# **INTS 303-002 – Introduction to International Studies – Fall 2019**

Instructor: Amy Zhang (Xinyi Zhang)

Office Hours: Th 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, by appointment, in Enterprise Hall 4th floor

Email: xzhang16@gmu.edu

Classroom: Robinson B 105

Class times: Th 1:30pm-4:10pm

Teaching Assistant: Natalie Paulsen

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## Course Description

In this course, we will take multi-disciplinary approaches to exploring the field of International Studies. The course will combine lectures, discussion of readings, films, case studies, projects, and active inquiry-based learning to examine issues such as globalization and the natural environment, public health, gender, media and technologies, and conflict, with an attempt to deepen community members’ understanding of an increasingly interdependent world and to broaden their perspectives on a variety of international topics.

## Learning Objectives

This course is structured so that students develop competency in four areas: Global Understanding, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Civic Engagement. Learning objectives include:

* Developing an understanding of foundational terms and concepts in the field of International Studies
* Understanding the theoretical and practical significance of different disciplinary perspectives and debates related to International Studies
* Gaining knowledge about several contemporary international issues
* Developing an understanding of global processes, global power structures, and global inequalities
* Developing research skills through collecting, analyzing, and interpreting sources on international topics
* Gaining experience communicating arguments and findings in writing and an oral presentation
* Learning strategies for civic engagement and social change related to contemporary international issues

## Required Texts

Anderson, S. et. al. (Eds.) (2018) *International Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Issues*. Westview Press.

Campbell, P. et. al. (Eds.) (2010). *An Introduction to Global Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell.

## Course Schedule

Course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in writing.

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| Week 1 | |
| Th 08/29 | **Course Goals and Expectations; Introduction to International Studies** |
|  | Manfred Stegar, Globalization: A Contested Concept, 1-16.  Use your @gmu.edu address to create a ***free*** student account for nytimes.com and explore how to access other newspapers from the GMU library.  If using digital text, download a PDF reader that can highlight and annotate (ex. Adobe Acrobat) |
| Week 2 | |
| Th 09/05 | **International Studies and Globalization; Is Globalization Good/Bad?**  Campbell, et. al., Chapter 1: Going Global |
| Week 3 | |
| Th 09/12 | **History and International Studies**  Anderson, et al., Chapter 1: The Past in the Present |
| Week 4 | |
| Th 09/19 | **Geography and International Studies**  Anderson, et. al., Chapter 2: Peoples, Places and Patterns |
| Week 5 | |
| Th 09/26 | **Anthropology and International Studies; Annotated Bibliography Workshop I**  Anderson, et. al., Chapter 3: Anthropology |
| Week 6 | |
| Th 10/03  *Sun: 10/06 Research Topic and Annotation 1* | **Economics and International Studies**  Anderson, et. al., Chapter 4: World Trade and International Development |
| Week 7 | |
| Th 10/10 | **Political Science and International Studies; Annotated Bibliography Workshop II**  Anderson, et. al., Chapter 5: Power, Conflict, and Policy  We will use laptops in class |
| Week 8 | |
| Th 10/17  *Sun 10/20*  *Due: Annotated Bibliography* | **In-Class Midterm** |
| Week 9 | |
| Th 10/24 | **Contemporary International Issue: Globalization and the Natural Environment**  Campbell, et. al. Chapter 5: The Natural Environment |
| Week 10 | |
| Th 10/31  *Sun 11/03*  *Due: Country Position Paper I* | **Contemporary International Issue: Population and Consumption Patterns**  Campbell, et. al. Chapter 6: Population and Consumption |
| Week 11 | |
| Th 11/07 | **Contemporary International Issue: Gender and Development**  Campbell, et. al. Chapter 8: The Gendered World |
| Week 12 | |
| Th 11/14  *Sun 11/17*  *Due: Country Position Paper II* | **Contemporary International Issue: War and Violence**  Campbell, et. al. Chapter 10: War and Violent Conflict |
| Week 13 | |
| Th 11/21 | **Mini-Model UN Presentation and Conference I** |
| Week 14 | |
| Th 12/05  *Sun: 12/08*  *Due: Final Research Paper*  *Due: Reflective Essay* | **Mini-Model UN Presentation and Conference II** |

## Requirements

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| **Class Participation** | 10% |
| **Country Position Project**  Country Position Paper I (10%)  Country Position Paper II (10%)  Mini-Model UN Conference Presentation (10%)  Mini-Model UN Summit (10%) | 40% |
| **Research Project**  Topic Selection and Annotation 1 (5%)  Annotated Bibliography (10%)  Final Research Paper (20%) | 35% |
| **Midterm** | 15% |
| **Reflective Essay (+2%)** |  |
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| **TOTAL** | 100% |

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| --- | --- |
| **A** | 93.33+ |
| **A-** | 90 |
| **B+** | 86.67 |
| **B** | 83.33 |
| **B-** | 80 |
| **C+** | 76.67 |
| **C** | 73.33 |
| **C-** | 70 |
| **D** | 60 |
| **F** | Below 60 |

### Class Participation

It is essential that you come to class on time and prepared to engage in with the material, ask pertinent questions, and participate in classroom discussions. As a mark of respect for our collective learning experience, be judicious about your remarks. Think about what is relevant and constructive for our shared conversation. Participation requires honoring the electronics policy. Regular attendance is required to successfully complete this class and you are responsible for material covered in class when you are absent.

