

INRL 300: International Relations in Disciplinary Perspective

Spring 201

College of William & Mary

Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:20 in Small 110

Friday 8-9; 9-10 in Morton 203; Friday 10-11 in Morton 303

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Office Hours: Monday and Friday at 11am or by appointment

I. Description and Purpose:

INRL 300 is an interdisciplinary course that addresses important contemporary issues in international relations from multiple disciplinary perspectives. This course is required for all IR majors at William and Mary. Other students are welcome to take the course as long as they have completed the prerequisite courses or have the permission of the instructor. Students enrolled in this course will have already taken courses in history, economics, and political science that will have introduced students to the basic theories, methods, and epistemologies of these disciplines. Such introductory courses rarely attempt to demonstrate the relevance of disciplinary perspectives to the important issues that shape outcomes in the world. This course does so by grappling with the following questions: What can different disciplinary perspectives tell us about contemporary, real world issues? How do these issues affect, reflect, and drive the choices of individual citizens, social, cultural, and economic groups, organizations, firms, and states? Is knowledge produced by economists, historians and political scientists usable by policy makers, military leaders, business people, and private citizens? Should it be?

By focusing on similar contemporary issues from distinct disciplinary perspectives, students will learn to describe and assess the strengths and limitations of each discipline. Beyond disciplinary pluralism, the course encourages students (and faculty) to synthesize insights across a variety of disciplines, through side-by-side comparisons and an engaged conversation across disciplinary lines. The course is designed to introduce students to the different disciplines that make up the IR major and to provide students with the tools to make choices about how they want to specialize in their course-work and in their research going forward.

The course is divided into four sections. In the first section, students read works about economics, political science, and history. They discuss the fundamental epistemological approaches of each: How do economists, historians, and political scientists think they know what they know? In the final week of the course, we return to these issues and ask whether and how students of International Relations might synthesize the insights of these distinct disciplines as they approach important issues (and their remaining courses in the IR Program). The bulk of the course is divided into two issue-specific units: International Conflict: Causes, Consequences, Meaning and Solutions; and International Economic Issues: Aid, Trade, and the Environment.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays of every week all students will attend class together for 80 minutes. Typically, professor Tierney or a guest lecturer will lead a lecture/discussion of the readings for that day. On Fridays the class will meet for 50 minutes in smaller discussion sections in order to discuss the readings and lectures in more depth. All the discussion sections are run by professor Tierney.

This syllabus is a “living document” and will be revised and updated throughout the semester. If readings are added, they will be posted on Blackboard.

II. Reading Assignments

All of the required and recommended readings for this course will be posted on the course Blackboard site. Students should bring copies of these articles and/or book chapters to our class meetings, since our discussions will sometimes require close reading and reference to the text. You will need to print these articles or bring a laptop to class so that you can access the readings.

In addition to the course materials, you will read a major daily newspaper with good coverage of international news (sorry, the *Flat Hat* does not qualify). This course is supposed to help you think about contemporary problems in international relations. Swem Library has subscriptions to the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Financial Times*. All these publications are also available free of charge online and can be accessed through the course Blackboard site. Current international events will be integrated into lectures/discussions, reading quizzes, and they will be part of both exams. Spend 30 minutes per day reading the paper while you eat breakfast...it is painless.

III. Grades: Your course grade will be the weighted average of your performance in class discussions, two short reaction papers, a policy memo, **unannounced** reading quizzes, and a final exam. In the computation of your course grade, your performance on these requirements will be weighted as follows:

Class Participation	20%
Two Reaction Papers	20%
Policy Memo	15%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Final Exam	30%

Note the following course policies:

- *All late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late.*
- *No student can pass this course without completing all assignments (quizzes are not included in this rule).*

All students must submit assignments in hard copy and via the digital drop box on Blackboard, and are responsible for retaining a hard copy of their papers until they have received a grade from the instructor. The only exception is for comments on outside speakers, which students will post on the appropriate discussion board on our Blackboard site.

Do not use your phone in class. Do not use your laptop during class for reasons unrelated to this course.

