

IR5551: Survey of International Relations

Term 1, 2019-2020: August 12 –October 13, 2019 3 Credit Hours

Location: Kadena Air Base, Education Center

Meeting Times and Dates: 1800-2100 Tuesdays & Thursdays

Instructor: Clifton W. Sherrill
Office Phone: DSN 634-5539
Office Hours: By appointment

Office: Kadena, Japan (Education Bldg. Rm. 220A)
E-mail: csherrill@troy.edu
Website: <http://spectrum.troy.edu/csherrill>

Course Description

A survey of the discipline of International Relations (IR) introducing IR theory, power, national interests, instruments of foreign policy, international law and organizations, international political economy, comparative government, and research methodology.

Course Objectives

After taking this course, students should understand the major theories of, and concepts within the scholastic discipline of International Relations; be able to discuss and analyze the fundamental issues involved in international security and international political economy; be familiar with the fundamentals of positivist research methodology in International Relations; and demonstrate the ability to write cogent, well-organized, essays at the graduate level.

Required Texts

- Henry Kissinger, *World Order* (New York: Penguin, 2015). ISBN: 9780143127710
- Karen Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, eds. *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 6th ed. (W.W. Norton & Co., 2016). ISBN: 9780393283662

Recommended Text for Students New to International Relations

- Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, 7th ed. (W.W. Norton & Co., 2016). ISBN 9780393283402

Additional assigned readings will be available electronically through TROY library databases.

Nature of Graduate Work

“Graduate level work differs appreciably from that of undergraduate programs. Graduate students will find that their programs are geared toward meeting certain criteria. The first of these criteria is that the graduate student should understand the ramifications of research as well as the manner in which it is conducted. Research, the context of graduate study, is conducted in a systematic, thorough, critical, interpretative, and analytical manner—free of preconceived notions and receptive to new ideas; such research attempts to collate and synthesize new patterns of meaning, discover new truths, and correct past errors. The second component of the graduate program requires that graduate students master their field of study. Such mastery would entail a thorough grasp of the subject matter, literature in the field, theory, and methodology related to the student’s field of interest. Finally, every graduate program must give students the opportunity to demonstrate research skills, knowledge of the field, and opportunity to contribute to the field of study. Thus, a person who wishes to do graduate level work must be prepared to pass examinations, both written and oral,

to write coherent papers that reflect the results of research as defined above, and to participate in course projects” (2018-19 Troy University Graduate Catalog, p. 4).

Course Requirements

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to participate in class discussion. Students should obtain a TROY e-mail account and check it regularly as this will be the means of providing notice of assignment changes, class cancellations, or other matters outside of class. There are no prerequisites.

A. Exams

There will be two exams in this course. The midterm exam will count for 30% of the course grade. The final exam will count for 30% of the course grade. Exams will include material covered in the readings and discussed in class.

B. Critical Thought Papers

There will be two critical thought papers that will each account for 15% of the course grade, for a total of 30% of the course grade. These papers will be short essays intended to demonstrate the student’s comprehension of the concepts contained in the assignments, critical thinking skills, and analytical writing skills. The essays are not intended to be research papers. Detailed paper instructions are provided at the end of the syllabus. Papers are due in Canvas **NLT than 23:59 on 8/29 (Essay #1) and 10/3 (Essay #2)**; late papers will lose ten points per 24 hour period late. Papers should be turned in via Canvas so as to permit use of Turn-It-In technology.

C. Quizzes

A series of short reading quizzes will be given in class. Quizzes will cover the day’s assigned reading. Quizzes will typically consist of 5 multiple choice question. Quizzes will not be announced in advance. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the remaining quizzes will be averaged to account for 10% of the course grade.

D. Attendance

Regular attendance is imperative for understanding the subject as well as for maximizing your chances to succeed on the exams. By university policy, TROY’s coordinator must be notified of students who miss more than 25% of classes. Attendance will be taken in compliance with College policy.

