INTL 100 – 006
Introduction to International Studies

Spring 2015
Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 a.m-9:15 a.m
Maybank Hall 111

Instructor: Ali Demirdas
Office: Education Center, Room 206A
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:30am-10:30am or by appointment.

Contact: demirdasa@cofc.edu (The best way to communicate with me is e-mail! Indicate your class (INT 100) in the subject line.)

"The art and science of asking questions is the source of all knowledge."
Thomas Berger

In this course, INTL 100, Introduction to International Studies, students acquire basic knowledge, analytic skills, and vocabulary of concepts useful for understanding the multidimensional concerns of International Studies through examining the debates over global issues related to international politics, economics, society, history, and literature. INTL 100 is the core course of the International Studies major. It is meant to introduce students to the variety of approaches to international studies in the social sciences and the humanities. In this course, students will become familiar with the various “ways of knowing” in different disciplines and will explicitly compare these perspectives on the global connections in the social, cultural, economic and political spheres. The course is both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary as students will understand how different disciplines approach problems and questions as well as how different disciplines connect with one another or simply contradict one another when it comes to methods and goals.

In the course of understanding how different disciplines approach international studies, students will also be introduced to the ways in which different areas of the world fit into these disciplinary perspectives and how the same disciplinary perspective may vary in different regions. Rather than covering each of these in depth, this course is meant to expose
students to different regions and disciplines so that, as they further specialize in their own region and discipline over the course of their college career, they will be familiar with different ways of looking at the world, as well as the ways in which other regions are different from or similar to their own region of study.

Required Reading (I recommend buying it used online or it is available at the College Bookstore.):

ISBN-10: 081334588X

❖ Course Objectives and Outcomes

International Studies and Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate an ability to think globally from the perspective of multiple disciplines.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture.
- Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

These outcomes will be demonstrated and assessed in a 1500- to 2500-word paper (see schedule of classes and deadlines).

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. Appreciate and analyze the importance of an international approach to fields such as political science, economics, environmental studies, history, and language studies;

2. Recognize and discuss how international studies can enhance our understanding of day-to-day life and current events;

3. Use principles or aspects of political science, economics, environmental studies, history, and language studies to generate a greater understanding of the self and others;

4. Evaluate major developments that have stimulated intellectual debate and research and have shaped national and international policies and politics;

5. Understand the impact of individual decisions on the world and also world events on the individual.
Important points regarding the course:

- Additional readings may be available on the class web page on OAKS. Other readings may be assigned and handouts and supplements may be distributed later in the semester.

- This syllabus (including the lecture schedule, readings, assigned work and exams) is subject to change as necessary. Changes will be announced by email and on the course website on OAKS. It is the responsibility of each student to keep up with all readings and assignments.

- Attendance is mandatory! Every class you miss without a legitimate excuse will result in a 2-point deduction from your overall final grade.

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

✓ Research Paper – 20%

The assignment is to write a paper based on the guidelines outlined below:

A. International Studies and Course-Specific Learning Outcomes:
   1. Students will demonstrate an ability to think globally from the perspective of multiple disciplines (such as, but not limited to, economics, politics, anthropology, religion, history, geography, etc.)

B. General Education Student Learning Outcomes:
   1. Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture.
   2. Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

The paper should clearly state your research question, explain why the question is important and interesting, and then answer the question based on your research. The word limit is between 1500 and 2500 words. Please use APA style and refer to the following website for information on the format and citation.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

In writing the paper, you must do the following things:

- Clearly articulate a central question.
Explain the significance of the question. Why do you think the topic is important? Why should we care about the topic that you have picked?

Clearly articulate your answer to the question.

Reference Section (This DOES count as part of your word count.)

Your references may come from the following:
1. Media Sources
2. Books (I strongly recommend using the library.)
3. Academic Journals
4. Primary sources: Government documents, for instance.
5. Electronic sources: Please avoid citing unreliable sources such as blogs. While Wikipedia is a good way to obtain general knowledge, do not cite it as a source.

If you have a question about a source, please ask!

Academic integrity: The learning community at the College of Charleston depends on mutual respect between instructors and students. Your attention is drawn to the College of Charleston’s Honor Code (http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/faqs.php), especially the sections that forbid cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarism and disruptive classroom behavior. A student found guilty of any of these offenses will face penalties in accordance with CoC regulations. Compliance with these policies is an important part of your learning process in this introductory course and, hence, is your responsibility.

If you have special learning needs and require accommodations, e.g. regarding exams (SNAP related), please let me know well in advance and contact the Center for Disability Services to find suitable ways to accommodate your individual needs.

☑ Presentation of Research Paper – 10%

Using power point or overhead projection, you will present the outline of your research paper. Each of you will have 10-15 minutes, 10 of which ideally will be devoted to the actual presentation and the remaining 5 min. for Q&A. Some of the questions in the midterm and the final exams may come from the presentations, so I recommend taking notes during the presentations.

☑ Attendance & Participation – 10%

Attendance is required. You are required to report your absences to the Absence Memo Office at 67 George St. Each undocumented absence will result in 2-point deduction from your final exam. During the class time, an attendance sheet may be given for you to sign.

You are asked to meaningfully participate in class regularly. I encourage you to ask questions and express your opinions regarding the topic covered.

You are asked to come to the class well prepared and to participate in discussions.

☑ Midterm Exam – 20%
The Midterm will cover the topics that have been studied until the midterm exam date.

✓ **Final – 40 %**

There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the semester. To reschedule a final exam, you must provide a formal excuse and the respective evidence, such as a doctor’s note routed through the Absence Memo Office.

Final grades will be calculated using the following table:

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<th>Grade</th>
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Please, be a responsible student and take charge of your grade. If you want to know your current standing in class, check on the OAKS course site or inquire with me about this.
Part 1 – THE DISCIPLINES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

➔ Introduction and Course Content
➔ Peoples, Places, and Patterns: Geography in International Affairs
➔ Intercultural Relations: Anthropology for International Communication
➔ Economics and International Development
➔ Power, Conflict, and Policy: The Role of Political Science in International Studies & The Past in the Present: Historical Interpretation in International Conflict

Part 2 – INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOPICS

**There may be map quizzes in class for the regions below.**
➔ Europe and the Modern World
➔ East Asia and International Studies: Demography and Development
➔ South Central Asia and International Studies: Environment and Population
➔ Africa and the International Community
➔ The Middle East and the Islamic World
➔ Latin American Economic Development and U.S.–Latin American Relations

Part 3 – CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES

➔ Terrorism and Its Global Implications
➔ World Military Spending and Its Implications.
➔ MIDTERM EXAM
➔ Presentations
➔ Demography and Immigration
➔ Turkey and the European Union: The Crossroad from Europe to Asia.
→ Politics and Economy of Russia
→ The IMF and the World Bank
→ Euro Zone Crisis and Its Implications
→ Energy Security
→ FINAL EXAM