

IRG 378 CAPSTONE SEMINAR
SPRING 2012
39980

MENZES 1.102 TTh 2:00 - 3:15

Dr. Michael Brenner

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The concluding, capstone seminar for the International Relations & Global Studies major is designed to give you an opportunity to draw on your program of studies to prepare a rigorous analysis of a specific aspect of contemporary world affairs. You have the choice of two formats. One is a tightly organized research paper; the other is structured as a policy paper directed at a senior decision-maker in a national government or international organization.

It is profitable to all to set a number of themes for the seminar. That enhances exchanges and allows for a collaborative projects. Still, students will be given reasonable latitude in selecting topics that interest them and/or on which they have acquired specialized knowledge. We will examine closely the nature of the policy paper and its organization as the semester progresses. The seminar paper – in either format - should be viewed as representative of your abilities at this stage in your career and, as such, an effective way of presenting yourself and your abilities.

There following is a short list of *possible* themes: democracy promotion as an instrument of foreign policy; the strains among three standards to assess global economic interdependence: growth, equity and stability; the ethical dimensions of the use of force; the interplay of domestic politics and foreign policy process/substance; the value of external assistance to socio-economic development.

Requirements

The final paper should be approximately 15 = 20 pages. There is no cap. An initial outline is due the third week of the course, and a full outline the sixth week. The date for submitting final drafts is December 7.

The last three schedules sessions of the seminar are reserved for students presentations. For those who volunteer to do so early, the discussion could be of benefit in refining your paper and giving it the finishing touches.

This course carries the **Writing Flag**. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work.

University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an “F” in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Student Privacy: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student’s performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).
