

Heidelberg University

Spring 2010

ITS 409
Capstone Seminar
TH 6-9 PM
Aigler, Room 205

Instructor: Dr. Marc O'Reilly
Office Hours: M-W-F 1-2 PM, T-Th 4-5 PM, and on Appointment
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Course Content

This class serves as the capstone course in International Studies. In this course, you will read books that represent different facets of the discipline -- politics, security, economics, literature, culture, developed world perspectives, and developing world points of view. Each book contributes important knowledge as well as voices -- some familiar, many usually eclipsed -- to International Studies.

Required Reading (Available at the Heidelberg Bookstore)

- Paul Krugman, *The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009).
- Parag Khanna, *The Second World: Empires and Influence in the New Global Order* (New York: Random House, 2008).
- Eduardo Galeano, *Upside Down: A Primer for the Looking-Glass World* (New York: Picador USA, 2000).
- Khaled Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2007).

Course Requirements

Review Essays: Students will write three (3) 5-page review essays. The first two essays will summarize, as well as analyze, two of the books from the Required Reading list. The third essay will summarize, as well as analyze, a book you have selected. Writing guidelines will be provided. Each student will discuss her/his third essay during class on April 15. **OBJECTIVES:**

Review essays allow you to ponder what you have read, compare the book under review to other books you have read or know of, and provide your own -- informed -- point of view.

DEADLINES: THE FIRST TWO ESSAYS WILL BE DUE ONE (1) WEEK FOLLOWING THE END OF THE CLASS DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO THE BOOK YOU WILL BE REVIEWING. THE THIRD ESSAY WILL BE DUE APRIL 15.

Paper or Portfolio: Students must turn in either a 12-15 page analytical paper or some kind of portfolio, which can include drawings, paintings, poems, short stories, photographs, or whatever you deem appropriate, on some issue(s) pertaining to International Studies. Students must turn in a draft of their work on March 28. Each student will read/look over and comment on two other projects. I will read/look over all of them and provide comments. The final paper or portfolio will be due on May 3. OBJECTIVES: The paper or portfolio allows you to examine an issue of personal interest, develop expertise on a topic, and augment your creative skills. Commentary on your draft will enable you to make revisions, consider new or additional ways to improve your content, and consider how others perceive your work. DRAFT DEADLINE: MARCH 28. FINAL PAPER OR PORTFOLIO DUE: MAY 3.

Remember that the Academic Success Center can assist you as you write your review essays and semester paper/portfolio

Oral Presentation: Students must present their research/portfolio to the class by way of a 15-20 minute presentation. After each presentation, there will be a 5-10 minute question and answer session. OBJECTIVES: Presentations allow you to organize your thoughts effectively, try out your ideas before an audience, and improve your oratorical skills. DATE FOR ORAL PRESENTATION: APRIL 22.

Participation: Students must attend class regularly (I will keep track of your attendance) and provide input (in the form of questions and answers) during seminar. Also note that students must respect classmates and the instructor as well as conduct themselves in a mature and responsible way. OBJECTIVES: Improve your oratorical, persuasion, listening, and leadership skills and recognize the importance of proper comportment and etiquette in the classroom.

Distribution of Grades

Review Essays	30%
Paper/Portfolio	40%
Oral Presentation	20%
Participation	10%

Late essays and papers/portfolios will be docked one grade (A to A-, for example) for every day past the deadline. Also note that any student guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive an F for the assignment and can be dismissed from Heidelberg University.

Class Outline and Reading Assignments

WEEK 1: Introduction to Course & Overview of International Studies.

WEEK 2: Discussion of Krugman, Part I.

WEEK 3: Discussion of Krugman, Part II.

WEEK 4: Discussion of Galeano, Part I.

WEEK 5: Discussion of Galeano, Part II.

WEEK 6: Discussion of Hosseini, Part I.

WEEK 7: No class (Dr. O'Reilly will be out of town).

WEEK 8: Discussion of Hosseini, Part II.

Last day to withdraw from course is February 26

SPRING BREAK: FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 14

WEEK 9: Discussion of Khanna, Part I.

WEEK 10: Discussion of Khanna, Part II.

DRAFT DUE MARCH 28

EASTER BREAK: APRIL 1-5

WEEK 12: Discussion of Khanna, Part III.

WEEK 13: Each student will discuss her/his 3rd essay.

3RD ESSAY DUE APRIL 15

WEEK 14: Oral Presentations.

WEEK 15: Summary & Final Thoughts.

PAPER/PORTFOLIO DUE MAY 3