IAS 5793-101: Graduate Studies in International Relations

Course Description:

This three-credit hour course is designed to provide students in the MA program in International Relations with a foundation for success in MAIR coursework by focusing on (i) analytical writing skills in the context of contemporary global issues; and (ii) critical concepts and foundational works in international relations theory. The course begins with a focus on effective analytical writing in the field of international relations. Students will read compelling analytical essays addressing contemporary global issues and will discuss both the substance and the structure of the arguments. With these essays as models, students will work on their own analytical writing through practice, peer review and rewriting.

Topics that will be reviewed include core concepts of international relations theory, international institutions and NGO’s, domestic influences on international relations and conflict.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: April 17 – 26, 2020
Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: March 19, 2020

Site Director:

Email: apokc@ou.edu. Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Rebecca J. Cruise, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: College of International Studies
729 Elm St.
Farzaneh Hall, Room 118
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405-822-1492
Email Address: rebeccajcruise@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Instructional Materials:

All materials will be posted to the OU Canvas system or can easily be found online. Some of the materials that will be included are below. Relevant pieces for discussions may be added. Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.


h. Waltz, Kenneth “Structural Realism after the Cold War.” *International Security*.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course students should:

- Develop the ability to analyze academic works in a cogent and concise manner.
- Understand critical concepts in the field of international relations study.
- Gain an understanding of seminal works in the academic field of international relations.

**Course Outline:**

I. Reading and Writing in IR

II. IR Theory and Levels of Analysis
   a. Read: Walt and Waltz

III. Conflict and Sovereignty
   a. Read: Huntington and Krasner

IV. International Orgs. And Regimes
   a. Read: Putnam, Barnett and Finnemore

V. Other Topics
   a. Read: Gause and Glaser

VI. Final Exam

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

**Class Participation/Attendance 40% of course grade**

Students are expected to participate in on-line discussions. Each topic will have at least one discussion board and you will need to comment during the open window, which will correspond with the scheduled topics. The quality of each student’s comments and preparedness will be considered for this portion of the grade. While quality is key, it is important that you comment often as the whole goal here is to simulate a discussion.

**Article Review 15% of course grade**

Students will review an article from the course readings. This is intended to develop your skills in assessing academic work in an efficient and clear manner. I will be looking for the following items:

1. What is the principal thesis in each article?
2. What are the strengths of the arguments made in the article?
3. What are the weaknesses of the arguments made in the article?
4. How would you rate the value of this work?
5. Does the article leave significant unanswered questions?
Topic Paper 15% of course grade
For this paper you will explore a topic of international relations through a theoretical lens. Topics that could be considered are the following: Iran and Nuclear Sanctions, Women’s Rights and Education, The Situation in Yemen, The Situation in Syria and Boko Haram and Nigeria, Policy versus Theory. This list is not exhaustive but should give you an idea concerning the topics that may be included.

Papers should be double spaced, 12pt, Times New Roman with one-inch margins. The review should be 3-4 pages, whereas the second paper should be 5-7 pages, which is not that long, so consider carefully what you include.

Final Exam 30% of course grade
Given October 19th; Due November 13th

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615-0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/eeo.html

Course Policies
Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Rebecca J. Cruise PhD

Education

- PhD Political Science, University of Oklahoma. 5/2011
- Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, American Politics

Current Positions

- Special Advisor to the Dean and Lecturer OU College of International Studies
- Teaching at OU, in some capacity, for 6 years

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- IAS 5940 AP Topics: EU, NATO and European Security
- IAS 5990 Independent Study: Various Topics
- IAS 5793 Introduction to Graduate Studies in International Relations

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Security Studies
- International Institutions
- Comparative Politics of Post-Communist Europe
- Female Political Participation
- International Activism and Leadership
- Maritime Security

Representative Publications


Representative Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Grant: 4 Months research in Leipzig, Germany
- American Council of Learned Societies: Language Training Grant: Study in Romania
- University of Oklahoma POLL Fellowship for Quantitative Research
- Presidential International Travel Fellowship for Fieldwork in the Western Balkans

**Major Professional Affiliations**

- American Political Science Association
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- Association for Women in Slavic Studies
- Midwest Political Science Association