

Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Date: 12/16/2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: POL 130

Course Name: International Relations

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

This course introduces students to the field of contemporary international relations, focusing upon the political, diplomatic, social, military, economic, and cultural interaction of state and non-state actors at the global level. By exploring a diverse array of global topics, from international diplomacy and security, to nuclear proliferation, terrorism, nationalism, pandemic disease, immigration, population growth, world trade and finance, regional economic integration, natural resource access and management, modernization, democratization, Third World poverty, human rights, and the role of the U.N. and other international organizations, this course will equip students with the knowledge necessary to understand, evaluate, and respond to a complex array of problems in the contemporary world. No pre-requisites or co-requisites.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:

For most degrees this course can be taken to fulfill a Social Science elective or general elective requirement

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, models and issues in the field of international relations, and the intricacies of geopolitical and geo-economic conflict and cooperation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of world geography and the political, diplomatic, social, military, economic, and cultural interaction of state and non-state actors at the global level. By analyzing such globally-relevant topics as the U.N. and international mechanisms for cooperation, immigration, nuclear non-proliferation, pandemic disease, natural resource access and management, Third World poverty, and human rights, students will gain

some of the insights necessary to live interdependently in a diverse, sustainable global community.

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the citizen’s role in international relations and how the American federal government, and its foreign policy-making apparatus, works to address a myriad of issues relevant to an American citizen, such as global campaigns for democratization and equality, global cultural exchanges, world terrorism, international trade and finance, and natural resource access/management, and thereby equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be involved in their own communities.
- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate college-level primary and secondary source readings in the field of international relations.
- Identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the field of international relations, and, in their own writing, will demonstrate well-reasoned arguments when interpreting global-related subject matter.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, use and share information from a range of published/printed and electronic resources in the field of international relations.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: *(check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> writing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> computer literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oral communications | <input type="checkbox"/> ethics/values |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reading | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> citizenship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> global concerns |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> critical thinking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> information resources |

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)	Specific assessment measure(s)
Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student knowledge of the major concepts, models and issues in the field of international relations will be assessed using a combination of quizzes, essay examinations and written assignments. • An assigned research paper will be employed to assess students’ ability to identify, analyze and evaluate arguments made by some of the major authors in the

	field of International Relations, and to gauge students' ability to produce their own well-reasoned arguments when interpreting political science subject matter.
Reading	Quizzes, written assignments and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' ability to comprehend, interpret, analyze and evaluate primary and secondary source readings and current event articles.
Citizenship	Quizzes, written assignments and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' knowledge of the citizen's role in International Relations and how the American federal government, and its foreign policy-making apparatus, works to address a myriad of global issues relevant to an American citizen.
Global Concerns	Quizzes, written assignments and/or essay examinations will be employed to assess students' knowledge of the political, military, economic, and cultural interaction of state and non-state actors at the global level, and on a range of internationally-relevant topics. Quizzes and essay examinations may also be employed to assess students' understanding of world geography.
Information Resources Computer Literacy	An assigned, computer-generated research paper, assessing students' to ability to gather information from a range of published/printed and electronic sources in international relations (published books and articles, current event websites, international organizational and governmental databases etc.)

IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Published and unpublished primary and secondary source material, monographs or debate reader, current event articles, web-based informational material..

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, discussions, use of web-based informational material, and reading of assigned primary and secondary source publications.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

- Introduction to International Relations: Theories, methodologies, and state/non-state actors in the international system.
- Globalization: Positive and negative implications for the human condition. National sovereignty vs. internationalism
- Inter-State Relations, Diplomacy, Foreign Policy: International recognition, treaties, diplomatic immunities and protections. Role of the foreign policy establishment within the American political system.
- International Law and Institutions: Development of international law, international institutions and international cooperation (peace-keeping and other collaborative enterprises), tourism and global cultural-educational exchanges, regional economic and political integration.
- Interstate/Asymmetric Conflict: Concept of war as an instrument of national/state policy, and the impact of military spending on domestic agendas.
- Global threats in the 21st century: Pandemic disease, terrorism, nuclear proliferation and arms control.
- Global Demographic Trends: Immigration, population growth, global inequality and Third World poverty.
- International Trade and Finance: Liberalization versus protectionism, tariffs, currency mechanisms, global capitalism, multinational corporations, outsourcing.
- Modernization and International Development: Global impacts of industrialization, modernization, Americanization, technological change, resource depletion and environmental degradation.
- Human Rights: Diverse understandings of the human condition across the globe and the promotion of democratic, egalitarian and humane priorities.