Grading Policy

90 - 100	A	70 - 79	C	0 - 59	F
80 - 89	B	60 - 69	D		

Incomplete grades: If a student is unable to complete all course grading requirements, the student may be eligible to request the assignment of an incomplete grade. An Incomplete grade is not automatically assigned by the instructor, but must be requested by the student and approved by the instructor. The decision to approve or reject a student’s request for an incomplete grade is at the discretion of the instructor using the following criteria: Student submits a completed “Incomplete Grade Request” form prior to assignment of a course grade. Student’s progress in the course is deemed satisfactory. Student is passing the course when the request is made. The circumstances that prevented the student’s completion of course requirements are beyond the student’s control and

adequate documentation is provided. A student may request an incomplete by completing and submitting to the instructor an “Incomplete Grade Request” form. This form can be found at <https://my.troy.edu/forms/index.html>.

Troy University Deadlines

Students can find the Troy Online calendar at <http://trojan.troy.edu/online/academiccalendar.html> listing key dates for the term, including refund deadlines, payment dates, and the last day to drop classes in Term 1.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:

<https://my.troy.edu/student-disability-services/>

Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

Use of any electronic device (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) by students in the instructional environment is prohibited unless explicitly approved on a case-by-case basis by the instructor of record or by the Office of Disability Services in collaboration with the instructor. Cell phones and other communication devices may be used for emergencies, however, but sending or receiving non-emergency messages during a class meeting is forbidden by the University. Use of a communication device to violate the Troy University “Standards of Conduct” will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See pp. 42-52 of the Oracle.) In order to receive emergency messages from the University or family members, devices must be in a vibration, or other unobtrusive mode. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls must answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they must move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area and notify the instructor as soon as reasonably possible. Students who are expecting an emergency call should inform the instructor before the start of the instructional period. The instructor in this class has opted to permit use of tablets and/or laptops in class.

Academic Honesty

By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the “Standards of Conduct” as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. It is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with these guidelines and to comply therewith.

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without proper attribution; whether intentional or not, representing another person’s words or ideas as one’s own constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an ethical offense violating Troy’s Standards of Conduct and Troy’s Academic Code. All MSIR students are expected to understand the concept of plagiarism as well as the rules of proper citation. If a student has any doubt about proper attribution, it is the responsibility of the student to seek clarification from the instructor. Students deemed by the instructor to have engaged in intentional plagiarism in this course shall receive an automatic F in the class and are subject to additional discipline up to and including expulsion from the program. Students deemed by the instructor to have engaged in unintentional plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action to be

determined by the instructor in accordance with the severity of the offense. The instructor uses on-line software to help detect plagiarism. Please note that no assignment prepared for or submitted in a different course may be used in this course without prior approval of the instructor.

Library Resources

Students can access online information resources through Troy Library Services home page at <https://my.troy.edu/libraries/> These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and Lexis-Nexis. Remote access is available via the student's Troy User ID and Password. Specific help for Global Campus students, including a dedicated librarian, Jay Brandes at jayb777@troy.edu, is available.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course Introduction

T 8/13

- King, Keohane & Verba, "The Science in Social Science, Ch.1 in *Designing Social Inquiry*, Available at <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>
- Kissinger, Introduction

R 8/15

- Kissinger, Ch. 1-2

Week 2: Theories of IR

T 8/20

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 1-3

R 8/22

- Kissinger, Ch. 3-4

Week 3: The System, The State, and The Individual

T 8/27

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 4-5

R 8/29

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 6
- Kissinger, Ch. 5-6
- **CRITICAL THOUGHT ESSAY #1 DUE (IN CANVAS)**

Week 4: Diplomacy & International Law

T 9/3

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 7

R 9/5

- Kissinger, Ch. 7-8

Week 5: Midterm Exam (Part 1)

T 9/10

- Jon Kyl, Douglas Feith, and John Fonte, "The War of Law," *Foreign Affairs* 92, no. 4 (July/Aug 2013): 115-125. (Available in Academic One Source)
- Harold Koh and Michael Doyle, "The Case for International Law," *Foreign Affairs* 92, no. 6 (Nov/Dec 2013): 162-165. (Available in Academic One Source)

R 9/12

- **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 6: Conflict

T 9/17

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 8

R 9/19

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 8
- Stephen Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, and William Wohlforth, "Don't Come Home, America: The Case against Retrenchment," *International Security* 37, no. 3 (Winter 2012/13): 7-51. (Available in Academic One Source).