### Country Position Project

1. **Country Position Papers (2x10%)**

You will explore a country (chosen in class) and the impact of one of the four issue topics from weeks 9-12 on that country. You will submit a one-page paper summarizing your research on that issue in your country derived from at least five sources (two of which should be scholarly sources.) You are expected to write 2 position papers of this kind.

1. **Mini-Model UN Presentation (10%) and Conference (10%)**

At the end of this semester, we will have two mini-Model UN conferences—one on an issue of the Environment and one on an issue of Gender. Each student will be a presenter for either the Environment conference or the Gender conference. In a 3-minute presentation, you will convey your member state's position on the issue. You will then discuss with other member state representatives and help build consensus; and formulate at least one short resolution. During the conference that you are not presenting in, you will complete an in-class writing assignment based on observing your peers’ presentations.

### Research Project

Throughout the course, we have applied several disciplinary perspectives of International Studies to various issues. Your final project asks you to do the same to a contemporary issue or event of your choosing.

1. **Topic Selection and Annotation 1 (5%)**

You will state your chosen topic of research and complete one annotation of a scholarly peer-reviewed source.

1. **Annotated Bibliography (10%)**

Your annotated bibliography will briefly describe the contemporary international issue or event you have chosen based on news reporting from at least one American and one local/regional news source. You will then present three annotations of relevant scholarly sources.

1. **Final Research Paper (20%)**

Based on further research, your final research paper will develop the description of the contemporary issue or event you have chosen and assess the political, historical, cultural, geographical and economic dimensions of that issue. This paper will conclude with a passage on the possible outcomes of this issue/event based on your observations. The final research paper will reference at least five scholarly sources.

### In-Class Midterm

There will be an in-class midterm exam. This exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will reflect the material we have covered during the first half of the course. It will be an open-note and open-book exam.

### Reflective Essay (Extra Credit)

For this extra credit assignment, you will submit an essay reflecting on the topics and concepts discussed in our course, attempting to connect them to some aspect of your current or future life or work.

## Course Policies

### Classroom Environment

Discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification. It is okay for us to disagree with one another in class discussion, but let’s do so in the spirit of dialogue to keep the conversation as open and informative for everyone as possible. If you feel our classroom is not meeting your needs in these regards, please let me know.

### Assignment Procedures

Submit all assignments on Blackboard. Save assignments as .doc or .docx documents **only**, using 12 pt. font and single spaced. All assignments must be cited in accordance with either the Chicago, APA, or MLA style manuals. All assignments are due at midnight of the due date. Late assignments are not accepted unless previous arrangements have been made. If you anticipate not being able to complete your assignment on time for a well-documented exceptional circumstance, communicate with me before the assignment is due to request an extension.

### Email

GMU faculty and students are required to use GMU email accounts to communicate. You must regularly check your GMU email address, as important updates will be sent that way. I will respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. After that period, you are encouraged to send me a “following up” message.

### Electronics

Cell phone use is not allowed in the classroom.You are welcome to bring a laptop to class and use it for class-related purposes. During class you are asked to refrain from using your laptop for purposes not related to class.

## University Policies

### Academic Integrity:

George Mason University has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Please see <http://honorcode.gmu.edu/> to ensure that you abide by it. If you are uncertain about citation rules or assignment guidelines, ask me for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. If you feel unusual pressure or anxiety about your grade in this or any other course, please let me know and also seek help from University resources. The University provides a range of services to help with test anxiety, writing skills, study skills, personal issues, and related concerns.

### Disability Services:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit http://ds.gmu.edu/ for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email:ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474

### Diversity and Inclusion:

The School of Integrative Studies, an intentionally inclusive community, promotes and maintains an equitable and just work and learning environment. We welcome and value individuals and their differences including race, economic status, gender expression and identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age, and disability.

### Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence:

As a faculty member and designated “Responsible Employee,” I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per university policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).

## College Resources

**Writing Resources:** Tutors at the Writing Center are available to assist with assignments: Robinson A, room 114, 703-993-1824, <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

**Disability Resource Center:** The staff members of the DRC assist students with learning differences or any other conditions that may impact academic performance: SUB I, room 222, 703-993-2474, <http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc>

**Counseling Services:** Professional counselors provide individual and group sessions for personal development and assistance with a range of emotional and relational issues: SUB I, room 364, 703-993-2380, <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/csdc>

**Learning Services:** George Mason University’s Learning Services assigns tutors upon request, at no charge, that can help you develop ideas, study, and revise papers. Please visit Robinson A 114, Main Office, Enterprise 076, or call 703-993-1824.

**Division of Instructional and Technology Support Services (DolT):** If you have any

difficulties with accessing the campus network or on campus computers, please contact the help

desk. DoIT is located in Innovations Hall, Rm.416; 703-993-3178; <http://www.doit.gmu.edu>

**Student Technology Assistance and Resource Center (STAR):** The STAR Center is available to help students with technology needs, such as video, multimedia, desktop publishing, and web skills. The STAR Center is located in Johnson Center, Rm.229; 703-993-8990; <http://media.gmu.edu>