

**SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES 1000 / 001
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ORIENTATION
CRN 8271**

FALL SEMESTER, 2009

Monday, 4:30-5:20 (J-156)

DR. ALBERT CHURELLA

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Office Hours: Monday 3:30 – 4:30; Tuesday, 12:30 – 1:30 and 2:45 – 3:45; Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 and 5:00 – 6:00; and by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the methodologies appropriate to the International Studies major, helping them to prepare them for upper-division coursework in the major. Guest speakers will be brought in from time to time to acquaint students with career opportunities associated with that field of study.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon Satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of research methodologies, including research, source attribution, and source evaluation.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the various job and career opportunities associated with an undergraduate degree in International Studies.
3. Articulate their particular area of interest and expertise within the broader field of International Studies.
4. Become acquainted with each other, with other International Studies majors, and with faculty members who are involved in the International Studies program, and with individuals working in occupations related to International Studies.

Readings:

The following books are available at the SPSU campus bookstore, or at the Southern Engineering bookstore across the street, as well as through on-line retailers such as Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

Jim Cullen, *Essaying the Past: How to Read, Write, and Think about History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), ISBN 978-1-4051-8279-9

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007), ISBN 978-0-226-82337-9 – this is a book that you will keep, throughout your academic career!

In addition, you may find the following book useful, even though it is not required, and is not available at the SPSU bookstore:

Richard Nelson Bolles, *What Color is Your Parachute? 2009: A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career Changers* (Ten Speed Press, 2008), ISBN 978-1-580-08930-2

Grading:

Your final grade will consist of the following:

Class participation (20%) – Note that class *attendance* is NOT the same as class *participation*! In other words, be proactive, and contribute meaningfully to class discussion.

Introductory Paper Assignment (15%) – The details are listed on the assignment guidelines, attached to the end of this syllabus. You will need to electronically distribute copies of this paper to all of the other students in the class, prior to the due date, and you will also be expected to read and be prepared to comment on the papers that other students have written, prior to the following class meeting.

First Interview (25%) – Many students know relatively little about the Professors that they work with. This assignment is an opportunity to get to know the Social & International Studies faculty, to find out something about their careers, and to develop an appreciation for the standards inherent in a professional occupation. You will choose, at random, the name of a faculty member in the SIS Department, and you will arrange an interview with that person, at their convenience. You will discuss with them a list of topics that I will provide, as well as other questions that you might find of interest. You will then write a short (750-1,000 word) synopsis of your interview, which you will share with the other members of the class. You will also give a brief oral presentation to the class, regarding your interview. The written portion of the assignment will be due (to me and to your fellow students) **NO LATER THAN Monday, October 19**, and the oral reports will take place over the following two weeks. It is **ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE** that you send a **WRITTEN** (i.e, **NOT** an e-mail) thank-you note to the person you have interviewed, immediately following the interview.

Second Interview (40%) – The First Interview should prepare you for another interview, with someone in the field of international studies, who is not affiliated with SPSU. It is your responsibility to locate a person for the interview, and to clear it with me, **NO LATER THAN**

Monday, October 19. The person that you choose to interview can be a professional who works in business, law, government, a non-governmental organization, or education, etc., but they must be pursuing a career that in some manner relates to international studies. You will discuss with them a list of topics that I will provide, as well as other questions that you might find of interest. You will then write a short (750-1,000 word) synopsis of you interview, which you will share with the other members of the class. You will also give a brief oral presentation to the class, regarding your interview. The written portion of the assignment will be due (to me and to your fellow students) **NO LATER THAN Monday, November 16**, and the oral reports will take place over the following two weeks. It is **ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE** that you send a **WRITTEN** (i.e, **NOT** an e-mail) thank-you note to the person you have interviewed, immediately following the interview.

