



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
Semester in Washington, DC Program

## SDCP 350-30: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMIC SEMINAR (3 CREDITS)

### SUMMER 2015 SYLLABUS

Faculty information: Amanda Slobe, Office of the Chief Information Officer, ActioNet, U.S. Department of Energy
Faculty contact information: amanda.slobe@gmail.com
Faculty office hours and location: By appointment
Course meeting times and location: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm; June 3 – July 24, Room C127 Georgetown Downtown campus, 640 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC

#### COURSE INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Designed specifically for students in Georgetown's Semester in Washington Program, the International Relations Academic Seminar helps students craft a better understanding of complex global issues and the forces that drive policy in the United States and abroad. Meeting once a week, students learn from assigned readings, lectures, guest speakers, and discussion groups – all of which build on Georgetown's long-standing and multifaceted expertise in international relations. The objective of this course is to critically examine contemporary international affairs, while considering past achievements and events in the International Relations (IR) realm. Discussion will include the basic structures and processes of the IR system, including very brief introductions to bodies of law that provide the basis for these structures, all while thinking critically about current issues and the future of the world order.

#### REQUIREMENTS

Since discussion will be a main venue of learning, students are expected to actively participate in each class discussion. When we have guest speakers, students are expected to actively engage in any Q&A following the performance. Questions, comments, and criticisms are always welcomed.

#### *Reading Materials:*

- Daily reading of The New York Times, The Economist, Foreign Policy, Christian Science Monitor, Financial Times, Washington Post, or Wall Street Journal
- ***Strength in What Remains*** by Tracy Kidder
- \*NOTE: Professor will also send additional readings via email.

Each student is required to read the required texts, in addition to the daily readings, and come to class prepared with any questions, comments or criticisms.

### Classroom Etiquette:

*Cell phones* or other communication devices are prohibited during class time and must remain off. Text messaging must not be used during class.

*Laptop* use is for class-related purposes only. Surfing the internet and gchat during class is not allowed. Yes, I will be able to tell.

*Recording:* Audio and/or video recording in class is strictly prohibited.

*Class discussion* should be respectful and considerate of others' views and opinions.

We will be taking one ten-minute break during the class, so if there is a dire need to use your phone or check your email, this will be your opportunity.

### **GRADING**

#### Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. If you need to miss class, it is your responsibility to get lecture notes, handouts, etc., from a classmate. Students may have two excused absences and a student who misses multiple class sessions may be withdrawn involuntarily from the course or may receive a failing grade, at the instructor's sole discretion. Please note that the summer is nine classes long so you will miss a substantive amount of material if you miss multiple classes.

#### Grading Scale:

Students will be given numerical grades for their various assignments. These numerical grades, when added up to form their final grades, will be converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
83-87	B
80-82	B-
78-79	C+
73-77	C
70-72	C-
68-69	D+
63-67	D
60-62	D-
under 60	F

#### Basis for Grade:

#### ***Attendance, Reaction Papers, and Class Participation (30%)***

**Participation (10%)** Students are expected to do all the readings before class and come to class prepared to discuss the assigned materials. Students will be graded on their efforts to: take

initiative in class discussion, ask questions to guest speakers, support or challenge positions, raise questions and add comments from the readings, and display a positive attitude.

**Reaction Papers (10%)** For any guest speakers we have, typically a two to four-page reaction paper will be assigned. I'll be sure to specify what I'm looking for in each paper. It is nothing to stress over, but completion, thoroughness, and incorporating class readings in the paper, all benefit the overall grade. Unless I state otherwise, I would like it to be 1.5 spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font. It will always be due any time before the following class, 6:00pm. Any papers received after 6:00pm or not in the format I request will be marked as incomplete.

