

Department of International Relations
BILKENT UNIVERSITY

IR 4112 International Relations in Movies
(Sinemada Uluslararası İlişkiler)
Summer 2010

Lectures: TUESDAY 3:30-5:30 THURSDAY 3:30-5:30 FRIDAY 3:30-5:30

Classroom: A

Instructor

Özgür Özdamar

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Office Hours: TUE/THU 2:30-3.30

Course Description and Objectives

This course will use movies to understand and explain international issues. Using readings, classroom discussions and films that deal with international politics, the course will analyze how these movies shed light on international affairs, show different perspectives on these issues and deepen our understanding. There will be 12-14 movie presentations during the semester and the classroom discussions will focus on how the content of the movie relates to what you have learned in the reading and your studies in IR. The course covers issues such as foreign policy decision-making, war, Cold War, terrorism, ethnic conflict, identity, environment and population, revolutions, civil wars, foreign intervention, international institutions and espionage.

Readings and Required Textbooks

The assigned readings for each week are listed in the course schedule below. They are compiled from 6 different books. There will be a reader at the library reserve for this course.

There is a reasonable amount of readings for each week. Therefore, please do keep up with the readings each week. This class will be far more rewarding for you if you do so. Reading the material every week will enable you to be more engaged while watching the movies, listening to lectures and contributing to discussions. Both your essay and participation grades will be positively affected by reading the material on a regular basis and prior to class.

Course Requirements

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| 1. Weekly Essays | 70% |
| 2. Attendance | 15% |
| 3. Participation | 15% |

Weekly Essays

Weekly essays constitute 70 percent of your grade. They are the most important part of your grade. There are no midterms or final for this class. Therefore I expect very high quality, clearly written, well-thought essays.

Attendance and Participation

Your progress in this class is highly dependent on your perfect attendance and participation. Participation means listening, reading the material before class, asking questions and answering them when asked. Participation constitutes a substantial part of your grade.

Classroom Etiquette

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed.
2. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class;
3. Please come to class on time and do not leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade.
4. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications in the classroom. Also, please do not play games or surf on the web when you use a laptop computer.

Policy on Academic Honesty

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Bilkent Website: <http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/AcademicHonesty.htm>

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, unauthorized changing of grades. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1 War and Interstate Conflict (June 7)

Readings

- Nye Ch.1. Is There an Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics?
- Goldstein and Pevehouse Ch.5. International Conflict

Movies

- The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara (2003)
- Full Metal Jacket (1987)

Suggestions: Platoon (1986), Apocalypse Now (1979), Saving Private Ryan (1998)

Week 2 Cold War (June 14)

Readings

- Nye Ch.5. The Cold War
- Morgan Ch.5. Deterrence and Arms Control

Movies

- Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)
- Charlie Wilson's War (2007)

Suggestions: Fail-Safe (1964), Seven Days in May (1964), The Hunt for Red October (1990), Thirteen Days (2000), Crimson Tide (1995), Canadian Bacon (1995), The Manchurian Candidate (1962), The Mouse That Roared (1959), Spy Game (2001).

Week 3 Foreign Policy Decision-Making (June 21)

Readings

- Kegley and Witkopf Ch.3. Foreign Policy Decision Making
- Neack Ch.7. Public Opinion and the Media

Movies

- 13 Days (2000)
- Wag the Dog (1997)

Suggestions: Dr. Strangelove (1964), Fail Safe (1964)

Week 4 Terrorism (June 28)

Readings

- Goldstein and Pevehouse Ch.6. Military Force and Terrorism

Movies

- La battaglia di Algeri (Battle of Algiers) (1966)
- Traitor (2008)

Suggestions: Body of Lies (2008), Der Baader Meinhof Komplex (2008), Munich (2005), Paradise Now (2005), Fahrenheit 9-11 (2004)

Week 5 Identity-Ethnic Conflict (July 5)

Readings

- Taras and Ganguly Ch.1. Ethnic Conflict and International Politics: A Conceptual Framework.
- Nye Ch.6. Intervention, Institutions, and Regional and Ethnic Conflicts

Movies

- Sous les bombes (2007)
- Hotel Rwanda (2004)

Suggestions: Shooting Dogs (2005), Schindler's List (1993), Welcome to Sarajevo (1997), East is East (1999), In the Name of the Father (1993), Kingdom of Heaven (2005), The Wind That Shakes the Barley (2006), No Man's Land (2001), Underground (1995).

Week 6 International Organizations and Peace Keeping (July 12)

Readings

- Morgan Ch.10. Peacekeeping
- Nye Ch.6. Intervention, Institutions, and Regional and Ethnic Conflicts

Movies

- No Man's Land (2001)
- The Interpreter (2005)

Suggestions: Shooting Dogs (2005), Hotel Rwanda (2004), In the Loop (2009)

Week 7 Environment and Population (July 19)

Readings

- Goldstein and Pevehouse Ch.11. Environment and Population

Movies

- An Inconvenient Truth (2006)
- National Geographic: Six Degrees Could Change the World (2007)

Suggestions: The 11th Hour (2007), National Geographic: Human Footprint (2008), Planet in Peril (2007), Trashed (2007), NOVA - World in the Balance: The Population Paradox (2004)

****All issues in this syllabus are subject to change during the semester by the instructor although none expected at this time.****