

IRG 320F: Foundations in International Relations and Global Studies**FAC 21 TTh 2—3:15 pm Unique #39978**

Dr. Michael R. Anderson

Office: MEZ 3.230

Office hours: T 3:30-5 pm, Th 8:30-10 am and by appt.

E-mail: mra@austin.utexas.edu**Course description**

This course is designed to provide foundational knowledge in a particular subject area related to international relations and global studies, providing a link between the introductory course (IRG 301) and capstone seminar (IRG 378) for IRG majors. The scope and the theme of the course vary by semester, cross-cutting the broad subject areas of international security; international political economy; science, technology, and the environment; and culture, media, and the arts.

In this semester, the over-arching theme of the course is the shifting sources of global power in the modern world. In the first section, we will examine new ways of evaluating influence through an analysis of military, economic, “soft,” and “smart” power. In the second section, we will take a world-historical approach to understanding the origins of power and prosperity and the reason why nations succeed or fail. Finally, we will turn to the impact of declining resources on the changing balance of power in the world. Through these various perspectives, students will be able to assess which peoples, institutions, and states will be best equipped to thrive and lead in the coming decades.

The format of this course is structured around background readings and lectures provided by the instructor, interspersed with numerous guest lectures from distinguished faculty around the UT campus. This class offers IRG majors the opportunity to hear from these authorities with both academic and “real-world” expertise in security, development, and energy matters, providing students with unique insights into ongoing scholarly and policy debates in international affairs.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- assess the features and implications of “smart power” on a global scale
- evaluate the debates surrounding the basis for national growth and prosperity
- describe contemporary efforts to exploit dwindling global resources
- link historical developments to policy-relevant debates

Required texts

1. Joseph Nye, *The Future of Power* (2011).
2. Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* (2012).
3. Michael Klare, *The Race for What’s Left* (2012).

Additional readings will be posted on blackboard. **NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to amend readings during the course of the semester as required. Guest lecturers may need to alter their schedule, and readings and lectures may therefore have to shift accordingly. The instructor is committed to making these changes as minimally disruptive as possible and giving students ample warning if/when readings change.

Grading breakdown

1. Attendance (5 percent of term grade)
2. Midterm exam (30 percent)
3. Final exam (40 percent)
4. One essay of 1,200-1,600 words (25 percent)

Attendance policy: Attendance will be taken at the end of every class day. Students who leave early from class may be counted as absent for that day. Students are granted two unexcused absences from class; thereafter, they will be penalized for each absence.

Midterm and final exams: Exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions and essays. The instructor will provide a review sheet one week before each exam explaining the precise breakdown of the exam, along with possible essay topics.

Essay: Each student must write ONE essay on a topic drawn from the list below. The essay should be between 1,200 and 1,600 words in length (roughly 5-7 pages of double-spaced, 12-point type). No matter which question you choose, be sure to state a clear thesis/policy recommendation and to support your argument with specific evidence. Also, be sure to use either footnotes or parenthetical notes (e.g., Nye, p. 87) to cite all information, argumentation, and quotations drawn from the reading and lectures. Provide a title and a word count. Late papers will be penalized one-third of a grade (for example, from a B+ to a B or from a B- to a C+) for each day they are overdue.

1. (DUE SEPTEMBER 25) Imagine you are a senior adviser to the United States president, and you have been assigned the task of composing a policy memo regarding the best way to approach the problem of Islamic extremism in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region. Outline your recommendations to navigate this conundrum using the perspective of “smart power” strategy.
2. (DUE NOVEMBER 13) Imagine you are a senior adviser in the Chinese Communist Party, and you have just finished reading the book *Why Nations Fail*. Inspired by the authors’ conclusions, you decide to write a confidential memorandum addressed to the Chinese premier. What steps, in your view, should the CCP take in order to ensure sustained economic growth in the 21st century?
3. (DUE DECEMBER 6) Imagine you are a senior adviser to Gabon’s president, who is in the process of reviewing current contracts regarding mining development in the West African nation (Klare, p. 131). Before President Bongo renews any deals, he asks for your recommendations. What should he keep in mind? What steps should he take?

Overall semester averages will earn the following letter grades:

93-100: A	90-92: A-		
87-89: B+	83-86: B	80-82: B-	
77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-	
67-69: D+	63-66: D	60-62: D-	0-59: F

Echo 360 Lecture Capture: FAC 21 is equipped with Echo 360 lecture capture technology, which will record any audio and projected images on the overhead screens during class. When the recording is made available (usually within a few hours of the class), students receive notice via Blackboard and may then login with their UTEID to review it. Recordings are presented to students via a streaming file which cannot be downloaded. (NOTE: this technology is to be used for review purposes; it is not to take the place of class attendance. See attendance policy, above.)

