Syllabus — Fall 2014
Radford University

INST 101: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Tuesday and Thursday; 9:30 am - 10:45 am (Section 1)
Tuesday and Thursday; 11:00 am - 12:15 pm (Section 5)
Classroom: 104 Whitt Hall (WH 104) for both sections

Instructor: Tay Keong Tan, Ph.D.
Office: 243 Russell Hall, Phone: (540) 831-5746
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Email: ttan2@radford.edu; taykeong@gmail.com

Course Description

This is a foundation course in International Studies at Radford University. It is designed to offer participants the basic knowledge and core skills necessary to analyze and appreciate the global experience from a multidisciplinary perspective. The course will introduce students to the major issues in world affairs through a range of topics, such as poverty and population, climate change and the environment, armed conflicts and terrorism, international law and organizations, transnational crime and disease, global aid and development, and human rights. Engaged in a broad sweep of the complex and changing subject matter, participants will acquire a better understanding of the forces and events that shape the world we live in.

During the semester, the course will actively engage students in critical thinking, thoughtful expression, creative inquiry, and collaborative learning. Participants will enhance their appreciation of cultural differences and respect for diversity inherent in the global experience. Through a series of lectures, discussions, case studies, in-class exercises, and assignments, the course will present foundational knowledge, theoretical literature and empirical issues in the field of international studies. Through the learning experiences offered, it is hoped that participants will be inspired to play a role as active and responsible world citizens.
Course Requirements

This course will emphasize learning through independent study and active class participation. Weekly readings are moderate in volume and degree of difficulty, but diligent preparation is required for class meetings and assignments. The curriculum typically requires students to set aside 3 to 6 hours each week for class preparation and assignments.

Assignments are designed to help students acquire and practice the competencies of critical thinking, analyzing and synthesizing diverse perspectives, research, applying conceptual tools to global events, clear and accurate writing, and persuasive expression. Attendance of all class sessions is important.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will acquire the foundational knowledge in the field of International Studies.
2. They will be able to apply some basic concepts, theories and tools to global phenomena.
3. Students will learn to use select multi-disciplinary perspectives to analyze world events.

Main Textbook


Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester - see course schedule below.
Course Schedule

Note: This schedule may be subject to change pending availability of guest speakers or films, extension of class discussions, and other unforeseeable events.

Week 0 — Introduction and Course Administration

8/26, Tuesday: introduction and icebreaker; course content, schedule and policies, and a discussion of the discipline of international studies and the subject matter.

Homework: read *Introduction to International Studies*, chapter 1 (Core Concepts and Historical Contexts)

8/28, Thursday: discuss chapter 1, overview of the global village

Skills Segment: Note-taking strategies and class preparation

Homework: study groups to discuss GROUP ASSIGNMENT 1 on population policies

Week 1 — Core Concepts and Historical Contexts

9/2, Tuesday: discuss chapter 1

Homework: finish chapter 1; review of international news sources

9/4, Thursday: finish chapter 1

Skills Segment: *multi-disciplinary* analyses of global news reports

Homework: read chapter 2 (Population and Environment)

Week 2 — Population and Environment

9/9, Tuesday: discuss chapter 2

Homework: finish chapter 2; finish GROUP ASSIGNMENT 1

9/11, Thursday: GROUP ASSIGNMENT 1: presentations and discussion on population policies

Skills Segment: strategies and styles in presentations

Homework: read chapter 3 (Comparative Culture)

Week 3 — Comparative Culture

9/16, Tuesday: discuss chapter 3, video clip on world cultures

Homework: finish chapter 3; prepare for QUIZ 1 on chapters 1, 2 and 3

9/18, Thursday: QUIZ 1 (chapters 1, 2 and 3)

Homework: read chapter 4 (Foreign Policy and International Politics)
Week 4 – Foreign Policy and International Politics

9/23, Tuesday: discuss chapter 4
   Homework: finish chapter 4

9/25, Thursday: discuss chapter 4;
   Skills Segment: the discipline of writing essays and research papers
   Homework: read chapter 5 (International Law and Organization)

Week 5 – International Law and Organization

9/30, Tuesday: discuss chapter 5
   Homework: finish chapter 5; review of global online databases.

10/2, Thursday: lecture and discussion on the United Nations; confidential and interactive mid-term feedback on the course
   Skills Segment: literature and databases in international studies
   Homework: read chapter 6 (International Trade and Business); prepare for EXAM 1

Week 6 – International Trade and Business

10/7, Tuesday: discuss chapter 6
   Homework: study for EXAM 1 on chapters 4, 5 and 6 (on Foreign Policy and International Politics, International Law and Organization, and International Trade and Business)

10/9, Thursday: EXAM 1 (chapters 4, 5 and 6)
   Skills Segment: analysis of blogs and video clips – Joseph Stiglitz on Globalization (55 mins) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV7bRLtDr3E
   Homework: read chapter 7 (Armed Conflict: Causes and Outbreak)

Week 7 – Armed Conflict I: Causes and Outbreak

10/14, Tuesday: discuss chapter 7
   Homework: read chapter 7 (Armed Conflict: Causes and Outbreak)

