International Relations 381: Introduction to International Security

Spring 2010 Syllabus (version of 1/7/11)
Course time: Tues-Thurs 3:30-4:50
Place: SOS B44
Professor: Jacques E. C. Hymans (hymans@usc.edu)
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3 PM, and by appointment.

Course description: This course introduces students to the enduring patterns in international security affairs as well as new elements that have arisen as a consequence of technological and cultural change. The course has two principal pedagogical goals. The first goal is to familiarize students with the basics of modern international history. The second goal is to familiarize students with key concepts that scholars working in the field of security studies use to interpret historical and current international events. The course emphasizes not only the “passive learning” that can take place by reading and attending lectures, but also the “active learning” that comes from preparing oral presentations and response memos.

Assignments and grading:
(a) Final exam (25%)
(b) Hour exam (15%) 
(b) Take-home mid-term essay (16%)
(c) 6 1-page memos on “memo readings” (each worth 2%; total: 12%). N.B. Write up as many as you like and I will count the top 4 scores.
(d) 4 in-class map quizzes (each worth 2%; total: 8%)
(e) 2 oral reports (each worth 7%, total:14%)
(f) In-class participation (10%)

Notes on the assignments:
- There are no firm prerequisites for this course, although students who have already taken IR 210 may find that they have a leg up on those who have not.
- The final exam will consist of one long essay question. You will get the question in advance. The goal is to give you an opportunity to summarize your global point of view on international relations theory and history.
- The hour exam will be a set of ID’s mainly drawn from the Kissinger reading.
- The midterm essay will involve writing a short play involving some of the major characters from the first half of the course. The midterm paper should be no fewer than 8 and no more than 9 pages (8 ½ x 11 paper, Times New Roman 12 Point Font, 1 inch margins on all sides, double spaced). Specific advice on the form and substance of the essay will be given in class. The essays are due, in hard copy only, at the start of class. Up until 11:59 PM the night before the midterm is due, students may can signal via an email that they are availing themselves of an “automatic extension” on the paper until the start of the subsequent class. No further extensions will be granted. Late papers will be
graded down one full letter grade (e.g., from B+ to C+) for every 24 hours they are late.

- Your 1-page “memos” will cover the “memo” readings as well as the required readings. These will be due in hard copy (no electronic submissions) at the start of the class for which the memo reading is listed. You choose which days to turn in a memo, but start doing the memos early as the feedback will be important for your development and studying throughout the semester. The memos must be **no longer than a single page, no smaller than 12 point font, 1-inch margins.** Their organization should be as follows, in this order (number your answers): (1) **What is the definition the author offers for today’s “key concept”?** [Note: Sometimes the definition is left implicit and you have to make it explicit.] (2) **How can this concept help to explain the historical case that we are also reading about for today?** (3) **How does it fall short in that explanation?**

- The map quizzes will involve filling in a blank map with correct information. All information required for the map quizzes will be handed out in the class prior to the quiz day. Map quizzes will also be corrected in class.

- The oral reports will be carefully timed 3 minute powerpoint presentations. In your first report, you explain the **previous** class day’s “key concept” in your own words, based on a close reading of the previous day’s memo reading and close listening to the previous lecture. In your second report, you apply the **previous** class day’s “key concept” (a different one from the one you covered in the 1st report) to an international security issue currently in the news. Use the **New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, Economist,** or other major print news outlets as your principal sources of information. The structure of the presentations should be the following: (1) **What is the key concept and its definition?** (2) **What is the historical event? What are the principal actors involved and what are the stakes?** (3) **How can we apply the concept to better understand this event?**

- I use a 15 point scale to grade assignments. 15 is equivalent to an A, 14 is equivalent to an A-, 13 is an A-/B+, 12 is a B+, 11 is a B, 10 is a B-, 9 is a B-/C+, and so on.

**Basic required texts (purchase at the campus bookstore):**

**Henry Kissinger, Diplomacy** (Simon and Schuster, 1994).

**Jonathan Kirshner, ed., Globalization and National Security** (Routledge, 2006). Note that this book will be coming to the bookstore later in the semester.

The other readings are available online either through USC libraries e-journals or at the indicated website.

**Class Meeting Topics and Reading Assignments:**

Class meeting 1 (1/11). Introduction to the course.
Readings: no readings.

1/12 SPECIAL EVENT: LECTURE ON TERRORISM BY PROFESSOR JOHN MUELLER OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. (1230-2 PM in SOS B-40). Professor
Mueller is a well-known political scientist who has even been interviewed by Jon Stewart on the “Daily Show”! Come and do a response memo for extra credit!

