

I100 – Introduction to International Studies (Section # XXXXX)

Dr. Scott Pegg

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Office Hours: Mondays 2:00 – 4:00, Wednesdays 9:30 – 10:30 & 12:30 – 1:30, or by
prior appointment.

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Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce you to International Studies. No prior knowledge is assumed or expected.

In contrast to International Relations (a specific sub-field of Political Science) with which it is often confused, International Studies is an interdisciplinary field. That means that International Studies can be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives including, but not necessarily limited to: Anthropology, Business, Communications, Economics, Film, Geography, History, Law, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology and World Languages and Cultures. As it is impossible for one introductory course or one professor to cover all of these many different disciplines, what this course tries to do is provide you with a representative interdisciplinary sample of the various ways in which you can pursue International Studies scholarship.

We start with a variety of focused micro-level works centered around the theme of cross-cultural understandings and misunderstandings. This part of the course features Literature (Achebe), Film (*The White Balloon* and *The Harder They Come*) and Cultural Anthropology (Fadiman). These selections were deliberately chosen to expose you to a wide variety of different countries and cultures (Nigeria, Iran, Jamaica, Laos and the United States). The remainder of the course then shifts to grand or macro-level visions of International Studies. This part of the course features Political Science (Mearsheimer), History (McNeill) and Economics (de Soto) and emphasizes the ways in which these different disciplines try to answer some of the “big questions” in International Studies.

In pursuing this interdisciplinary introduction to International Studies, this course aims to integrate and promote IUPUI’s Principles of Undergraduate Learning (see http://www.iport.iupui.edu/teach/teach_pul.htm for more information) which are: core communication and quantitative skills; critical thinking; integration and application of knowledge; intellectual depth, breadth, and adaptiveness; understanding society and culture; and values and ethics.

Course readings:

There are five primary textbooks for this course. They are:

- 1) Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.

- 2) Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.
- 3) John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003.
- 4) J. R. McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th Century World*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001.
- 5) Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. New York: Basic Books, 2003.

All of these books are available in the university bookstore. They can also be ordered from Amazon.com or from the publishers directly.

Course grading:

- 10%** of your overall grade is based on attendance and participation
- 10%** of your overall grade is based on the first written assignment
- 20%** of your overall grade is based on the second written assignment
- 30%** of your overall grade is based on the midterm exam
- 30%** of your overall grade is based on the non-cumulative final exam

There are no extra credit assignments available in this course.

Your final course grade will be based solely on these five components (attendance and participation, two written assignments, two midterm exams).

Students are entitled to an explanation of their grades. If you wish to challenge any of my grades, you must write me a memo explaining why. I will not consider changing any grades without a written request to do so.

The grading scale that will be used in this course is as follows:

- 97-100=A+
- 93-96=A
- 90-92=A-
- 87-89=B+
- 83-86=B
- 80-82=B-
- 77-79=C+
- 73-76=C
- 70-72=C-
- 67-69=D+
- 63-66=D
- 60-62=D-
- 0-59=F

Attendance and participation:

Attendance will be taken regularly. I understand that students do get sick and occasionally miss class for important reasons. As such, one or two absences will not be penalized. Additional absences will result in a proportional lowering of your grade in this area. Students who participate in class actively can expect to score higher on this component of their grade than students who merely sit in their chairs passively. Active participation can include such things as asking questions about the readings, asking questions about the lecture, making connections between different readings in the course, making connections between the course material and current events, answering questions posed by the professor, answering questions posed by another student, etc. The *quality* of your participation is more important than the *quantity* of your participation. Students who ask questions which are directly pertinent to our class discussions or readings or synthesize the different readings together will score better than students whose comments or questions are only of peripheral relevance to our class material.

Exams, exam dates and make-up exams:

The exams will cover both the course readings and in-class lectures and discussions. Some of my lectures might follow the readings closely. Others will have a more indirect connection to the readings. Students are responsible for all material covered in the course whether it comes from the readings or from our classroom sessions. The final exam is not designed to be cumulative (it will cover material after the midterm exam) and it will be given during the university's final examination period.

While we may occasionally diverge from some of the lecture and class discussion topics listed on the syllabus, the exam dates listed below are *permanently fixed and will not be changed*. Please do not ask me to reschedule the exams.

Make-up exams will *only* be given to students with a valid excuse who give me prior notification that they will not be at the regularly-scheduled exam. Unless you have a medical or family emergency, you can either call my office and leave a voicemail message or you can send me an e-mail ahead of time. Make-up exams will not necessarily be in the same format as the regular exam.

Statement on plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined by IUPUI as "the use of the work of others without properly crediting the actual source of the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, entire articles, music or pictures." Buying papers written by someone other than yourself also constitutes plagiarism. I support and intend to abide by the university's position that "Plagiarism, a form of cheating, is a serious offense and will be severely punished." Plagiarism can easily be avoided by properly citing all references used in your papers. If you have any questions, please see me during office hours or before or after class to talk about this. Any plagiarism will be penalized. Papers which contain substantial plagiarized sections will automatically receive an F in this course and may lead to disciplinary action by the university.

