Welcome to the study of relations between nation states, better known as international relations (IR). This course acquaints you with the major topics, themes, and patterns of IR, as well as the theoretical frameworks for understanding IR. Throughout the semester we will track current IR events as a means to reveal, explore, and understand these topics, themes, patterns, and theoretical frameworks. By the end of the course you will have developed the necessary foundation for understanding and analyzing future IR events on your own and in advanced IR courses. You may even decide to become a Political Science major and pursue a career in IR. But even if your career path takes you in a different direction, I am pleased you will join me as we explore the world of IR together.

Course Assignments: The assignments for the course include weekly quizzes, two exams, and three short research topics. Attendance and active participation is assumed. The break-down of your final grade is:

- Weekly Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Research Topics: 30% (10% each)

The numerical scale used for letter grades is as follows: F below 60, D- 60-63, D 64-66, D+ 67-69, C- 70-73, C 74-76, C+ 77-79, B- 80-83, B 84-86, B+ 87-89, A- 90-93, A 94-100.

Course Texts: There are two main texts for this course: Steven L. Spiegel, et. al. World Politics in a New Era. 4th edition (Oxford, 2009), and daily editions of the New York Times (weekdays, international section). There will also be a small expense later in the semester to purchase a case study brief (details on this will be provided later). The reading schedule for the Spiegel, et. al. is clearly marked below.

Your second textbook for the course is the NYTimes. You are expected to read the international section of the NYTimes on a daily basis (weekdays only) and will be quizzed on it weekly (see details of quizzes below). Regarding the NYTimes:

- Limited paper copies of the NYTimes should be available in the Honors dorm and at various stands around campus via the honors/undergraduate readership program. You can also obtain a subscription through the Coop bookstore. There may be home delivery depending on where you live.
• You can also access it on the web (http://www.nytimes.com), following a log in procedure. Be sure to read it under the tab “Today’s Paper,” NOT the “Home Page” tab which adds and subtracts news stories throughout the day. This access method is free, but you can’t access prior days of the week (which can be a problem if you are a procrastinator or want to review the week’s stories for Friday’s quiz). Consider instead a paid subscription to the “Electronic Edition” (link is in left lower column, $10/mo) which digitally replicates the paper copy and archives all prior issues. You can end your subscription when the class ends. You could also read it in the library periodicals room, but it is in demand by other patrons.
• Do NOT substitute another paper. Local papers, such as the Hartford Courant and Boston Globe, are not the same caliber as the NYTimes and do not report as much IR news. Other high quality papers cover IR news stories, but variations in coverage affect quiz questions.
• You do not need to know every detail of every international event reported in the NYTimes. Focus instead on the front page stories, stories within the international section that involve the US, and stories that are about ongoing issues or events throughout the semester. For example, last Wednesday’s NYTimes featured a front page story about Google’s threat to shut down its operations in China in response to suspected attempts by the Chinese government to limit Web free speech. You wouldn’t need to know every detail of this story, but you would need to know that such a story existed in order to correctly answer a quiz question about it.

Weekly Quizzes: Quizzes are administered EVERY FRIDAY at the beginning of class, with the exception of April 2nd (quiz will be on Wednesday’s class instead). There quizzes cover assigned readings for that week in Spiegel AND current events reported in the NYTimes from last Friday, this Monday through Thursday. You might want to keep a brief record of each week's head-line stories in your notebook and review these plus the readings before every Friday class session. Note that:

→ There are absolutely NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES given in this course. For the purposes of quiz final averaging, you are allowed ONLY 2 (TWO!) absences from Friday class sections for the entire semester, barring university-wide cancellations for inclement weather. These absences are "allowed" in that your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped when the final quiz average is calculated. If you are absent for more than 2 Friday sessions on which quizzes are given, the zeros you receive for those quizzes will be calculated into your final grade average. There is ABSOLUTELY NO WAY OF MAKING THOSE ADDITIONAL ZEROS UP!!
→ Exceptions to this rule depend on very specific circumstances (for example, athletic schedules, disabilities, or university-sponsored business), require documentation and confirmation from relevant University offices, and require that quizzes still be taken in a timely fashion. No other exceptions are allowed, regardless of your health, transportation needs, family situation, vacation plans, alarm clock malfunctions, and so on. In other words, use your 2 “allowed” absences wisely.
→ It is your responsibility to collect, keep, and produce your graded quizzes in the event that you believe there has been a calculations error on your final quiz average.
→ While prompt arrival is expected for all class sessions, it is particularly important to arrive on time for Friday’s quiz. If this will pose an on-going problem for you, please discuss it with me.

Exams: There are two exams in this course. Their format will be a variety of definitional identifications, conceptual applications, and short-answer. Exam questions are based EXCLUSIVELY on in-class materials and cover only those lectures given since the prior exam. Please take the exams when they are scheduled. Make-ups exams are more difficult to pass.

