Instructor: Claire Lyness  
Email: clynness@ucsc.edu  
Office hours: McHenry Library Café, Thursday 1.30 – 3pm

Overview: This course introduces students to the study of international relations as a discipline and as a way of thinking and knowing about the world. We will take a thematic approach to engage with key concepts that are relevant to the study of international relations today, looking at issues such as: economy, security, violence and empire. In doing so we will survey the various theories of international relations and think critically about what these perspectives offer us in the contemporary political moment.

Required Texts:  
All other readings are available on Ecommons.

Course Assignments:  
Mid-term paper (4 – 5 pages) 35%  
Final exam 40%  
Participation 25%  
Optional reading response (2 – 3 pages) 10% of participation grade

Attendance and participation:  
I will pass around an attendance sheet at the start of every lecture. Lecture attendance is mandatory and any absence from lecture will negatively affect your participation grade. I expect you to come to class prepared. This means that you should come to class having already read the texts that we will be discussing on any given day. Active listening is part of effective participation, so any cell phones should be turned off during lecture and if you use a laptop for note-taking, please try and resist the temptation of the internet. Asking clarifying questions about lecture is a good way to show that you have been listening actively and that you are engaging with the course.

Disability Accommodations:  
If you require special classroom or testing accommodations because of a disability you must submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me by the end of the first week of class. The DRC can be reached at (831) 459-2089.
Academic Integrity:
I take the University’s academic integrity policies very seriously. Please familiarize yourself with these policies, which can be found on the website: http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students
Any violation of these policies will be handled accordingly.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: What is international relations? A historical and thematic introduction.

Tues 7/28: History of a discipline
An Introduction to International Relations Theory, pp. 1 – 21.

Thurs 7/30: Dominant approaches: realism v. liberalism
An Introduction to International Relations Theory, pp. 23 – 74.


Week 2: Economy and Security

Tues 8/4: Marxism and International Political Economy


Thurs 8/6: Security
Week 3: Violence

Tues 8/11: Gender and feminism


Thurs 8/13: Empire

Sherene Razack, *Dark Threats and White Knights: The Somalia Affair, Peacekeeping and the New Imperialism,* (Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 2004), excerpts (will be uploaded on ecommons).


Week 4: Representations – what are we talking about when we talk about states?

Tues 8/18: Constructivism (Midterm paper due at the beginning of class)


Thurs 8/20: Post-structuralism

*An Introduction to International Relations Theory,* “Postmodernism” pp. 129 - 154


Week 5: A case study: the Global War on Terror

Tues 8/25: War on Terror


Thurs 8/27: Cumulative final exam.