

Political Science 2223: Introduction to International Relations:

University of Colorado at Boulder, Summer, 2011 A Term (May 31<sup>st</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup>)

MTWRF: 9:15- 10:50 a.m. HLMS 251

Instructor: Burcu Pinar Alakoc, Ph.D. candidate.

Email: [alakoc@colorado.edu](mailto:alakoc@colorado.edu)

Office: Ketchum Hall, 5D.

Office Hours: M & W: 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. or by appointment.

I would like to welcome all of you to the 2223 Introduction to International Relations class. This class is designed to introduce students to the major actors, concepts, theories and debates of the international relations field and help them develop a solid understanding of the fundamentals of the IR scholarship. During the course, we will be talking about a variety of issues ranging from war and peace to international organizations, international trade, human rights, and nuclear proliferation. We will cover the major theoretical arguments and scholarly debates pertaining to the big issues in the field, and discuss about the applicability of different approaches to interstate affairs. That being said, this class is not merely going to be a discussion of current affairs. While there will be plenty of class discussion to give you a chance to raise your opinions, our primary goal will be to approach international relations theoretically and analytically. By the end of this class, you will be equipped with a broad set of tools for thinking systematically and making educated arguments about the questions of what, why and how of international relations.

**Readings:**

There is one textbook assigned for this class:

*International Relations* by Joshua S. Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse (10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Longman). The book is available at the UMC bookstore.

**Expectations and Grading:**

Since this is an introductory level course, it is very important that you attend the class regularly. Having a solid foundation of major theories and concepts is crucial not only for your grade in this class but also for your upper level classes in this field. In addition to this, while my lectures will mostly follow the textbook material, they will at times diverge from and add on to the reading assignments. Therefore, attendance is mandatory and will make up 15% of your overall grade.

You will have one midterm, one presentation and one final exam in this course. More information about each of these components will be provided in class.

The rest of your grade will be your in-class participation, which includes but is not limited to class discussions and surprise pop quizzes. Here are the important dates and breakdown of your grade:

06/13 Monday: 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm (20%)  
Final Exam (TBA) (30%)  
  
Presentation (TBA): (20%)  
Participation (15%)  
Attendance (15%)

**1<sup>st</sup> Week:** (31<sup>st</sup> of May- 3<sup>rd</sup> of June): Actors, Levels of Analysis & Theories of IR.

Read Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week:** Presentations begin/ Domestic and Foreign Policy Making, and International Conflict; Causes of wars/war initiation, types of wars; third party intervention, and duration of peace.

Read Chapters 4 & 5.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Week:** Terrorism, Rogue States, Nuclear Proliferation; Read Chapter 6.

**06/13 M: 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Week:** International Organizations, Law and Human Rights & International Trade.

Read Chapters 7, 8 & 9.

**5<sup>th</sup> Week:** Final Week: International Integration, The North South Gap, and International Development.

Read Chapters 10, 12, 13.

**FINAL EXAM (TBA).**

#### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO POLICIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices).

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning

environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.