final course grade:

Participation— <i>especially in discussion sections</i> :	15 percent
Midterm examlet #1 (in-class on Tuesday, February 17th):	20 percent
Midterm examlet #2 (in class on Tuesday, March 31st):	20 percent
10-page analytical paper (due Tuesday, May 5th, by 2 pm):	20 percent
Final exam (in class on Tuesday, May 12th, from 11 am to 1 pm):	25 percent

EXTRA CREDIT: There are three (and only three) ways to receive extra credit in IR 210: (1) participate in TIRP (or the TIRP-related High School Leadership Conference); (2) participate in the JEP Peace Games; or (3) attend three pre-approved public talks sponsored by on-campus units, after each of which you would write up a 1-2 paged summary and analysis. Choosing any of these options will—assuming you do a reasonably good job—result in the participation component of your final course grade being raised by one notch (for example, from a B+ to an A-). But you can only pursue one option for extra credit; your main energies should be focused on mastering the materials in the readings and lectures and participating enthusiastically in discussions.

Discussion sections will be led by three outstanding teaching assistants (TAs) who are currently advanced students in the Politics and International Relations Ph.D. Program:

- A
- B
- C

These TAs, you can rest assured, know a LOT about IR; and the discussion sections they will lead are important. How well you do in them will directly count 15 percent toward your final course grade. Indirectly, if you don't attend your sections or attend but without having prepared the readings, your exam performance will suffer and your paper will end up poorly conceived. The TAs are there to help you succeed. Listen to them and you will be happy you did.

The TAs are also primarily responsible for all IR 210 administrative matters, so please go to them first when issues of this nature arise. Please don't come to me first for these kinds of issues—the class is too large; my volume of email is already insanely high! Come to me during office hours to discuss substantive matters related to the material—that I enjoy. But for administrative problems—even dissatisfaction with an exam grade—please go to your TA first for a full explanation before coming to me. TAs almost always have a very good reason for assigning the grades they do; make sure you understand their rationale before taking it up to the next level. Over the years, I have found it to be extremely rare that a TA would fundamentally misgrade an exam. When they do make minor mistakes, they almost always readily admit them and adjust the grade(s) accordingly. They want you to learn; they're not aiming to cause you any trouble—at least, not any more than you deserve! ;-)

POLICY ON RECOMMENDATION LETTERS: I will consider—and usually quite happily consent to—writing letters of recommendation for any student who (a) completes two of my courses, and (b) earns an A- or better in both courses. I'll even do it for someone who gets a B+ in the first course and an A- or higher in the second one; I like seeing improvement. But I can't and won't write letters for students who only take one of my courses, simply because I need to know the person reasonably well before putting my reputation on the line in a letter.

CHECKING EMAIL, FACEBOOK, THE NEWS, WHATEVER, IN CLASS: This is really annoying, as you will eventually discover when you get into an upper-division class or job situation and have to give presentations. When students start surfing the Internet or sending text messages in my classes, I can usually tell, and I am always tempted to pull out my laptop and start checking my own email right in the middle of the lecture, suddenly not paying any attention to you. But it's not just a matter of me being annoyed. Other students around you may become distracted if you start chuckling or gasping about something you're reading or watching online. So just don't do it, please. The TAs will be watching you from the back of the room, and if they have to issue more than one request that you stop, we will reduce the participation component of your final course grade by one notch for each additional warning.

On the other hand, perhaps surprisingly, I hardly ever get angry when cell phones go off in class! I would probably get angry if you were to *answer* your cell phone while I'm lecturing. But I don't get angry if phones go off by mistake. The reason is simple: I sometimes forget to turn my phone off before class, too. And sometimes it rings. But I don't answer it, of course.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: I have no choice but to fail you automatically in the course if you're caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing on the final paper. This is the specified penalty in SCampus, whose relevant section you can review on-line at <http://www.usc.edu/scampus>. It's a good rule, because it keeps the playing field level for everyone else—the vast majority of people who would never cheat or plagiarize and would naturally resent others doing it and getting away with it.

USC Statement on Disabilities: Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to your TA (rather than me) as early as possible. DSP is in STU 301; the phone number is 213-740-0776.

Books Ordered and Placed on Library Reserve

Baylis, John and Steve Smith. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 4th edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. **(Bookstore/Leavey Reserves)**

Buzan, Barry and Richard Little. *International Systems in World History: Remaking the Study of International Relations*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. **(Bookstore/Leavey Reserves)**

Course Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: All assigned readings should be completed *prior* to the corresponding lecture; otherwise, the lecture could be hard to follow. The readings are also primarily what you'll be discussing with your TA, so not preparing them would be R-I-S-K-Y !!!

13 January (T): Introduction (1)

- a. No readings scheduled, except for the syllabus.

15 January (Th): Core Concepts for Understanding the International in History (2)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "The Theoretical Toolkit of This Book" and "Establishing Criteria for International Systems," pp. 68-110.

20 January (T): Pre-International World History (3)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "The Origins of Pre-International Systems" and "The Transition from Pre-International to International Systems," pp. 111-162.