Assignments and In-Class Activities: Three times during the semester you will be given an assignment which will involve research on an assigned topic. The last two assignments are also
preparation for in-class activities on the day the paper is due (one is a debate, the other is a case activity). You will be expected to web research the topic and then write a 1-2 page (but no more than 2), single-spaced, typed summary of the topic (which includes your sources). Due dates are clearly marked on the syllabus. Regarding these assignments:

- If you are absent on the day when topics are assigned, it is your responsibility to contact me via email to see if it is possible to obtain a research topic. But please be aware that I cannot guarantee a topic will be sent to you and/or that it will be sent in a timely fashion.
- Do not request a topic the evening before the assignment is due.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class. If you are absent on a day that assignments are due, you may still pass the assignment in, but your grade for that assignment will automatically be dropped a letter grade.
- It is particularly important that you be in class to pass in the last two assignments since they are preparation for in-class activities.

**Missed Notes:** Lecture and discussion notes are not provided for any missed classes (regardless of the reason for your absence), nor will be they posted or made available electronically.

**Classroom Etiquette:** In order to do well in this course, you need to attend all class sessions, do all assigned readings, actively listen to and focus on lecture material, take copious notes, and don’t be afraid to ask questions or participate in discussions.

As a courtesy to your fellow students and myself, please do not carry on lengthy conversations with one another (or on your cell phone) during class. Texting and sleeping in class are also inappropriate, even if you do not mean either of these as a personal slight.

Please use the restrooms BEFORE class, and do not leave class in the middle unless it is an emergency. If you arrive late to class or must leave early, please try to sit near the door so that your movements do not disrupt the class.

If you intend to use a laptop during class time, please **sit in the back** of the class room so you will not distract other students. Laptops should be used for class purposes only (notes, directed research), not for emails, web-surfing and other non-course related activities.

Do not attempt to cheat on the exams or pass in plagiarized written work. Cheating will be confronted, much to your embarrassment, and will involve academic sanction. An academic misconduct fact sheet and the Student Conduct Code may be found at: [http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic_misconduct_faq.html](http://www.community.uconn.edu/academic_misconduct_faq.html)

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

- **Jan 20, 22** -- INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE AND SUBJECT
  Spiegel, ch. 1 (Complexity and Competing Processes)

- **Jan 25, 27, 29** -- THE “BIRTH” OF NATION-STATES & NATIONALISM
  First Quizzes Administered on the 29th
  Spiegel, pp. 57-78 in ch. 3 (1648-1945) AND 155-173 in ch. 5 (Imperialism)

- **Feb 1, 3, 5** -- NATION-STATES, IMPERIALISM, & WORLD WARS
**Research Topic Out on 3rd**
Spiegel, pp. 78-105 in ch. 3 (1648-1945) AND pp. 173-184 in ch. 5 (Imperialism)

Feb 8, 10, 12 – **BIPOLARITY: THE COLD WAR**

**Research Topic Due on 10th**
Spiegel, ch. 4 (The Cold War)

Feb 15, 17, 19 – **NO CLASSES (ISA)**

Feb 22, 24, 26 – **POST-COLD WAR: A NEW WORLD ORDER**
Spiegel, ch. 6 (Globalization and Fragmentation)

March 1, 3, 5 – **NEW WORLD ORDER CONTINUED**
***MARCH 5 - MIDTERM (no quiz)***

March 8, 10, 12 -- **NO CLASSES (Spring Break)**

March 15, 17, 19 – **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

**Research Topic Out on 17th**
Spiegel, ch. 13 (Global Governance: International Law and Organizations)

March 22, 24, 26 – **SECURITY** -- **Research Topic Due on 24th**
Spiegel, ch. 7 (Security Theory and Practice) AND pp. 304-20 in ch. 8 (Terrorism)

March 29, 31, April 2 -- **TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

NO CLASS APRIL 2 (Quiz on 31st this week)
Spiegel, ch. 9 (Trade and Investment)

April 5, 7, 9 -- **DEVELOPMENT**
Spiegel, pp. 184-197 in ch. 5 (Imperialism) AND ch. 10 (Development)

April 12, 14, 16 -- **GLOBAL SOCIAL ISSUES**

**Research Topic Out on 12th**
Spiegel, ch. 11 (Demographic Trends)

April 19, 21, 23 – **ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES**

**Research Topic Due on 19th**
Spiegel, ch. 12 (Resource Issues)

April 26, 28, 30 – **THEORY, ETHICS AND LEVELS-OF-ANALYSIS (LOAs)**

Last Quiz (and Day of Class) on 30th
Spiegel, ch. 2 (Theory) & 14 (World Politics in Context)

**FINAL EXAM – Tentatively Scheduled for Monday, May 3rd, 3:30-5:30PM**