Week 7: International Political Economy

T 9/24

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 9

R 9/26

- Helen V. Milner, "The Political Economy of International Trade," *Annual Review of Political Science* (1999): 91-114. (Available in Academic Search Complete)

Week 8: Transnational Issues

T 10/1

- Mingst & Snyder, Ch. 10

R 10/3

- Kissinger, Ch. 9
- **CRITICAL THOUGHT ESSAY #2 DUE**

Week 9: Final Exam

T 10/8

- Kissinger, Conclusion

R 10/10

- **FINAL EXAM**

Note: The above schedule, readings and procedures in this course are subject to change.

Critical Thought Paper Instructions

Pursuant to the syllabus, there will be two critical thought papers that will each account for 15% of the course grade, for a total of 30% of the course grade. These papers will be essays intended to demonstrate the student's comprehension of the concepts contained in the reading assignments, critical thinking skills, and analytical writing skills. The essays are **not** intended to be research papers. However, papers should be careful to cite as appropriate if using ideas from reading assignments or other works.

Writing well is among the most important skills you can possess in your professional career. In many cases, you will find you are judged based on written documentation that you present. The quality of your writing will often serve, fairly or not, as an indicator of your intelligence. Poor grammar, misspelled words, confused syntax, and incoherent organization will reflect poorly upon you. Thus, it is imperative when undertaking a writing assignment to have a basic plan (an outline), to pay attention to detail, and to proofread the final product carefully.

A key goal in writing is to communicate with clarity and precision. Often, simpler is better. As Strunk and White advise, "omit unnecessary words."¹ Never use words that you are not certain you can define. Avoid cluttering up sentences with numerous clauses. Even if grammatically correct, a sentence that requires multiple readings is poorly drafted. Include an introduction explaining what your essay is about and how it is organized (provide a road map to your essay). Use paragraphs in a logical fashion (paragraphs are structured by idea, not length). Conclude with a brief summary, recapping your main point(s). Do not use the conclusion to introduce new ideas.

When you have finished your essay, review it through the eyes of potential critics. In other words, look for ambiguities or weaknesses that are open to misunderstanding and attack. If you were tasked with arguing a contrasting position to that in your paper, what sections would you attack?

Students will be assigned topics as listed below for each of the essays. Upon careful consideration of the topic, students should draft well-thought-out, well-structured, well-proofread essays that directly address the specified issues. Papers are expected to be between 4-5 pages with a maximum length of 6 pages, exclusive of title page.

Format: The paper must be typed, double-spaced, in black twelve-point Times New Roman font, with one inch margins. Do not place additional space between paragraphs. Necessary citations may follow either the Turabian or the APA system. A references list should be included as appropriate.

Grading: Papers will be graded on demonstrated understanding of the issues, coherence of argument, and attention to detail. Poor spelling, grammar, punctuation or style will negatively affect the grade. Plagiarism will result in an F.

¹ William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, The Elements of Style, 4th ed. (Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2000), 23.

Papers are due as noted below; late papers will lose ten points per 24 hour period late.

Paper 1:

There are clear consistencies in the Thucydides-Kennan-Morgenthau line of thinking as well as the line of Kant-Wilson-Doyle. Briefly explain these fundamental links in approximately one page, then, in the remainder of the essay, assess which school of thought seems to better explain the rise of China over the past two decades.

Paper #2:

Many have suggested climate change is not only a global security issue, but a national security as well. After watching the discussion on climate change and global security (1 hour, 10 minutes at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W1VgWj7Nc>), discuss how climate change affects U.S. national security and what the U.S. government should be doing on the international stage to address it. (*I am not interested in your ideological take; I am interested in whether you can identify the relevant issues and provide a logical explanation and discussion thereof.*)