

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
International Relations Course

PLSC 2803 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Catalog Description

Analysis of the nature of foreign relations with special emphasis given to contemporary problems such as the international community, balance of power, international conflict and cooperation.

Prerequisite:

None.

Credit hours/Contact hours/ Load hours:

3/3/3

Target Audience & Transfer:

Designed for students seeking an Associate of Arts degree and for students transferring to other colleges. PLSC 2803 will transfer to the University of Arkansas as PLSC 2813. It is also a related elective for students seeking an Associate of Applied Science in International Business.

General Course Outcomes

Upon completing this course students should:

1. Be able to discuss many of the current problems in foreign relations
2. Be able to describe regional and world events and problems
3. Understand some of the activities and methods of foreign relations
4. have further develop his/her critical thinking skills

Required Text:

Roskin, Michal G. and Nicholas O. Berry, The New World of International Relations. 4th edition. Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1999

Topical/Unit Outline

I. World Systems

- A. Balance-of-Power System
- A. Bipolar Cold War System
- B. New Systems

II. National Interest and American Foreign Policy

- A. World War I
- B. Foreign Policy Between the Wars: Isolationism
- C. World War II
- D. Cold War Events

III. United States Foreign Policy and the Vietnam War

The French In Indochina

B. Early Involvement and the Geneva Accords

C. Kennedy and Vietnam, an Increasing Commitment

D. LBJ and Escalation

C. E. The Tet Offensive and Withdrawal

D. F. Vietnamization and Withdrawal

IV. Constraints on United States Foreign Policy

A. Isolationism and Intervention

B. Public Opinion

C. Budgetary Limitations

D. Reluctant Congress

D. E. Smaller Army

E. F. Foreign Policy Structure

F. G. Bureaucrats and Foreign Policy

V. Russia to the Soviet Union

A. Invasion from the West

B. War and Bolshevism

C. Spreading the Revolution

D. Stalin

E. The Great Patriotic War- World War II

F. Yalta

G. The Cold War

VI. From the Soviet Union Back to Russia

A. Khrushchev and China

B. Restive East Europe

C. The Cuban Missile Crisis

D. Détente with United States

E. Afghanistan- The Soviet Vietnam

F. Gorbachev and Reform

G. The Collapse

H. Problems and the Future

VII. Economic Development: The Rich and the Poor

A. Less Developed Nations and the Industrialized World

B. Population Explosion and Migration

C. The Struggling Economies

D. Theories of Development

VIII. South Africa and the End of Colonialism

A. The Colonial Mentality

B. Winds of Change

C. Reform Instead of Revolution

IX. Arabs and Israelis: The Rocky Road to Peace

- A. The Making of Jewish Nationalism
- B. The Making of Arab Nationalism
- C. World War I and the Mandate
- D. War: 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973
- E. The Rise of Palestinian Nationalism
- F. The 1982 War
- G. Israel's Dilemma
- H. The Rocky Road

X. Oil and Turmoil: The Persian Gulf and Central Asia

- A. Iran
- B. The First Gulf War
- C. The Second Gulf War
- D. Lessons of the Two Gulf Wars

XI. Threats to the United States and the World

- A. National Security and How States Protect
- B. Nuclear Politics and the Bomb
- C. Terrorism
- D. The Rise of the Pacific Rim and Japan
- E. The Decline of the Dollar

XII. The Politics of a New World

- A. Diplomacy
- B. International Law
- C. The United Nations
- D. The Rise of a United Europe
- E. Peacekeeping: Beyond War

Required Methods of Instruction

Individual teachers may design the course in any number of ways, keeping the course objectives in mind. They may include lecture, audio-visual materials, guest speakers, or any other things that teachers may believe will enhance the class.

Required Forms of Assessment

Individual instructors have broad latitude in assessing students. However, each instructor will include some form of essay question on the exam(s).