**Attendance (10%)** Show up to class on time. Class begins at 6:00pm.

***Internship and E-Portfolio (30%)***

Students will be evaluated and graded by their internship supervisor pursuant to the criteria provided by Georgetown University. Each student will be required to keep an online portfolio on their internship experiences as well as posting responses to the Professor's weekly prompts. The 30% will be the internship and e-portfolio grade combined (15% / 15%). Blog site link: <https://blogs.common.georgetown.edu/sdcp-350-30-summer2015/>

***Midterm (20% Total) DUE June 24***

Students will be asked to write a paper for their mid-term grade. The paper should be 7-10 pages, 1.5 spaced, Times New Roman, and 12 font. I would like you to select a topic listed at the end of this description, and summarize and discuss the criticisms given against the "West." The U.S. and Europe are given a lot of criticisms for their involvement in these issues, and I want to know what you think. In your discussion, you may evaluate or respond or support or refute any of the criticisms you present. I expect you to provide the necessary background information and criticisms made, as well as support for your perspective in the form of an expert opinion or from current or historical issues and events.

Topics include (but are not limited to): Foreign Direct Investment, America and Israel Relations, Border Relations Between USA and Mexico, Genocide (Country-specific), Human Rights and International Law, Freedom of Speech (Including Cartoons, Movies), Rights of the Disabled, Gender Rights, Sexual Rights, Environmental Issues, Nuclear Proliferation, Millennium Development Goals, Arab-Israeli Conflict, Use of Torture (Ticking Time Bomb Scenario), Warehousing (Refugees), Child Soldiers, China's One-Child Policy, and Female Genital Mutilation

***Final Presentation (20%)***

Students will work in groups after being assigned a country that was affected by the Arab Spring but did not make headlines. Students should cover political, social, and economic aspects of the event(s) in his/her assigned country. Grading will be based upon the student covering the points I provide in class. Although there will be a 'group grade' portion, the majority of your grade will be based on your individual research and performance.

## COURSE OUTLINE

- Note: There may be changes to this schedule, to include any new world events that should be discussed, guest speaker availabilities, Georgetown University events, and students' interests.

### Monday, June 1

- Orientation

### Wednesday, June 3

- Statehood: Sovereignty, Requirements of Statehood
- Guest Speaker Ambassador Akan Ismaili, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo

### Wednesday, June 10

- Human Rights – What are they? Who has them? How are they enforced?
- Introduction to International Human Rights Law

### Wednesday, June 17

- **No Class – Professor out of town**
- **Make-up class Monday, June 22; Classroom TBD**

### Monday, June 22

- Rules of War – Introduction to International Humanitarian Law
- Guest Speaker Kit Hope, Senior Associate in International Humanitarian Law Dissemination, American Red Cross
- Guest Speaker Federico Barillas Schwank, Legal Advisor, American Red Cross

### Wednesday, June 24

- **Midterm Papers Due**
- International Environmental Policy – Marine Protected Areas and the intersection of government, constituents, and compliance with international expectations
- Guest Speaker Monica Medina, Senior Director of International Ocean Policy for Pristine Seas, National Geographic
- Maggie Hines, Program Specialist for Pristine Seas, National Geographic
- **Interim Internship Evaluations due to SWP Assistant Dean by June 29.**

### Wednesday, July 1

- Countering Terrorist Propaganda
- Guest Speaker Kirsten Fontenrose, Strategic Planner, Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, U.S. Department of State

### Wednesday, July 8

- Time to talk about Gaza
- Guest Speaker Julia Hurley, Entrepreneur, Polithon; former contractor with United Nations Relief and Work Agency – Gaza

Wednesday, July 15

- Human Trafficking and its Implications
- Guest Speaker Maggie Konstanski, Disaster Response Manager, World Relief

Wednesday, July 22

- Asylum Seekers and Refugees: Product of War
- Introduction to International Refugee Law
- Discuss *Strength in What Remains*

Friday, July 24

- **Final Presentations**
- **Final Internship Evaluations due to SWP Assistant Dean by July 24**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONOR CODE**

*Academic Integrity:* Without regard to motive, student conduct that is academically dishonest, evidences lack of academic integrity or trustworthiness, or unfairly impinges upon the intellectual rights and privileges of others is prohibited. A non-exhaustive list of prohibited conduct includes: cheating on exams and other assignments, committing plagiarism, using false citations, submitting work for multiple purposes, submitting false data, falsifying academic documentation, abuse of library privileges, and abuse of shared electronic media. All students in this course are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at [www.georgetown.edu/honor](http://www.georgetown.edu/honor), and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, "What is Plagiarism?", "Sanctioning Guidelines", and "Expedited Sanctioning Process." Georgetown subscribes to SafeAssign, a Web-based service that, among other things, is able to sniff out possible plagiarism in student work.

