Syllabus

Introduction to International Studies, ISTD 110 – 02/03/M01
Saint Louis University (St. Louis and Madrid campuses)
Spring 2014 (March 10 – May 11)

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Course Description
The university catalog describes this course as “an introduction to the literature and themes of International Studies. It emphasizes intercultural awareness, cultural interaction, and problem solving in an international context.” International Studies is the interdisciplinary analysis of global processes that shape international trends and the lives of human beings throughout the world. This course gives students an introductory awareness of the methods and topics of International Studies through a broad, humanistic socio-political approach that can serve as a foundation for further international studies in numerous fields of study offered at Saint Louis University.

Course Requirements
This is ‘only’ a one-hour class that is entirely online. If you have not ever taken an online class before, you should be aware they don’t often “feel” the same as face-to-face course, that online classes require just as much time as regular courses, and in many cases more effective time management than on-ground classes. If you do not regularly schedule time to do the work, it is easy to fall behind or not participate enough, and you will not likely be happy with your performance.

Aside from your active engagement with the reading, other requirements will include a syllabus quiz, one three-to-five page paper, participation in online discussions and debates, and a final exam. The primary tool for this course will be the course’s SLU Blackboard page. You must have regular and reliable access to a computer with updated software and a high-speed internet connection. You must also frequently check your SLU email account.

Course Materials
The following materials are required for this course:
- Reserve materials available through Blackboard
- Other materials linked/provided by the instructor on Blackboard

There is no textbook or other material to purchase for this course (you’re welcome!).

Grading
Students will earn their grades in this course as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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The relative number of points available for each assignment in the Blackboard My Grades center will correspond to these percentages. If you have any questions about your grades at any point, please ask. More on each of these activities below.

**Course Activities:**
International Studies starts in the classroom, but extends out into the local and global community as well. The learning activities in this course on which you will be evaluated are as follows:

**Syllabus Quiz:** This is the easiest 5% of the course grade. The subject of the quiz is the syllabus and structure of the course. You may refer to the whatever sources you want—including the syllabus and course page, and take the quiz as many times as you like during the first week until you get a perfect score—and you should! The purpose is to reward you for becoming familiar with the structure of the course and the page.

**Online Discussions/Debates:** Most of the interaction between students in the class and the instructors will take place in non-synchronous online discussion boards in Blackboard, where we will have discussions and debates on important issues in the readings. The first week will include an introductory activity, but the rest will be structured around the weekly readings. All students will be assigned groups and perspectives for the online discussions—you must stick to the position assigned to your group in a discussion, even if you don’t agree with it. You’ll have a chance to talk about your own points of view as well at times. At least five, substantive, high-quality posts spread throughout the week are required for full discussion credit each week. **No credit can be given for posts before or after the week.** An online discussion grading rubric is available on Blackboard.

**Paper:** Students must find and attend an international or intercultural event either on campus or off, and write a 3-5 page critical reflection paper on the experience. Each paper must be **at least three full pages**, word-processed, in a 12-point proportional font with one-inch margins. The paper will be due at the end of Week Six on April 20. **All papers must be submitted through Blackboard.**

“International or intercultural event” includes such things as public festivals, public lectures on an international or intercultural topic, a straight stage play adapted from an international work, a museum exhibition with a dominant international or intercultural element, or other similar event. Meetings or requirements for other courses do not qualify, nor do watching foreign films, eating out at ethnic restaurants, and such without some other program element. **ATLAS week provides dozens of opportunities on the St. Louis campus.** If you have any doubt that an event qualifies, please check *first*. Please note that a critical reflection paper is not a report or summary of the event. **It must involve substantial, critical analysis of the international/intercultural content of the event.**

**Final:** The final will also be an essay-style exam on the topics/readings/discussions from materials from the whole of the course, taken in Blackboard. The readings and your notes, as well as the debate/discussions and questions, are the best study materials. **This is an “open-book” final exam: you may use notes, texts, and other outside aids, but it is *not* a “take-
home” test in the sense that you do not have unlimited time to write it. You will have all of the final week of the class to prepare for and take the exam, but note you will have only two hours to write your exam and only one attempt, so time to consult aids will be very limited. You should make arrangements not to be disturbed while you take the exam. More details will be given as the exam draws near.

Other Policies:

Sometimes there are events in students’ lives beyond their control that disrupt or take precedence over their studies. If such events occur, notify the instructor in timely way (if at all possible before missing class or work is late) so appropriate arrangements can be made.

“This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of policies or changes.”

If you have problems, questions, concerns, or constructive complaints, please do not hesitate to contact me at any point in the semester before or after class, by email, phone, during office hours, or make an appointment to meet with me if you’re on SLU’s St. Louis campus.

Academic Integrity: It is the responsibility of the student to know and understand the university’s policies on academic integrity, outlined here: http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml. Note that using others’ words or ideas without proper citation, even open-source materials, even in a discussion post, is plagiarism. No violations will be tolerated, and a failing grade for the course is the minimum penalty.

“In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or to visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.”

Provisional Schedule:
The course is divided in to nine week-long units called “weeks.” Course weeks begin on Monday at 12:01 am and end at 11:55 pm the following Sunday. That gives you a six-minute break every week (very generous, don’t you think?). Once a week is over, you may not participate in the discussions or activities for that week, but all of the course materials will be available for the whole course. Please note that the course and the ninth and final week, the exam week, ends on Sunday night, May 11. Do not forget to take the exam by midnight on May 11!
Week One (3/10 - 3/16)
Introduction and Framing International Studies
   Marber, “Globalization and Its Contents,” World Policy Journal

Week Two (3/17 - 3/23)
Group Identity, Nationalism, and Globalism
   Friedman, “It’s a Flat World, After All,” New York Times
   Ghemawat, “Why the World Isn’t Flat,” Foreign Policy

Week Three (3/24 - 3/30)
Populations, Global Cities and the Megalopolis
   Engelman, “Population and Sustainability,” Scientific American

Week Four (3/31 - 4/6)
Religion and Secularism in a Contemporary World
   Wolf, “And the Winner Is ...” The Atlantic
   Shah and Toft, “Why God is Winning” Foreign Policy

Week Five (4/7 - 4/13)
America and the World
   Mahbubani, “The Case against the West: America and Europe in the Asian Century,” Foreign Affairs

Week Six (4/14 - 4/20)
China and the World
   Wang, “China’s Search for a Grand Strategy,” Foreign Affairs
   Pei, “China’s not a Superpower” The Diplomat

International Event Paper due 4/20 at midnight

Week Seven (4/21 - 4/27)
Global Energy Issues
   Yergin, “It’s Still the One,” Foreign Policy
   Grunwald, “Seven Myths about Alternative Energy,” Foreign Policy
   Klare, “Navigating the Energy Transition,” Current History

Week Eight (4/28 - 5/4)
The Developing World
   Sachs, “Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?” Scientific American
   Easterly, “The Ideology of Development,” Foreign Policy
Week Nine (5/5-5/11)
Final Exam Week.

Prepare for and take online final exam by midnight on May 11