

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Political Science 130 – Introduction to International Relations

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Survey of the field of international relations. Students will be introduced to the major theories of international relations and will learn to apply them to contemporary problems in world politics. Issues examined include global peace and security, international political economy, international law and organization, sustainable development, and human rights.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Theories of international relations include, but is not limited to, realism, liberalism, constructivism, feminism, Marxism, and strategic interaction.
- 2) Actors in international relations include national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors.
- 3) The evolution of the international system including, but not limited to, the Peace of Westphalia, rise of sovereign states with formal diplomatic and military institutions, expansion of state power through colonialism, bipolarity during the Cold War, unipolarity after the Cold War, and a post-9/11 world.
- 4) Internationalism, nationalism and transnationalism at the domestic level, international level, and interaction of both levels.
- 5) War and peace across space and time, including World War I, World War II, the Cold War, 21st century wars in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, and recent contemporary conflicts.
- 6) International law includes its definition, emergence, expansion, and application domestically and internationally.
- 7) National and international security includes, but not limited to, climate change, cyber conflict, nuclear proliferation, and irregular warfare.
- 8) Sustainable development as described by the United Nations.
- 9) International, multilateral, and bilateral agreements related, but not limited to, air, water, land, ecosystems, Indigenous communities, and trade.
- 10) Human rights include its definition, emergence, expansion, and application domestically and internationally.
- 11) International political economy includes, but not limited to, interaction of national and international financial, monetary, and intellectual property.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify major thinkers in international relations and apply their theories to contemporary international relations problems.
- 2) Define and analyze the role of different actors in the international system such as the nation-state, transnational movements, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, multinational corporations, and individuals.
- 3) Evaluate how social, cultural and economic phenomena impact relations between nation-states.
- 4) Analyze the changing nature of the challenges facing the international community in the post-Cold War era.

- 5) Identify the major stages in the development of the international system.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Participation in class conversations, role playing, simulations, or debates about students' engagement with course content and course assessments.
- 2) Formative and summative writing prompts, quizzes, or exams that prepare students to confidently engage in course content.
- 3) Written assignments, such as students' reflections on course content.
- 4) Analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles.
- 5) Research papers or projects that are scaffolded over the course, so students have time to engage with challenging course content.
- 6) Oral presentations to give students the opportunity to practice their communication skills and share their research papers or projects with peers.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom with current world and regional political maps
- 2) Preferred: Technology Enabled Active Learning classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Small and large group discussions
- 3) Individual and group projects
- 4) Individual, small, and large-scale simulations
- 5) Guest speakers
- 6) Learning management systems for:
 - a. Individual and group assignments
 - b. Class discussions
 - c. Formative and summative quizzes
 - d. Individual reflections

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Individual and group assignments can include:
 - a. Analysis and interpretation of chapters in assigned text
 - b. Analysis of current events
 - c. Analysis of diversity, equity, and inclusion and its relation to course content
 - d. Analysis of peer-review journal articles
 - e. Public policy-related project

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2021. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions. 5th ed. W. W. Norton & Company.
 - b. Lee, Charlottee, Katherine Michel, Josh Franco. 2020. OER Canvas Course Shell for Introduction to International Relations.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify the traditional concepts of realism, liberalism, and constructivism and contemporary framework of interest, interactions, and institutions.
- 2) Summarize the historical roots and contemporary evolution of international relations and politics.
- 3) Apply normative and positive approaches to the study of international relations and politics, particularly wealth and poverty, human rights, and the environment.
- 4) Analyze existing applications of political science to topics such as international institutions, state behavior, and international public policy.
- 5) Evaluate the similarities, differences, and relationships between international law and norms and international trade, finance, monetary relations.