Students with disabilities or special needs:

Students with disabilities or special needs are encouraged to make use of the services provided by Adaptive Educational Services (AES). I have worked with AES a number of times in previous semesters and will be happy to work with them and with you this semester. Students may get in contact with AES by visiting their office in the basement of Cavanaugh Hall, calling 274-3241, e-mailing AES@iupui.edu or visiting their website at <http://www.life.iupui.edu/aes/index.asp>.

1st Written assignment:

Your first written assignment is due at the beginning (11:00 AM) of class on Wednesday, February 9th. It must be double-space typed in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins all around.

Your first written assignment is to write an abstract of not more than 300 words summarizing the main ideas and arguments put forth in one of six readings listed below. You should write the abstract as if you were the author of this piece. In other words, avoid wasting space on such phrases as “The author argues....” or “Mearsheimer maintains....” and instead just summarize the key points as if you had written them yourself. The basic point of this assignment is to evaluate how well you understand what you read and to ascertain your ability to distinguish key, basic or fundamental points from secondary, tertiary or peripheral points. One way to think about this assignment is to pretend that I am an important government official and you work for me. This assignment is basically me telling you “I’m too busy to read this entire chapter, but I need to know what it says. Please give me a 300 word summary of it so I understand what the main points of the argument are.” Students who wish to see examples of other abstracts can consult any issue of *American Political Science Review*.

In doing this assignment, you must select one of the following six readings, all of which come from your syllabus: 1) Mearsheimer, chapter 2 from 2/21/05 on your syllabus; 2) Mearsheimer, chapter 9 from 3/9/05; 3) McNeill, chapter 9 from 4/4/05; 4) McNeill, chapter 10 from 4/6/05; 5) de Soto, chapter 3 from 4/18/05; or 6) de Soto, chapter 5 from 4/25/05. As I do not want more than nine students to write on any one reading, you must sign up for a specific reading ahead of time. Readings will be assigned on a first come first serve basis and you may sign up for them either in class or during my office hours.

Your first written assignment will be graded on the basis of the following factors:

a) *following directions* – abstracts that conform to the above specifications in terms of due date, word length, margins, typestyle, appropriate readings, etc. will score better than those which do not. Students who exceed the 300 word limit will not score well. See below for my late paper policy.

b) *clarity of argument and expression* – abstracts that clearly and succinctly express themselves will score better than abstracts which do not.

c) *conciseness and brevity* – you only have 300 words, avoid unnecessary repetition. Abstracts that illustrate five points concisely will score better than abstracts which illustrate two points in great detail and neglect to mention the other three.

d) *structure* – abstracts which are well-structured will score better than abstracts which are poorly organized and jump around between different unconnected points.

e) *ability to identify important points or concepts* – as you only have 300 words to play with, you must carefully distill what is essential to the author’s argument from what is secondary or peripheral. Abstracts which miss or neglect key points will not score as well as abstracts which cover the most important points.

2nd Written Assignment:

Your second written assignments is due at the beginning (11:00 AM) of class on Monday, April 18th. It must be double-space typed in Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins all around.

Your second written assignment is to write a book review of not more than 1,200 words of one of four books on the syllabus for this course (Fadiman, Mearsheimer, McNeill, de Soto). Your book review should be a mixture of summary and critique. Critique here does not mean that you savagely attack the author. Indeed, you might find that the book is generally a strong contribution to the field. In writing the critique, you will critically assess and evaluate the arguments and ideas that the author advances and highlight weaknesses, omissions or problems with the argument. You might begin your book review by first summarizing some of the author’s main arguments and then later focusing on those specific elements of the argument which you are going to critique. Any sources brought in from outside of the main reading must be properly cited and referenced.

Students who wish to see sample book reviews may consult any issue of *African Affairs*, *International Studies Review*, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* or *Perspectives on Politics*.

You must select either Fadiman’s, Mearsheimer’s, McNeill’s or de Soto’s book from the syllabus for this course for this assignment. The same sign-up policy applies here as it did on the first written assignment.

In writing your book review, you should at all times avoid *plagiarism*. See the statement on plagiarism above for more on this. Please be aware that I know that book reviews of all of these books have already been published. I have copies of all of them and will be reading through them before grading this assignment.