Class meeting 2 (1/13):
Key concept: Levels of Analysis and Causal Approaches..
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 1 (pp. 17-28).
No memo reading.

Class meeting 3 (1/18):
Historical case: From the Roman Empire to the Thirty Years’ War.
Key concept: The modern states system.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 3 (pp. 56-77).

Class meeting 4 (1/20):
Historical case: War and peace in the European states system, 1648-1854.
Key concept: International regimes.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 4 (pp. 78-102).

Class meeting 5 (1/25).
Historical case: The rise of Prussia/Germany, 1848-1871.
Key concept: Nationalism.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 5 (pp. 103-136).

Class meeting 6 (1/27).
Historical case: The scramble for Africa.
Key concept: Imperialism.
No memo reading: AFRICA MAP QUIZ (#1) TODAY.

Class meeting 7 (2/1):
Historical case: The long fuse to World War I.
Key concept: Multipolarity.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 7 (pp. 168-200).

Class meeting 8 (2/3):
Historical case: The triggering of World War I.
Key concept: Decisionmaking under stress.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 8 (pp. 201-217).

Class meeting 9 (2/8):
Historical case: The expansion of the United States.
Key concept: Focal points and cognitive frames.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 2 (pp. 29-55).
No memo reading: WWI MAP QUIZ (#2) TODAY.

Class meeting 10 (2/10):
Historical case: The Versailles Conference.
Key concept: Liberalism.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 9 (pp. 218-245).

Class meeting 11 (2/15):
Historical case: The resurgence of Germany.
Key concept: Honor.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapters 11 and 12 (pp. 266-318).

Class meeting 12 (2/17):
Historical case: The birth of the Soviet Union; World War II in Europe.
Key concept: Communism.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 13 (pp. 332-349).

Class meeting 13 (2/22):
Historical case: Japanese aggression and World War II in Asia.
Key concept: Strategic culture.

Class meeting 14 (2/24):
Mid-term essays are due at the start of class today.
Historical case: Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Key concept: Revolutions in military affairs.

Class meeting 15 (3/1):
Historical case: The onset of the Cold War.
Key concept: Balance of threat.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 17 (pp. 423-445).

Class meeting 16 (3/3):
Historical case: Decolonization.
Key concept: Soft power and vulnerability.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 21 (pp. 522-549).
Memo reading: Jacques E. C. Hymans, “India’s Soft Power and Vulnerability,” *India Review* Vol. 8, No. 3 (Aug. 2009). This article will be made available on Blackboard.

Class meeting 17 (3/8):
IN-CLASS PRESENTATION OF BEST MIDTERM PLAYS.

Class meeting 18 (3/10):
Historical case: Cold War relations inside the East.
Key concept: Hierarchy.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 22 (pp. 650-657)

SPRING BREAK

Class meeting 19 (3/22):
Key concept: Public goods.
Historical case: Cold War relations inside the West.
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 24 (pp. 694-619).

Class meeting 20 (3/24):
Historical case: Vietnam.
Key concept: Insurgency and counterinsurgency.
Required reading: Kissinger, Ch. 25-26 (pp. 620-673).

Class meeting 21 (3/29):
Historical case: The end of the Cold War.
Key concept: Status Quo and Revisionist Powers
Required reading: Kissinger, Chapter 30 (pp. 762-803).

THURSDAY 3/31 CLASS CANCELED.

Class meeting 22 (4/5):
Key concept: Globalization
No memo reading: MAP QUIZ #3 TODAY: rich and poor countries.

Class meeting 23 (4/7):
**HOUR EXAM ON KISSINGER BOOK.** (Grader will proctor the exam.)

Class meeting 24 (4/12).
Historical case: US security choices after the Cold War
Key concept: Marketization

Class meeting 25 (4/14):
Historical case: European security choices after the Cold War
Key concept: “The European “Union”

Class meeting 26 (4/19):
Historical case: Chinese security choices after the Cold War
Key concept: The “rise” of China
Game? (New York: Palgrave MacMillan 2009). I will provide access to this article on Blackboard.

Class meeting 27 (4/21):
Historical case: Identity and conflict after the Cold War.
Key concept: The “clash of civilizations.”
No memo reading: MAP QUIZ #4 TODAY: Huntington’s map of world civilizations.

TUESDAY 4/26: CLASS CANCELED.

Class meeting 28 (4/28): Course wrap-up and prep for final.
No memo reading today.