

COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science 103 (C-ID Number: POLS 140) Introduction to World Politics (C-ID Title: Introduction to International Relations)

I. Catalog Statement

POL S103 develops an intellectual framework, which will order students' thoughts on world politics and enable them to analyze and evaluate various actors, institutions, interactions, and processes as they relate to international power and the pursuit of peace.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENGL 120 or ESL 151

II. Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in this 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 required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. explain international relations theory and apply relevant theoretical concepts to historical and current events;
2. identify international institutions;

3. describe the roles of national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors;
4. analyze and evaluate key topics such as conflict, cooperation, diplomacy, international law, human rights, and international political economy;
5. analyze, evaluate and propose solutions to contemporary world problems.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48

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| A. Fundamentals of International Relations | 16 hours |
| 1. Historical foundations | |
| 2. Theoretical approaches to the study of international relations | |
| a. Realism | |
| b. Liberalism | |
| c. Critical theories | |
| 3. Frameworks for analyzing international relations | |
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| B. Actors in International Relations | 8 hours |
| 1. The role of the state | |
| 2. Non-state actors | |
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| C. Theories on the Behavior of States | 16 hours |
| 1. Theories on the causes of war | |
| 2. Theories on the preservation of order | |
| 3. The nature of power | |
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| D. The Current International System | 8 hours |
| 1. Applying the study of international relations to current issues | |
| 2. Implications for American foreign policy | |

V. Methods of Instruction

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture and discussion;
2. audio-video presentations;
3. classroom simulations on world affairs;
4. discussion of journal articles from the field.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

1. research paper evaluating the current scholarship on selected course concepts. (e.g. a paper requiring students to compare and contrast the theories of international relations as they relate to a selected foreign policy);
2. report on community presentations related to course concepts. (e.g. a student will attend a presentation on global warming and prepare a written report to present to the class);

3. annotated bibliography reflecting research in preparation for in-class debate. (e.g. a student will prepare an annotated bibliography related to an assigned debate to determine whether states should intervene in another state's domestic affairs).

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. preparation and presentation of an argument related to course content.

VIII. Textbooks (s)

Mingst, Karen A. *Essentials of International Relations*. 5th ed. New York: Norton Publishing, 2011. Print.

15th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-393-93529-5

Rourke, John T. and Mark A. Boyer. *International Politics on the World Stage BRIEF*. 8th ed. Guilford: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2010. Print.

15th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0-073-37899-2

IX. Student Learning Outcome

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, students will be able to:

1. critically analyze and evaluate theories related to world politics.