

Christy Story  
International Relations - Spring Semester 2009

### Course Description

This class follows a format based on a rigorous introductory class in international relations on the college level. Two major goals include an introduction to the fundamental concepts and theory behind IR. Students will gain the necessary vocabulary to discuss issues with other specialists and evaluate scholarly work in the field. As well as gain a greater understanding of the world and America's role in global relations, students will be able to examine contemporary events through an IR lens. To aid with that goal, students will take responsibility for reporting on specific regions of the world to the rest of the class in seminar format. The final project will also focus on the recent tsunami and try to place it within a global economic, political, geographic and environmental perspective.

### Format:

The class will follow primarily a seminar format anchored by introductory lectures and supplemented by guest speakers and videos. A student's primary responsibility is to come to class prepared to discuss the reading and having mastered the factual information and vocabulary presented in the text. The class will also work on several outside readings. Students will be expected to isolate and note the important ideas and themes from these readings and develop their critical thinking skills from opposing theories and points of view. Engagement in international news media (either on-line, via radio, TV, or print) to produce knowledge of contemporary world affairs will also be required. As discussed below, each student has a semester-long responsibility for tracking the news of a particular region.

\*Text: John T. Rourke, *International Politics on the World Stage*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008.

### Additional Readings:

This class will be supplemented by readings you collect, readings handed out in class and readings from the text book website. Be prepared, by registering your account with the on-line center for the text book, now! I will direct to the necessary readings on the calendar.

Text book website: [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073526304/student\\_view0/](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073526304/student_view0/)

### Grading:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grades:	Quizzes & Area Reporting:	60%
	World Challenge:	40%
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Grades:	Quizzes & Area Reporting:	60%
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Project:	40%
Semester Grade:	Qtr grades avg.:	90%
	participation/preparation:	10%

**Area Reporting:**

The majority of your grades will be based on area position papers and quizzes based on those presentations. Area Reporting will happen every Friday and you will switch off depending on A or B week assignments. You will be assigned an area and each week you will report to the group on what we “need to know”. For each presentation plan to prepare a one page written summary to hand in. Based on the group’s reporting, periodically, there will be in-class quizzes on the themes presented. I will average out your grades from the papers and the quizzes for this portion of your quarter grade.

**3d quarter project: China/India Summit****Paper Due: March 12, 2009****Negotiations: March 12, 13, 16, 2009****Final Write-up Due: March 17, 2009**

The class will be divided into 2 teams each will represent either China or India at a selection negotiation and summit on four issues: environment, nuclear security, development/poverty, minority populations. Each team will prepare a positions paper that details each issue and of course provides the reader with enough introduction to the country and background on the issue to follow the analysis contained. You will have time in the library and in the computer labs to prepare. Each team member should be prepared to discuss their issue and negotiate for their country’s best interest.

**4th quarter project: Group Project and Presentation on the role of states, NGO’s and individuals in addressing disasters****Papers DUE: May 1, 2009 (grace period until 5/14)****Presentations: May 14 & 15, 2009**

The entire class will be working on understanding the impact of the tsunami on the world. You will be broken up into groups, each group will examine a different disaster and its effects. Groups will work on: political impacts, environmental impacts, economic impacts, role of IGO’s, and role of the state. You will have time in the library, the computer lab and class to prepare.

Late papers will be downgraded a 1/3 grade for every day they are late per school policy.

**Getting Help:**

I will make every effort to meet with you when requested. You can find me in the office, via email: [christy\\_story@castilleja.org](mailto:christy_story@castilleja.org) or at extension: 650-470-7858

International Relations 2009  
 Contemporary Affairs Reporting Guidelines

Working in groups of two, you will be assigned an area and each week one of you will report to the group on what we “need to know” (we will switch for A week and B week). For each presentation plan to prepare a one page written summary to hand in. Focus on 2 (at the most 3) issues currently facing your area. Do not give solely background information, but look to integrate and analyze the information.

Based on the groups’ reporting, in-class quizzes will include themes presented. I will average out your grades from the papers, presentations and the quizzes for this portion of your quarter grade.

Guidelines:

1. You will be responsible for a weekly report on a country and its neighbors throughout the semester. You should use a variety of sources to locate contemporary information. The library has a website with suggestions: <http://www.castilleja.org/page.cfm?p=939445> or use BBC, CNN or even local country websites.
2. Photocopy or bring your resources with you if possible
3. In organizing your presentation, imagine yourself to be an advisor to the president. What does he “need” to know? Be specific.
4. Observe the following when presenting:
  - a. Use the board, a laptop, or handout for major ideas, vocabulary or names (the room has web access)
  - b. Show geographical locations on the room’s map (have your classmates star their maps)
  - c. Be sure you know your source and its date
  - d. Choose 2-3 factual items that your classmates will be responsible for learning (I will use these on quizzes)
  - e. Conclude with a connection to a larger theme
  - f. Keep presentations to 5 min
  - g. Provide me with a copy

Areas:	Students A Week	B week
India/Pakistan		
South America		
Central America		
EU and Britain		
Israel/Palestine		
Iraq/Middle East		
Russia/former USSR		
China/Korea/Japan		
Africa		
South East Asia		