Grading Scale:

89.5%-100%	A
79.5%-89.4%	B
69.5%-79.4%	C
59.5%-69.4%	D
Below 59.5%	F

Student Responsibilities:

- 1.) Attend class
- 2.) Listen actively
 - a.) Prioritize information
 - b.) Take notes
 - c.) Formulate questions
 - d.) Contribute to discussions
 - e.) Demonstrate interest and enthusiasm
- 3.) Invest 2-3 times outside of class (2-3 hours per week in addition to time spent in class)
 - a.) Read the assignments
 - i. Build your vocabulary – **use a dictionary**
 - ii. Reread, if necessary
 - iii. Take notes on the readings – mark up your books
 - b.) Recopy notes
 - c.) Outline notes
 - d.) Integrate notes covering lecture, discussion, text, and supplemental readings
 - e.) Study regularly

Class Policies:

- Class attendance is expected, since there is a strong correlation between low attendance and low grades. I will take attendance. Any student who misses more than **TWO** classes, for whatever reason, will have **THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS** deducted from their overall course grade for **EACH** absence after the initial three. Each lateness of more than ten minutes will count as one third of an absence.
- Please refrain from private conversations in class—if you have a question, ask the instructor, not your neighbor.
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc., before entering the classroom.
- **Any student using a cell phone or similar device during class (except to turn it off) will have his / her course grade reduced by one letter grade for each infraction.**
- Tape recorders and calculators are not permitted, except under extraordinary circumstances, and only with the prior permission of the instructor. **Laptop computers are not permitted under any circumstances.**
- Students may not, under any circumstances, work on material from any other course during class time.
- Pay attention to the withdrawal date – I will not authorize any withdrawals (with a “W”) after this date, except under extraordinary circumstances, that are clearly beyond the student’s control.
- Please do not request extra credit – each student is judged by the quality, and not the quantity, of their work.
- **If you do not agree with the policies listed above, then you should not take this course.**
- Any student who has a learning disability should see me as soon as possible.

Make-up Policy:

Make-up assignments are inherently unfair to all concerned, and I try to avoid them whenever possible. However, students with a legitimate excuse (serious illness, death in the family, etc.) may certainly make up a missed assignment. If you anticipate missing **ANY** assignment, you *must* contact me *prior* to the scheduled date and time of this assignment (e-mail is preferable in this case). Failure to do so will result in an automatic grade of zero for that assignment. Make-up assignments will only be given to those students who can *document* a serious medical emergency or personal crisis.

Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct (i.e., cheating) is not just unfair to your fellow students; it also deprives you of the opportunity to learn the information and, more importantly, the knowledge skills that will serve you long after you have left college. At its most basic level, all exams are closed book, and no books, notes, or other study aides will be allowed during exams. If you are unsure as to the precise meaning of academic misconduct, then you should discuss the issue with me. All students should be aware that I might use plagiarism detection and prevention services (such as turnitin.com) that may archive examples of student work. Any student who considers such practices to be a violation of fair use doctrine should not take this course.

Class Assignments:

Monday, August 21	Introduction to the course
Monday, August 24	<i>Welcome to Academe</i> Cullen, 1-35 and 148-151 "Tell me about yourself" paper due (first draft)
Monday, September 7	Labor Day Holliday – no class
Monday, September 14	<i>What are We Doing Here?</i> Cullen, 71-78 and 121-128 and 152-153 Turabian, 3-23 "Tell me about yourself" paper due (final draft)
Monday, September 21	<i>Finding Sources</i> Cullen, 36-45 and 168-170 Turabian, 24-35
Monday, September 28	<i>Using Sources</i> Cullen, 46-68 Turabian, 36-47
Monday, October 5	<i>Developing an Argument / Hypothesis</i> Cullen, 71-78 (again) Turabian, 48-61
Monday, October 12	Out-of-class time to prepare for interviews
Monday, October 19	First Interview papers due Second Interview subject selected and approved

Monday, October 26

Turabian, 122-128

First Interview oral presentations, round 1

Monday, November 2

First Interview oral presentations, round 2

Monday, November 9

Cite Your Sources!

Cullen, 163-167

Turabian, 77-81 and 94-95 and 133-140

Monday, November 16

Putting it all Together

Cullen, 79-120 and 129-147

Second Interview Papers due

Monday, November 23

Second Interview oral presentations, round 1

Monday, November 30

Second Interview oral presentations, round 2

Monday, December 7

End-of-semester wrap-up

This class will not have a final exam