

COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science 110
Contemporary World Problems

I. Catalog Statement

Political Science 110 examines controversial issues in world politics - from regional conflicts, international economic relations, arms and disarmament, human rights and foreign policy, to environmental considerations. The format of the course is multidimensional, using lecture, discussion, and debate techniques.

Total Lecture Units: 3

Total Course Units: 3

Total Lecture Hours: 48

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48

Recommended preparation: eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills expectations: Reading 5, Writing 5, Listening Speaking 5, Math 1

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. analyze short essays (approximately 2-6 pages in length) to identify thesis, topic, developmental and concluding sentences, as well as transitional expressions used to increase coherence;
2. evaluate compositions for unity, sufficiency of development, evidence, coherence, and variety of sentence structure;
3. organize and write an essay which
 - a. addresses the topic and is directed by a thesis statement
 - b. has an introduction, body, and conclusion and demonstrates a basic understanding of essay organization
 - c. shows some awareness of critical thinking: e.g., linkage of evidence with assertion, some awareness of pro-con sides to an issue, ability to compare/contrast two short readings in a focused way
 - d. develops ideas, moving from general to specific
 - e. is easy to read and follow

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

1. demonstrate critical thinking by using the debate format;
2. evaluate different positions on controversial issues;
3. demonstrate tolerance of those whose beliefs are different than their own;
4. synthesize non-American points of view;
5. demonstrate a knowledge of the interconnectedness of the world

IV. Course Content Total Contact Hours = 48 hours

A.	Theoretical Tools	8 hours
1.	Approaches to Problem Solving	
2.	Defining relationships in the contemporary world	
3.	Collective action problems	
4.	Common pool resources	
B.	International Political Economy	12 hours
5.	Globalization	
6.	Development	
7.	International financial institutions	
C.	Security	12 hours
8.	Weapons proliferation	
9.	Terrorism	
10.	Environmental threats	
11.	Human security	
D.	Assessing Regional Hotspots	16 hours
12.	Conflicts and unrest	
13.	Trends and solutions	

V. Methods of Presentation

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture and discussion
2. audio-visual presentations
3. student debates
4. guest speakers
5. student presentations on regional issues

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following assignments may be used in this course:

1. Research paper evaluating the current scholarship on selected course concepts (e.g. students will write an essay comparing and contrasting various solutions to deal with terrorism).
2. Personal journal reflecting the influence of course concepts on student's life (e.g. students will reflect on the impact of globalization in their daily lives).

3. Annotated bibliographical essay on selected course concepts (e.g. students will complete an annotated bibliography related to a debate on the effects of free trade on domestic economies in different regions of the world).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course;

1. One hour in-class examinations and a final essay examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards.
2. Students will be required to participate in the preparation and presentation of an argument related to course content.

VIII. Textbooks

Rourke, John T. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in the World of Politics*. New York: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2013. Print.

14th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 9780078050176

Weatherby, Joseph. *The Other World: Issues and Politics of the Developing World*. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2011. Print.

14th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 9780205778874

Keller, Jonathan W. *Longman Atlas of World Issues*. New York: Longman, 2012. Print.

13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 9780205780204

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to critically analyze and evaluate competing positions taken on current world issues.