   Homework: read chapter 8 (Armed Conflict: Methods and Aftermath); prepare for team debate on US foreign policy on drones (in-class exercise on 10/23)
Week 8 — Armed Conflict II: Methods and Aftermath
10/21, Tuesday: discuss chapter 8
   Homework: finish chapter 8; prepare for debate on “Use of Drones” on 10/23.
10/23, Thursday: Team Debate on the Use of Drones
   Homework: read chapter 9 (Human Rights) and prepare for QUIZ 2 on chapters 7, 8, and 9
   (both chapters on Armed Conflict & Human Rights)

Week 9 — Human Rights
10/28, Tuesday: discuss chapter 9
   Homework: finish chapter 9
10/30, Thursday: QUIZ 2 on chapters 7, 8, and 9
   Homework: read chapter 10

Week 10 — Global Public Health
11/4, Tuesday: discuss chapter 10
   Homework: finish chapter 10
11/6, Thursday: Documentary: Blue Gold: World Water Wars (90 mins),
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1a3tjqQjBI
   Skills Segment: use of quantitative data (statistics and charts)
   Homework: read chapter 11 (International Aid and Development)

Week 11 — International Aid and Development
11/11, Tuesday: discuss chapter 11,
11/13, Thursday: real-world experience in international development - “Fighting Corruption in Paradise: Building national integrity in the Kingdom of Bhutan”.
   Homework: read chapter 12 (Conclusion) and start work on INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 2

Week 12 — Conclusion
11/18, Tuesday: discuss chapter 12
   Homework: finish chapter 12; complete INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT 2
11/20, Thursday: GROUP ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE

Skills Segment: examination preparation strategies
Homework: prepare for FINAL EXAM (covering chapters 10, 11 and 12)

Week 13 – Global Citizenship and International Careers

11/25, Tuesday: resumes and cover letters; preparation for job interviews
Skills Segment: job search, application, and interviews
Homework: online research on how to write a resume and prepare cover letters

11/27, Thursday: Last Day of Class - Congratulations!
Homework: prepare for FINAL EXAM (covering chapters 10, 11 and 12)

Thanksgiving Break: 11/28 - 11/30 - Enjoy your holiday!

Exam Week - 12/8 - 12/11
Exam Date to be confirmed: 75-minute exam on topics covered in weeks 10, 11 and 12.
Course Policies and Class Etiquette

Attendance:
Your in-class performance is key to your success in this course. Attendance, itself, is not graded. Instead, graded in-class activities and assignments constitute an important part of the course grade. Keeping a passing average on these is not possible without consistent attendance.

Preparation:
Each week there will be readings and preparation tasks. Readings and activities cannot be left until the last minute. Each in-class period will be devoted to discussions and skills practice. There is a fair amount of reading required. Manage your time well.

Participation:
To maximize the effectiveness of this course, your participation in all class discussions, activities, simulations is required. To participate, students must attend all classes. The only excuse for missing class is your illness or a family emergency (documentation required).

Group Work:
For team tasks/assignments, conscientious participation by ALL team members is required. Members of the team must attend group meetings and actively contribute to the group’s work. Members must come prepared, having read what was assigned and making constructive contributions to required tasks.

Electronic devices:
Please turn off and put away cell phones and other electronic devices before entering the class room. [Only individuals with outside emergencies are allowed to keep communications devices]. No texting or checking messages during class. In addition, laptop computers will not be allowed to be open and on during class sessions, except during clearly designated in-class activities requiring online access to information and communication.

Student Evaluation:
Percentage breakdown of the evaluation for the course is as follows:

- 2 Exams  
  50%
- 2 Quizzes  
  20%
- 2 Assignments (1 Group, 1 Individual)  
  15%
- Class Attendance and Participation  
  15%

Grading System:

- A = 93% + A- = 90-92%
- B+ = 87-89% B = 83-86% B- = 80-82%
- C+ = 77-79% C = 73-76% C- = 70-72%
- D+ = 67-69% D = 63-66% D- = 60-62%
- F = < 60%

Students with Disabilities:
If you are seeking academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act at Radford University, please register with the Disability Resource Office (DRO). To receive academic accommodations for this class, submit your documentation to the DRO in the lower level of Tyler Hall.
Suites 54-69, by fax to 540-831-6525, by email to dro@radford.edu. After submitting documentation to our office, you will set up an interview with a Disability Services Specialist to discuss accommodations. You will be notified via email once your accommodation package is complete and ready to be picked up. Once you have picked up your accommodation package, you will need to meet with each course professor during their office hours to review and discuss your package. For more information and/or for documentation guidelines, visit www.radford.edu/dro or call 540-831-6350.

Academic Integrity:
All members of the class are expected to follow the Radford University Honor Pledge. Please read the Honor Pledge and familiarize yourself with the Standards of Student Conduct (see http://www.radford.edu/content/dam/departments/administrative/dos/documents/RUStandards.pdf). Academic integrity is an important value in the university’s student life. Be especially familiar with RU’s position on plagiarism as outlined in the Standards of Student Conduct (http://www.radford.edu/content/dos/home/conduct/academic-integrity.html).