Northwestern University
240 Intro to IR - Spring 2017

Prof. Ian Hurd
Dept. of Political Science
Office: Scott Hall, rm 306
Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12

Lecture: 11-12:30 Tuesday/Thursday in Fisk Hall, room 217

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This course examines issues in contemporary international politics and considers various ways of thinking about international politics. Using recent disputes from international law, international security, and international political economy, it examines both the cases and the conceptual framing that makes them possible. This involves thinking in theoretical, practical, and historical ways about politics, economics, and social theory with a global perspective.

**Required Texts**


Jonathan Katz, *The Big Truck that Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster* (Palgrave 2013).

All other readings will be online or distributed in class.

**Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Sections</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Schedule of Topics and Readings

I.

Tuesday March 28


Thursday March 30 - States, Power, and Frames


Shirley Scott, “States in International Law,” Ch 2 of Shirley Scott, International Law in World Politics (Lynne Rienner, 2010 2nd ed.).

II.

Tuesday April 4 - Engines of World Politics


Thursday April 6 - Power and Choices


Ian Hurd, “Theory, Methods, and International Organizations,” Ch. 2 of *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*.


III.

**Tuesday April 11 - World Order**


**Thursday April 13 - Methods and Questions**


*Further reading*


IV.

Tuesday April 18 - Syria event

Interview with Chris Philips, POMEPS on Soundcloud https://pomeps.org/2017/02/27/syrias-international-politics-a-conversation-chris-phillips/


Thursday April 20 - War, Law, and Intervention


further reading


V.

IPE: Trade, finance, power

**Tuesday April 25 - International Trading System**


On trade classification: https://www.bna.com/snuggies-blankets-not-n57982083700/

**Thursday April 27 - Finance**


Branko Milanovic, Ch. 1 of *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*.

VI.

**Tuesday May 2 - Globalization and Power**

Karl Marx and Freidrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Ayelet Shachar, Intro and Ch. 2 of *Birthright Lottery*.


**Thursday May 4 - midterm**

VII.

**Tuesday May 9 - State of Nature or Global Empire**

5 of 7


Thursday May 11 - International Organizations

Charter of the United Nations


VIII.

Tuesday May 16 - International Law

Shirley Scott, “The Logical Structure of International Law,” Ch. 5 of Shirley Scott, International Law in World Politics (Lynne Rienner, 2010 2nd ed.).

Ian Hurd, “The International Court of Justice,” Ch. 8 in International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice.

ICJ Whaling case materials

Thursday May 18 - Jonathan Katz: Haiti, cholera, and international law

Jonathan Katz, The Big Truck that Went By, Ch. 7-Afterword.

IX.

**Tuesday May 23** - US and the World


Interview with Mohamedou Slahi.


**Thursday May 25** - Human Rights


Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, [http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cat.html](http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cat.html).


Ian Hurd, “The International Criminal Court,” Ch. 9 in *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*.

*Further reading*


X.

**Tuesday May 30** - reading week

**Thursday June 1** - reading week

**June 5** - exam week