About the Course

Office Hours & Contact Info

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Canvas email

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Overview

Welcome to international studies! This course is a gateway into a minor or major in International Studies. It's also just a great elective to take. International studies is multidisciplinary. This means the subject matter is drawn from many different disciplines, such as political science, history, anthropology, geography, philosophy and practically everything else in between. While international studies does focus on different cultures and different countries, it emphasizes the interconnectedness of the world around us.

This course has five different units. On the Canvas homepage you will find eight tabs, one for each unit and three other information tabs. Within each unit tab you will find links to lectures, readings and media clips you need to complete the unit. Here is an overview of the eight tabs:

- **Start Here:** This tab will provide you with the information you need to start the course. Basic information and a tentative class schedule can be found here. There are also links to the intro video and other material. You can refer to it at any time.

- **Worldview:** To start the course, we will look at how people develop an understanding of the world. We will explore links in the Gapminder website and discuss the concept of cultural intelligence. We will also look at the tragic case of US college student Otto Warmbier.

- **Epidemics & Pandemics:** How can we ignore the elephant in the room? Managing epidemics and pandemics is a major task within the international system. In this section we will look at the World Health Organization (WHO), an eclectic history of epidemics and pandemics and the current Covid crisis. We will focus on Ebola and Covid.

- **Economic Development:** Economic development has always been a driving force behind politics and social activity. This section may be a little longer than the other sections. We will look at capitalism and democracy within the international system. We will also read the work of Amartya Sen and look at alternative choices to economic driven politics and social order. Bhutan will serve as a focus country in this section.
• **Genocide:** Thinking about and discussing human rights is at the heart of many international courses. Genocide is a blatant disregard for human rights that occurs too often on the international system. In this section, we will explore the motivation and acts behind genocide. The focus, however, will be on how countries overcome such atrocities. We will focus on Rwanda.

• **Racial Discrimination:** Racial discrimination weakens a country’s political and social systems. In this section, we will look at apartheid in S. Africa. As with the previous section, we will focus on how countries work to overcome damage done by discriminatory policies and practices.

• **Study Guides:** Under this tab, you will find the study guides for the textbook. There are three multiple choice exams that cover the material in the textbook. The study guide will tell you which chapters are covered on which exams. The study guide will also tell you which terms and sections will be on the exam.

• **Other Material:** Under this tab, you will find the first two chapters of the textbook and an extra credit reading. Other material may be added to this section as needed.

Due to uncertain circumstances, this course is designed to work as a face to face, online or mixed course. The following information assumes the course will be taught as a face to face class. The course may need to change format later in the semester.

**Textbook**


I have posted the first two chapters on the Canvas site under the "Other Materials" tab.

**Attendance**

According to the Socratic method, learning occurs best through discussion. I truly believe this, however, due to the Covid crisis our in-class time is uncertain. I plan to make the basic lectures, reading material and other material available online. For our in-class time I will always have something prepared. Most often I will spend time on aspects of the lecture, going into detail on the required journal readings, or playing and discussing relevant media clips. Our in-class time is for discussion and I hope we can use it for that. Please note that the in-class portion of all of your courses will end the week before Thanksgiving.

**Exams & Other Graded Assignments**

There are three exams multiple choice exams in this course that cover the textbook. There are 2-4 essay questions per section that cover the lecture material and other readings. Carefully read the following information:
Multiple Choice Exam: (80 points each) There are three multiple choice exams. There are 40 multiple choice questions, worth 2 points per question. The content for the multiple choice questions comes from the textbook. There is a study guide located under the "Study Guide" tab on the Canvas homepage. The study guide will tell you which chapters to read, and which concepts and chapter sections make up the content of the questions.

The multiple choice exam can be found under the navigation tab or under the "Assignments" tab on the left hand side of Canvas. I will also put under the unit tab. You will be taking the exam from your home computer. You will have access to the textbook during the exam, but the exam is timed. Once you open the exam, you have 90 minutes to complete it. I recommend that you read the chapters and use the study guide to take notes. Late exams may be turned in for up to half credit until December 6th.

Essay Questions (80-120 points per exam): This course is divided into five parts. Each part will have 2-4 essay questions worth 20 to 50 points each. As we go through each part, the essay questions will be gradually introduced. In other words, you will not have a big essay exam presented to you at the end of each section. Essay questions will be added, approximately, every 7-10 days. This will give you more time to work on them. It will also give you time to do revisions, if you choose to do so.

Because you have extra time to work on the questions, and our class size is small, I will accept revisions. You may complete a question. I will grade it with a tentative score. You may keep that score, or use the suggestions I provide and resubmit the answer a second time. When you receive a tentative score, this means that your answer will not receive a score lower than what I assigned but it may actually be a couple points higher. I will need at least seven days to provide tentative scores and suggestions.

Graded Assignments: I am not sure yet if there will be other graded assignments in this course in addition to the essay questions. It depends on if our course continues to be face to face. There may be 1-2 graded assignments per section. The graded assignments will be worth 20-40 points each. There will be a link to the graded assignment under each section tab.

Extra Credit: There will be one 15-20 point extra credit assignment. The extra credit assignment will be located under the “Assignments” section on the left hand side of the Canvas homepage. The reading for the extra credit is available under the "Other Material" tab.

💻 Grading Scale

Here is the grade scale for this course:

- 93-100% = A; 90-92% = A-
- 87-89% = B+; 83-86% = B; 80-82% = B-
77-79%=C+; 73-76=C; 70-72%=C-
67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D; 62%>=F

Notice that you need at least a 63% to pass the class. Anyone who is .5 or higher will automatically have their grade rounded up to the next higher grade. For example, a final grade of 86.5% or 86.6% will be entered as an 87% B+. As the professor, I reserve the right to round a grade up by .5% for effort shown. For example, let's say a student has a final grade of 86.3%. This student's grade could be entered as an 87% B+. I do this for students who have shown continued progress in their exam grades, turned in all of their exams and assignments, sought to increase their grade by taking advantage of the extra credit and optional comprehensive exam options, had reasonable attendance, and/or sought help outside of class. Under no circumstances will I raise a grade more than .5%.

⚠️ Plagiarism

Plagiarism will result in 1) a written form submitted to Logan's ethics board, 2) an failing grade on the assignment for which the plagiarism occurred. If plagiarism occurs again, this will result in 1) a second notification to Logan's ethics board which may result in a dismissal from the university, 2) a failing grade in the course.

⚠️ ADA Statement

Classroom Accommodation For Students With Disabilities: USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early in the semester as possible (435-797-2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.