22 January (Th): The Ancient and Classical World I (4)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "The New Units" and "Interaction Capacity in Ancient and Classical International Systems," pp. 163-215.

27 January (T): The Ancient and Classic World II (5)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "Process in Ancient and Classical International Systems" and "Structure in Ancient and Classical International Systems," pp. 216-240.

29 January (Th): A Global International System I (6)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "Units in the Modern International System" and "Interaction Capacity in the Modern International System," pp. 241-299.

3 February (T): A Global International System II (7)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "Process in the Modern International System" and "Structure in the Modern International System," pp. 300-345.

5 February (Th): Key Ideas and Events that Have Shaped the Present (8)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "The Evolution of International Society" (David Armstrong), pp. 36-53.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "International History, 1900-1990" (Len Scott), pp. 54-69.

10 February (T): Nationalism and the Modern State (9)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Nationalism" (John Breuilly), pp. 402-417.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Culture in World Affairs" (Simon Murden), pp. 418-433.

12 February (Th): Dominant Discourses and Processes of the '90s and '00s (10)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "From the Cold War to the War on Terror" (Michael Cox), pp. 70-89.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Terrorism and Globalization" (James Kiras), pp. 370-385.

17 February (T): Midterm Examlet #1
PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS!

19 February (Th): Realism (11)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Realism" (Tim Dunne and Brian Schmidt), pp. 90-107.

24 February (T): Liberalism (12)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Liberalism" (Tim Dunne), pp. 108-123.

26 February (Th): Neo-Realism, Neo-Liberalism, and (Mainstream) IPE (13)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism" (Steven Lamy), pp. 124-141.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "International Political Economy in an Age of Globalization" (Ngaire Woods), pp. 242-261.

3 March (T): Marxism and Critical Theory (14)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Marxist Theories of International Relations" (Stephen Hobden and Richard Wyn Jones), pp. 142-159.

5 March (Th): Social Constructivism (15)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Social Constructivism" (Michael Barnett), pp. 160-173.

10 March (T): Feminist IR, Postmodernism, and Other Alternative Approaches (16)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Alternative Approaches to International Theory" (Steve Smith and Patricia Owens), pp. 174-191.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Gender in World Politics" (J. Ann Tickner), pp. 262-277.

12 March (Th): The English School (17)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapter on "Systems, History, Theory, and the Study of International Relations," pp. 17-34.
- b. Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*, 2nd edition, with a new foreword by Stanley Hoffman (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), pp. 8-26; 38-50; 62-71; and 272-285. **(Blackboard)**

~~~~~ **SPRING BREAK** ~~~~~

24 March (T): The Political Dimensions of Globalization (18)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Globalization and Global Politics" (Anthony McGrew), pp. 14-35.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Globalization and the Post-Cold War Order" (Ian Clark), pp. 560-576.

26 March (Th): The Economic, Cultural, and Ethical Dimensions of Globalization (19)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Global Trade and Finance" (Jan Aart Scholte), pp. 450-467.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "International Ethics" (Richard Shapcott), pp. 192-209.

**31 March (T): Midterm Examlet #2**  
***PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS!***

2 April (Th): Differing Definitions of "Security" (20)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "International and Global Security" (John Baylis), pp. 226-241.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Human Security" (Amitav Acharya), pp. 490-505.

7 April (T): Current Challenges in the Realm of Military Security (21)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "The Changing Character of War" (Mike Sheehan), pp. 210-225.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Nuclear Proliferation" (Darryl Howlett), pp. 386-401.

9 April (Th): Security, Law, and Regimes (22)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "International Law" (Christian Reus-Smit), pp. 278-295.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "International Regimes" (Richard Little), pp. 296-311.

14 April (T): Environmental Scarcities and Violent Social Conflict (23)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Environmental Issues" (John Vogler), pp. 350-369.

16 April (Th): The "Ingenuity Gap" and Persistent Poverty (24)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Poverty, Development, and Hunger" (Caroline Thomas), pp. 468-489.

21 April (T): Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention (25)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Human Rights" (Chris Brown), pp. 506-521.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics" (Nicholas Wheeler and Alex Bellamy), pp. 522-541.

23 April (Th): International Organizations and Global Civil Society (26)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "The United Nations" (Paul Taylor and Devon Curtis), pp. 312-329.
- b. Baylis and Smith, "Transnational Actors and International Organizations in Global Politics" (Peter Willetts), pp. 330-349.

28 April (T): Speculations, Assessments, and Reflections (27)

- a. Buzan and Little, chapters on "Outlook: A Postmodern International System," "What World History Tells Us about International Relations Theory," "What International Relations Theory Tells Us about World History," and "Reflections," pp. 347-415.

30 April (Th): The Global Future (28)

- a. Baylis and Smith, "Globalization and the Transformation of Political Community" (Andrew Linklater), pp. 542-560.
- b. Nick Bostrom, "Existential Risks: Analyzing Human Extinction Scenarios and Related Hazards," *Journal of Evolution and Technology* 9 (March 2002), pp. 1-28. **(Blackboard)**

5 May (T): 10-page paper due (by 2 pm)

12 May (Th): FINAL EXAM (11 am-1 pm)  
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS!**