IV. Other Policies:

Absence: Students are required to attend all classes. To reschedule a test or receive a paper extension because of an absence requires notice from the Health Center or the Dean of Students, preferably prior to the due date. Late paper assignments will be penalized as stated above, unless an excuse is provided from the Health Center or the Dean's office. If you will miss class or require an extension because of a religious holiday or school sanctioned activity, you must notify the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of classes. Do **NOT** plan on leaving early for spring break. We will be having class and your attendance is required.

Disability Services: Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should contact the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office must notify the instructor during the first two weeks of classes if you are to receive any accommodation.

Blackboard: All assignments will be posted on our course Blackboard site. Occasionally, announcements to the class will be posted and/or sent out as e-mails (please be sure you check your wm.edu account daily, as Blackboard-generated messages go only to wm.edu accounts). Students should check this site regularly for announcements and details on course assignments. In addition, our substantive conversations from class will occasionally spill over onto the class discussion board.

Examinations: The final exam will include two or three essays.

Final Examination.

Friday, May 6th at 2pm in Small 110.

Class Participation: Participation during class meetings is a required part of the course. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading. If you are not in class, you are not participating. If you are not participating, you will get a bad grade in this class. Discussion section is the primary venue for discussion, but all of the faculty that visit our class will save some time for Q&A. I expect you to come prepared and to rake our guests over the coals. That is a sign of respect in academe.

The 20% you see above is not a fudge factor. You will receive an actual letter grade for participation. Discussion provides an opportunity to critically question the ideas presented in the readings and the lecture, and, more importantly, it offers students the chance to develop and learn how to share their own ideas. This active involvement of students in their own education enables learning in a way that straight lecture does not. Occasionally, you may be asked to fill out an online survey or make some comments on our Blackboard discussion board. These activities will be part of your participation

grade. Hence, your participation grade is based on attendance, the quality and quantity of your participation in class (and especially in discussion sections on Friday), and your performance in the online discussions that are assigned.

Extra Credit: Over the course of the semester there will be a minimum of 8 outside speakers or events identified by your Instructor (probably closer to 20, but a minimum of 8). **If you attend at least 6** of these events and write a brief response on our discussion board, then your participation grade will be raised by one full letter grade. If last year was any indication, there was a very high correlation between the people with highest grades in the class and those who attended outside lectures. The IR Program is encouraging you to participate in the intellectual life of the college outside the classroom. It is fun, habit forming, and often provides non-academic views on international issues. And, in this course, you receive extra credit.

Reaction Papers: The reaction papers serve several purposes. My practical goal is to ensure that you do the reading and become a better writer! A well-written reaction paper is not a mere summary of the material. A good paper will synthesize and apply concepts, some of which may come from different disciplinary perspectives. You must think creatively about the key concepts, weaving them together to build an argument. There is no right answer or correct approach to any response topic, though there may be wrong ones. You will be forced to make choices in each response paper. You will not be able to integrate every idea you have read, and any attempt to do so likely will produce a paper that is a shallow listing of other people's arguments without any clear structure of its own. In order to get credit for a reaction paper you will need to engage some or all of the required reading for that class meeting. You will turn in your paper BEFORE lecture on the day that it is due. A more detailed description of the assignment is posted under "Assignments" on the Blackboard site, but the schedule is posted here:

Paper #1 for Group A is due in class on Tuesday Feb 1.
 Paper #1 for Group B is due in class on Thursday Feb 3.
 Paper #1 for Group C is due in class on Thursday Feb 10.
 Policy Memos for all groups are due in class on Thursday March 3.
 Paper #2 for Group A is due in class on Thursday March 17.
 Paper #2 for Group B is due in class on Thursday March 24.
 Paper #2 for Group C is due in class on Thursday March 31.

Group A = 8am discussion section
 Group B = 9am discussion section
 Group C = Well, you can figure it out.