*Plagiarism:* The presentation of someone else's ideas or work as your own, without proper acknowledgement is the worst crime a scholar can commit. The sources for all information and ideas in your papers that are not your own must be documented using the documentation system followed by the American Psychological Association or the Modern Language Association. In addition, all quotations must be identified as quotations, using quotation marks and documentation of the source of the quotation. Anything less than these standards is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Work that appears to have been plagiarized or otherwise violated the Honor Code (see below) will be reported to Georgetown's Honor Council. If the Council finds that the work violates the university's standards of academic honesty the work will receive a grade of zero for the assignment for the first offense; a second infraction will earn an F for the course. The Honor Council may impose sanctions of its own as well.

*Late Submission:* Assignments are due by the time class begins. If I do not specify, I will accept either hard-copy or electronic submission. No late assignments will be accepted without reasonable excuse to be determined at the sole discretion of the Professor. Regardless, you will incur a letter grade penalty for each day that the assignment is late.

*Incomplete Option:* Students are expected to complete all coursework by the end of the semester in which that coursework is taken. In extreme, documented instances (typically related to unexpected, documented health reasons), it may be necessary for students to request an Incomplete, "N," grade and a limited extension of time to complete the required coursework. Incompletes are not automatic, and should be requested first by the student of the professor. If the professor grants a student additional time to complete the coursework, and the work is completed by the date established by the professor on or before the incomplete deadline, the "N" is changed to the appropriate grade.

*The Honor Code Pledge:*

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life,

I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System:

To be honest in any academic endeavor, and

To conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

**OTHER ITEMS**

*Faculty Bio:* Amanda M. Slobe, a native of Upstate New York, is currently working as a Business Analyst in the Office of the Chief Information Officer at the U.S. Department of Energy. She is a contractor with ActioNet, Inc. Ms. Slobe earned her B.A. in International Relations at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo, during which she spent a summer in Spain studying Spanish and a semester in Cairo, Egypt, studying Intensive Arabic and teaching English to asylum seekers and refugees. After her undergraduate studies, she moved to Cairo for two years, where she earned her M.A. in International Human Rights Law from the American University in Cairo. At the height of the Egyptian Revolution, she was living in Tahrir Square watching history unfold, already immersed in refugee work, and studying Human Rights Law. Finally, please note that any opinions expressed are solely those of the instructor and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Energy or the U.S. Government.

*Students with Disabilities Policy:* Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (Leavey Center, Suite 335; 202-687-8354; [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu); <http://ldss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm>) before the start of classes to allow their offices time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter for ARC to share with your professors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

*Counseling and Psychiatric Service (CAPS):* CAPS serves as the university's primary mental health agency for its students and campus community. CAPS staff collaborates directly with students in overcoming difficulties that may interfere with the accomplishment of their educational, personal, and career goals. To learn more about CAPS services please visit: <http://caps.georgetown.edu/>

*Georgetown Writing Center:* As a member of the Georgetown community, you will have full access to the University Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu>) located in Lauinger Library 217A. Offered to students at all levels, the center's tutoring has proved helpful to those wishing to improve their grammar and style, to respond more effectively to assignments, to learn to organize both short papers and lengthy research projects, and to turn first drafts into publishable projects. Some students seek assistance on a regular basis; some only occasionally. For well-established students, the writing tutors have also offered on-line help, responding to questions about papers submitted through email attachments and counseling students through phone conference.

*Inclement Weather, School Closing, Emergency Information:* During inclement weather or other emergencies, check <http://preparedness.georgetown.edu>, or call (202) 687-7669 for information about school/event closings. If the university is open, class will meet on schedule. Should the university be closed class will not meet, however, any writing assignments submitted through Blackboard will be due as usual. Students are advised to sign up for the text messaging service for instant notification of school closings. You may sign up for this service at Student Access.

*End of Syllabus*