Your 2nd written assignment will be graded on the basis of the following factors:

a) *following directions* – book reviews that conform to the above specifications in terms of due date, word length, margins, typestyle, appropriate readings, etc. will score better than those which do not. See below for my late paper policy.

b) *clarity of argument and expression* – book reviews that clearly express themselves and advance specific arguments will score better than assignments which are vague, confusing or do not advance specific arguments.

c) *conciseness and brevity* – avoid unnecessary repetition.

d) *structure* – book reviews which are well-structured with introductions, main bodies which develop arguments and conclusions that summarize them will score better than book reviews which are poorly organized.

e) *depth, specificity, and sophistication of argument* – book reviews which demonstrate extensive thought will score better than those which appear to have been written in a hurry. Book reviews which make specific, original, innovative, complex and/or incisive arguments will score much better than those which do not.

f) *amount of research done* – related to the above, book reviews which demonstrate extensive background research on your part will score better than ones which appear to have been done with the minimal possible effort. Note: merely listing sources in a bibliography will not impress me. You must actively incorporate these sources into your review to show me that you have actually read them and not just copied their names.

Late papers:

The first written assignment is due at the beginning of class (11:00 AM) on Wednesday, February 9th. The second written assignment is due at the beginning of class (11:00 AM) on Monday, April 18th. Papers turned in after 11:00 but on the same day the assignment is due will have 5 points deducted from them. You will lose an additional 5 points for each 24 hour calendar period the paper is late. No papers will be accepted for any reason more than two weeks after their original due dates.

Class schedule and required readings:

This course meets every Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM in room CA 227. Course readings should be done *before* the class they are listed for as we will discuss them in class that day.

Introduction to the course:

Mon. 1/10 – 1st day of class, no required readings.

Cultural understandings and misunderstandings through Literature and Film:

Wed. 1/12 – Achebe, Part One, pp. 3-125.

Mon. 1/17 – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, no class.

Wed. 1/19 – Achebe, Parts Two and Three, pp. 129-209.

Mon. 1/24 – Film: “The White Balloon,” directed by Jafar Panahi, Iran, 1995. Note: this film will extend about ten minutes beyond our normal end time. No required readings.

Wed. 1/26 – Film: “The Harder They Come,” directed by Perry Henzell, Jamaica, 1972. Note: We will see the first part of the film today and watch its conclusion on Monday. No required readings.

Mon. 1/31 – Film: “The Harder They Come,” directed by Perry Henzell, Jamaica, 1972. Note: After the conclusion of the film, we will have an in-class discussion on both films. No required readings.

Cultural understandings and misunderstandings through Cultural Anthropology:

Wed. 2/2 – Fadiman, chapters 1-5, pp. 3-59.

Mon. 2/7 – Fadiman, chapters 6-9, pp. 60-118.

Wed. 2/9 – Fadiman, chapters 10-13, pp. 119-180.

1st Written Assignment Due at the Beginning of Class (11:00 AM)

Mon. 2/14 – Fadiman, chapters 14-16, pp. 181-249.

Wed. 2/16 – Fadiman, chapters 17-19, pp. 250-289.

A grand or macro-level Political Science vision of International Studies:

Mon. 2/21 – Mearsheimer, chapters 1-2, pp. 1-54.

Wed. 2/23 – Mearsheimer, chapters 3 & 5, pp. 55-82 and 138-167.

Mon. 2/28 – Mearsheimer, chapter 6, pp. 168-232.

Wed. 3/2 – **1st Midterm Examination**

Mon. 3/7 – Mearsheimer, chapter 8, pp. 267-333.

Wed. 3/9 – Mearsheimer, chapter 9, pp. 334-359.

Mon. 3/14 – Spring break, no class.

Wed. 3/16 – Spring break, no class.

Mon. 3/21 – Mearsheimer, chapter 10, pp. 360-402.

A grand or macro-level Historical vision of International Studies:

Wed. 3/23 – McNeill, chapters 1-2, pp. 3-49.

Mon. 3/28 – McNeill, chapters 3-4, pp. 50-117.

Wed. 3/30 – McNeill, chapters 5 & 7, pp. 118-148 and 192-227.

Mon. 4/4 – McNeill, chapter 9, pp. 269-287.

Wed. 4/6 – McNeill, chapter 10, pp. 296-324.

Mon. 4/11 – McNeill, chapters 11-12, pp. 325-362.

A grand or macro-level Economic vision of International Studies:

Wed. 4/13 – de Soto, chapters 1-2, pp. 1-38.

Mon. 4/18 – de Soto, chapter 3, pp. 39-68.

2nd Written Assignment Due at the Beginning of Class (11:00 AM)

Wed. 4/20 – de Soto, chapter 4, pp. 69-104.

Mon. 4/25 – de Soto, chapter 5, pp. 105-152.

Wed. 4/27 – de Soto, chapter 6, pp. 153-206.

Mon. 5/2 – de Soto, chapter 7, pp. 207-229.

The non-cumulative final examination will be held during the university's regularly scheduled final exam period for this course: Wednesday, May 4th from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

Other Important Dates During the Semester

January 18 (5:00 PM)	100% refund period ends
January 22 (12:00 PM)	75% refund period ends
January 29 (12:00 PM)	50% refund period ends
February 5 (12:00 PM)	25% refund period ends
March 4 (5:00 PM)	Last day to withdraw with automatic grade of W
April 1 (5:00 PM)	Last day to withdraw