Brief Outline of the Course

- I. Introduction: Three Disciplinary Perspectives on the Study of IR (weeks 1-2)
- II. International Conflict: Causes, Consequences, Meaning and Solutions (3-7)
- III. International Economic Issues: Aid, Trade, and the Environment (8-13)
- IV. Synthesizing Across Disciplines or Dividing the Labor? (14-15)

CLASS SCHEDULE (Will be updated and modified)

Date	Topic/Presenter	Required Readings and Assignments
Part I: Three Disciplinary Perspectives		
Thurs Jan 20	Models of Human Behavior: Different Ways of Exploring and Constructing the World Tierney (Overview)	Brian C. Schmidt, "On the History and Historiography of International Relations," in Carlsnaes et al, <i>Handbook of International Relations</i> , Sage 2002. FP Feature, "George H.W. Obama?" Survey of Nine Experts, April 14, 2010
Tues Jan 25	Political Science: Power, Institutions, and Ideas Tierney (Political Science)	Peter J. Katzenstein, Robert O. Keohane, and Stephen D. Krasner, "International Organization and the Study of World Politics," <i>International Organization</i> 52, 4, Autumn 1998, pp. 645-685. Mark Lynch Blog, "IR Constructivism v Rationalism." <i>Abu Aardvaark</i> . Alexander George, Knowledge for Statecraft: The Challenge for Political Science and History, <i>International Security</i> , 1997. John Lewis Gaddis, "History, Theory, and Common Ground," <i>International Security</i> , 1997. David Lake, "International Political Economy: A Maturing Interdiscipline," <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy</i> , 2006. See optional reading if you are really hardcore. See especially the interviews with Waltz (a realist) and Katzenstein (a constructivist) done by W&M students.
Thurs Jan 27	Political Science: Patterns Within the Discipline Tierney and Dessler (PS)	Maliniak, Oakes, Peterson, and Tierney, "International Relations in the U.S. Academy," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , forthcoming. Dan Maliniak and Michael Tierney, "The American School of IPE," Review of International Political Economy, forthcoming 2009. In a special issue on the gap between American and British IPE. David Dessler, "Constructivism Within a Positivist Social Science." <i>Review of International Studies</i> , 1999.

Tues Feb 1	History: What Historians Know Koloski (History)	William H. Sewell, Jr., <i>Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation</i> (The University of Chicago Press, 2005), 1-21. Burger King's "Whopper Virgins" advertisements and "documentary." Links on BB
Thurs Feb 3	Economics: Rational Choice Under Market Constraints Jensen (Economics)	Paul Krugman, "Two Cheers for Formalism," <i>Economic Journal</i> , 1998, vol. 108, issue 451, pages 1829-36. "Jensen and Ahlburg, "The Economics of the Commercial Sex Industry," Chapter 9, World Bank Report, 2002.

Part II: International Conflict: Causes, Consequences, Meaning and Solutions

Tues Feb 8	Why Does War Occur? Tierney (Political Science)	Ken Waltz, <i>Man, the State, and War</i> . 1959. Sarkees, Wayman, and Singer, "Inter-State, Intra-State, and Extra-State Wars: 1816-1997," <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , March 2003, pp 49-70.
Thurs Feb 10	The Domestic Politics of International Conflict Amy Oakes (Political Sci)	Amy Oakes, "Introduction," in <i>Diversionsary War: The Domestic Sources of International Conflict</i> . Book Manuscript. Amy Oakes, "A Diversionsary War: Argentina's Invasion of the British Falkland Islands, 1982 in <i>Diversionsary War: The Domestic Sources of International Conflict</i> . Book Manuscript.
Tues Feb 15	War and Peace in Guatemala? Betsy Konefal (History)	Betsy Konefal, "Subverting Authenticity: Reinas Indigenas and the Guatemalan State, 1978." Elizabeth Oglesby, "Educating Citizens in Post War Guatemala" Charles Hale, "Rethinking Indigenous Politics" Kate Doyle, "The Atrocity Files." <i>Harpers</i> .
Thurs Feb 17	The Seven Years War Paul Mapp (History)	Chapters from new book, <i>The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire, 1713-1763</i> , 2011. (Introduction and Chpts. 10-12)