Supplemental Instruction: This course offers an optional Supplemental Instruction (SI) discussion section in conjunction with the Sanger Learning and Career Center. Your TA (John Graeber) will hold this discussion section twice a week for one hour (Note: the same material will be covered in both sections). The section will cover course material as well as other skills that are vital for college success such as how to organize information, test prep and test taking skills, and critical thinking and writing skills. There is a consistent and strong correlation between grades and SI attendance in this and/or other classes and you are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

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>.

Civility in Classroom: Students who attend class are required to arrive on time, stay for the entire session, and to obey basic rules of civility and decorum. Students may enter or leave in the middle of the class period only with permission of the instructor. Using cell phones, sending or receiving text messages, and using laptops for purposes unrelated to the course are strictly forbidden.

Religious Holidays: According to UT-Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of an impending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If a student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

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).

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Faculty members must then provide this information to the Fire Prevention Services office by fax (512-232-2759), with "Attn. Mr. Roosevelt Easley" written in the subject line. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

COURSE SCHEDULE – *subject to amendment*

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| Aug. 30 | Introduction
READING: Nye, Preface-Ch. 1 |
| Sept. 4 | <u>Guest:</u> Philippa Levine, <i>Co-Director, British Studies Program</i>
READING: Nye, Ch. 2; Levine, "Ruling a Colony," <i>The British Empire</i> (BB) |
| Sept. 6 | Informal Empire
READING: Nye, Chs. 3-4 |
| Sept. 11 | <u>Guest:</u> Jeremi Suri, <i>Mack Brown Distinguished Professor for Global Leadership</i>
READING: Nye, Ch. 6; Suri, "Why the State Still Matters" (BB) |
| Sept. 13 | State Department briefing
READING: Nye, Ch. 5 |

- Sept. 18 Guest: Bobby Inman, *LBJ Centennial Chair in National Policy, LBJ School*
 READING: Nye, Ch. 7; National Security Strategy (BB)
- Sept. 20 Global Inequality
 READING: WNF, Preface-Ch. 1
- Sept. 25 Guest: Jane Lincove, *Asst. Professor, LBJ School*
 READING: Lincove, “Are Markets Good for Girls?” (BB)
TOPIC ONE ESSAY DUE
- Sept. 27 Culture, Geography, Institutions
 READING: WNF, Chs. 2-3
- Oct. 2 Creative Destruction
 READING: WNF, Chs. 4-5
- Oct. 4 Guest: Catherine Weaver, *Assoc. Professor, LBJ School*
 READING: TBA
- Oct. 9 Guest: James K. Galbraith, *Bentsen Chair in Government/Business Relations*
 READING: Acar and Dogruel, “Sources of Inequality ...” (BB)
- Oct. 11 Up from Feudalism
 READING: WNF, Chs. 6-7
- Oct. 16 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Oct. 18 Guest: Ipsita Chatterjee, *Asst. Professor, Dept. of Geography*
 READING: Peet et al, “Globalization and Neoliberalism” (BB)
- Oct. 23 Legacy of colonialism
 READING: WNF, Chs. 8-9
- Oct. 25 Democracy and modernity
 READING: WNF, Chs. 10-11
- Oct. 30 Guest: Rob Moser, *Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Government*
 READING: TBA
- Nov. 1 Indirect rule and oligarchy

READING: WNF, Chs. 12-13

Nov. 6 Guest: Greg Knapp, *Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Geography*
READING: Diamond, “What Makes Countries Rich or Poor?” (BB)

Nov. 8 Sustainable growth
READING: WNF, Chs. 14-15

Nov. 13 Guest: Ray Orbach, *Director, Energy Institute*
READING: Klare, Intro-Ch. 1
TOPIC TWO ESSAY DUE

Nov. 15 Geopolitics of oil
READING: Klare, Chs. 2-3

Nov. 20 Guest: Avi Tucker, *Asst. Director, Energy Institute*
READING: Klare, Ch. 4; Tucker, “New Cold War over Shale Gas” (BB)

Nov. 27 A New Scramble for Africa?
READING: Klare, Ch. 5-6

Nov. 29 Climate change and food
READING: Klare, Ch. 7-8

Dec. 4 Guest: Frank Gavin, *Director, Strauss Center for International Security and Law*
READING: TBA

Dec. 6 Looking Ahead
READING: TBA
TOPIC THREE ESSAY DUE

Dec. 14 **FINAL EXAM** (Location TBA), 9 am—12pm