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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies

IRLS492

International Relations Capstone

Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Prerequisite: NONE

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Biography:

Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

After the class is over, instructor contact information:

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Course Description (Catalog)

IRLS492, Senior Capstone (3 hours)

This senior capstone course allows students majoring in International Relations to analyze specific issues at the global level that would include: armaments, disarmament and proliferation; nationalism and world order; terrorism; peacekeeping; drug wars; political development and revolutionary change in less developed countries; and the organized use of force. This course will provide students with the opportunity to complete an approved academic research exercise that demonstrates knowledge of a selected field of study. [This course should be scheduled after completion of all required and core courses in the BA in International Relations degree path.]

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Course Scope

As a 400-level course, this course provides a higher level of knowledge building on the material taught at the 300 level. The purpose and scope of this course is to enable the student to build a deeper understanding of the discipline.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Examine the theory and politics of security, conflict, diplomacy, economic development, trade and globalization.

CO-2: Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy.

CO-3: Comprehend the norms and purposes of international structures and regimes.

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CO-4: Understand the various forms of globalization and their impact on various political, economic and social systems.

CO-5: Explain the co-existence of integration and disintegration regimes in the global community.

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Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

- Required Course Textbook

The **required** text for this course is: This course does not utilize a course text.

- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

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Evaluation Procedures

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Forum discussions – 25 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Midterm assignment - 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 1 question, 3 pages, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Progress assignment - 25 percent

Specialized Exercise – Policy Analysis Image and Audio Presentation

Final assignment – 25 percent

Policy Analysis Video Presentation

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	25
Midterm Assignment	25
Progress Assignment	25
Final Assignment	25
Total	100

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	International Relations: An overview	CO-1: Examine the theory and politics of security, conflict, diplomacy, economic development, trade and globalization..	<p>Author, Title</p> <p>Stephen M. Walt, The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations</p> <p>Nicholas Rengger and Ben Thirkell-White. Still Critical After All These Years? The Past, Present and Future of Critical Theory in International Relations.</p> <p>Stephen M. Walt, International Relations: One World, Many Theories</p> <p>Jack Snyder, One World, Rival Theories</p>	Week One Forum Discussion
2	Theoretic Approaches	CO-2: Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy.	<p>Jack A. Goldstone "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011."</p> <p>Foud Ajami, "The Arab Spring at One A Year of Living Dangerously"</p> <p>Shiping Tang. "The Security Dilemma: A Conceptual Analysis"</p> <p>Johann Park and</p>	Week Two Forum Discussion

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			<p>Michael Colaresi, “Safe across the Border: The Continued Significance of the Democratic Peace When Controlling for Stable Borders”</p> <p>Gideon Rose, “Making Modernity Work: The Reconciliation of Capitalism and Democracy”</p> <p>Francis Fukuyama, “The Future of History: Can Liberal Democracy Survive the Decline of the Middle Class?”</p> <p>Neil Winn, "Introduction: New Forms of Political Organisation Community, Sovereignty and Identity: Civil Wars, the New Diplomacy and International Relations."</p> <p>Neil Winn, "Conclusion: Neo-Medievalism, Civil Wars and the New Diplomacy."</p>	
3	Security	CO-2: Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security,	<p>Nader Elhefnawy, “Twenty Years After the Cold War: A Strategic Survey,”</p> <p>Richard D Hooker, “Beyond Vom Kriege:</p>	<p>Week Three Forum Discussions</p> <p>Midterm Assignment</p>

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		modernity, liberal democracy.	<p>The Character and Conduct of Modern War,</p> <p>Ralph Peters, “In Praise of Attrition,”</p> <p>Alexander W. Vacca and Mark Davidson, “The Regularity of Irregular Warfare,”</p> <p>Leah Farrall, “How al Qaeda Works: What the Organization's Subsidiaries Say About Its Strength,” Foreign Affairs (March April 2011).</p> <p>Ömer Taspınar, “Fighting Radicalism, not ‘Terrorism’: Root Causes of an International Actor Redefined” SAIS Review</p> <p>William McCants, “Al Qaeda's Challenge: The Jihadists' War With Islamist Democrats,”</p>	
4	Economic Globalization	CO-4: Understand the various forms of globalization and its impact on various political, economic and	<p>Susan C. Schwab, “After Doha: Why the Negotiations Are Doomed and What We Should Do About It,”</p> <p>Martin Feldstein, “The Failure of the Euro: The</p>	Week Four Forum Discussion

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		social systems.	<p>Little Currency That Couldn't,"</p> <p>Raghuram G. Rajan, "The True Lessons of the Recession The West Can't Borrow and Spend Its Way to Recovery,"</p> <p>Arvind Subramanian, "The Inevitable Superpower Why China's Dominance Is a Sure Thing,"</p>	
5	Evolving Dynamics	CO-5: Explain the co-existence of integration and disintegration regimes in the global community.	<p>Jessica Mathews, "Power Shift"</p> <p>Stephen D. Krasner, "Sovereignty"</p> <p>John Fonte, "Sovereignty or Submission: Liberal Democracy or Global Governance"</p> <p>James N. Rosenau, "Chapter One"</p>	Week Five Forum Discussion
6	New Forces	CO-5: Explain the co-existence of integration	Jeffrey Sachs, "Aid Ironies"	<p>Week Six Forum Discussion</p> <p>Progress Assignment</p>

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		and disintegration regimes in the global community..	<p>Jeffrey Sachs and John W. McArthur, "Moyo's Confused Attack on Aid for Africa"</p> <p>Dambisa Moyo, "Aid Ironies: A Response to Jeffrey Sachs"</p> <p>William Easterly, "Geography Lessons: Correcting Sachs on African Economic Development"</p> <p>Jeffrey Sachs "No Need to Oversimplify Poverty"</p> <p>William Easterly, "Back to Sachs: Astrology, Despotism, and Africa"</p> <p>"Letters - Up From Poverty." Washington Post,</p> <p>Thomas J. Bollyky, "Developing Symptoms: Noncommunicable Diseases Go Global"</p> <p>Oscar Arias, "Culture Matters: The Real Obstacles to Latin American Development"</p>	
7	Transnational	CO-2: Assess the relevancy	Robert Einhorn, "A	Week Seven Forum

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	Issues I	of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy.	<p>Major Milestone for the Iran Nuclear Deal – but a Bumpy Road Ahead”</p> <p>Stephen Walt, “The Worst Case for War with Iran,”</p> <p>Kenneth N. Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability,”</p> <p>Trita Parsi, "No, Sanctions Didn't Force Iran to Make a Deal,”</p> <p>“Belfer Center Perspectives On Iran In the News”</p>	Discussion
8	Transnational Issues 2	<p>CO-2: Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy.</p> <p>CO-3: Comprehend the norms and purposes of international structures and regimes.</p>	<p>Katel, Peter. "Transnational Crime: Is Cross-Border Criminality Getting Worse?"</p> <p>CFR podcast, "Islamic Feminists Transforming the Muslim World."</p>	<p>Week Eight Forum Discussion</p> <p>Final Assignment</p>

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Deductions:

Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both

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inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and

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licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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