Tues Feb 22	The War in Iraq Martin Schmidt (Economics)	Martin Schmidt and Matthew Hanson, "The Impact of Coalition Offensive Operations on the Iraqi Insurgency." <i>Applied Economics</i> , forthcoming.
Thurs Feb 24	High Tech Forecasting Models Shellman (Political Science)	Shellman and Moore, "The New School of Political Conflict and Terror, <i>POT</i> , 2008. Shellman et al, "Countering the Adversary," 2011.
Tues Mar 1	Soft Power in Post War Japan Hiroschi Kitamura (History)	Kitamura, "Fountains of Culture." Post War Japanese Cinema. See <i>The Matrix Reloaded</i> before you come to class on March 1.
Thurs Mar 3	Do Policy Makers Care About Any of This Research? Tierney (Political Science)	John Owen, "Iraq and the Democratic Peace," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , November/December 2005. Joseph Nye, "Bridging the Gap."
Mar 5-13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK

Part III: International Economic Issues: Aid, Trade, and the Environment

Tues Mar 15	International and Domestic Law and Child Labor, Arnab Basu (Economics)	Eric Neumayer and Indra De Soysa, "Trade Openness, FDI, and Child Labor," <i>World Development</i> , 2005.
Thurs Mar 17	Fair Trade Coffee: How Economics Can Help us Think About Just Outcomes, Arnab Basu (Economics)	Arnab Basu and Rob Hicks, "Label Performance and Fair Trade Coffee," <i>International Journal of Consumer Studies</i> , 2008.
Tues Mar 22	Environment and Development at the World Bank Tierney (Political Science)	Nielson and Tierney, "Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform," <i>IO</i> , 2003, Tamar Gutner, "Revisiting the Limits of Agency Theory, <i>IO</i> , 2005. Nielson and Tierney, "Theory, Data, and Hypothesis Testing, <i>IO</i> , 2005.
Thurs	Globalization Redux	Carl Strikwerda, From <i>The Great War to Globalization: Lessons from the First World</i>

Mar 24	Carl Strikwerda (History)	<i>War</i> . Draft chapter of book. Jeffrey Williamson, "Globalization, Labor Markets, and Policy Backlash in the Past," <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> . 1998.
Tues Mar 29	Paradoxes of Globalization James Dean (Economics)	James Dean, Chapter 1, <i>Paradoxes and Puzzles of Globalization</i> , forthcoming.
Thurs Mar 31	Europe and the Contemporary Financial Crisis Till Schreiber (Economics)	Fernanda Nechio, "Long-Run Impact of the Crisis in Europe: Reforms and Austerity Measures," <i>Economic Letter</i> , March 2011. OPTIONAL: Filipeck and Schreiber, "The Stability and Growth Pact," Working Paper, College of William and Mary, 2010.
Tues April 5	PLAID/AidData I: Greening Aid? Hicks (Economics)	Chapter 1, 2, and X from <i>Greening Aid: Understanding the Environmental Impact of Development Assistance</i> , 2008.
Thurs April 7	AidData II: Research Outcomes and Policy Innovation Tierney (Political Science)	Selected Chapters from forthcoming special issue of <i>World Development</i> (Intro Chapter; Shushan and Marcoux; Wilson; Findley et al)
Tues April 12	Politics in Hard Times: Globalization and Domestic Politics Tierney (Political Science)	Peter Gourevitch, "International Trade, Domestic Coalitions, and Liberty: Comparative Responses to the Crisis of 1873-1896," <i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i> , 1977.
Thurs Apr 14	Great Depression Redux?? Scott Nelson (History)	<i>Crash: An Uncommon History of America's Financial Disasters</i> . Chapter 1 from forthcoming book.
Tues April 19	Synthesis Within and Across Disciplines Tierney (Political Science)	Tierney and Weaver, "Principles and Principals: Synthesizing Rationalist and Constructivist Approaches in IR," Working Paper Nielson et al, "Bridging the Rationalist-Constructivist Divide: Change at the World Bank," <i>Journal of International Relations and Development</i> , 2006.
Thurs Apr 21	Humanities and Social Sciences Dessler (Philosophy of	C.P. Snow, <i>The Two Cultures</i> , 1956?

	Science)	
Tues Apr 26	Studying IR Across and Between Disciplines Faculty Panel	Oprah Winfrey will be joining us in class to moderate the faculty panel, which includes Oakes, Jensen, Langholtz, and Kitamura
Thurs Apr 28	Studying IR at William and Mary and Beyond Tierney	TBA