

Bergen Community College
Division of Business, Social Sciences & Public Services
Department of Social Sciences

Departmental Policy Syllabus

POL-102 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Basic Information about Course and Instructor

Semester and year:
Section Number:
Meeting Times and Locations:

Instructor:
Office Location:
Phone:
Departmental Secretary: [optional]
Office Hours:
Email Address:

Course Description

International Relations is an examination of the basic elements and processes of the modern nation-state system. Political power, nationalism, diplomacy, international law, international organization, balance-of-power strategies, imperialism, regionalism, polycentrism, and current world issues are analyzed.

3 lectures, 3 credits

General Education Course – Social Science Elective

Student Learning Objectives

Key objectives of the course include enabling the student orally and in writing to:

1. Identify the basic concepts, structures and procedures of the modern international system.
2. Relate historical and contemporary factors to the international political system.
3. Distinguish between the interests of nation-states and supranational organizations.
4. Identify the various methods of pursuing interests: war, diplomacy, competition and cooperation and critically review and evaluate these means
5. Identify the increasing role of world economic relationships in the exercise of power and pursuit of interest.
6. Critically review these contemporary factors and synthesize the major patterns.

In pursuit of the foregoing goals, the course is based on the reading and analysis of required texts, contemporary newspapers and other media sources. Students are given the opportunity and are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions; and students are required to do a substantial amount of expository and critical writing in response to the material presented in the course.

The Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) in this course are intended to be aligned with as many of the college's Core Competencies and General Education Goals as possible. In addition, student progress in reaching the course's SLOs is to be assessed through a variety of assessment types (tools) and on the basis of a variety of assessment criteria. Assessment types may include any combination of classroom discussion, objective tests and examinations, essay tests, papers, short essays, book reports, student classroom presentations, etc., utilizing current (technological and traditional) techniques of social science research and writing.

Course Content

The course is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts, structure and operation of the current **international political system**. Sample course syllabi can be viewed on the website of the American Political Science Association (APSA) at http://www.apsanet.org/content_3807.cfm. The topics included on the sample course syllabus (below) should be covered.

Special Features of the Course (if any) [to be designated by the instructor]

Along with traditional sources students are expected to **use the Internet** to access sources for their research on current issues.

Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials

A variety of suitable texts exist from major publishers. Choice of a textbook is a department-wide decision.

John T. Rourke and Mark A. Boyer, *International Politics on the World Stage, Brief*, latest Edition, Dushkin,.

Other study materials are available such as *The New York Times*-Online: www.nytimes.com

Writing and Critical Thinking Requirement(s)

Because POL-102 is a General Education course, it requires students to complete a variety of critical thinking and writing assignments. These assignments may include class discussions and debates requiring the application of critical thinking skills, short in-class essays, out-of-class writing projects (journals, research papers, argument-analysis papers, book reviews, etc.), tests and examinations containing essay components, and so forth. Instructors will respond to and comment on students' writing in detail.

Sample Assignment: PORTFOLIO-ESSAY:

This written essay is designed to focus on one, relevant, current topic based on articles from current newspapers, especially the *New York Times* www.nytimes.com, and other computer accessible sources, such as Web sites. Besides getting students to become expert in one specific area of international politics, the newspaper research will introduce the student to the wide range of issues, controversies and problems that affect us all. Basically, this assignment requires the student to **read the newspaper**, select and follow an approved **topic** as it develops during the first two months of the semester. Collect and **save the articles**, either by downloading them to your word processor or clipping them from the newspaper, and then organize them with a commentary (**essay**) explaining the development over the period and offering your own observations and conclusions. **Two articles and one paragraph will be handed in each week identifying and justifying your topic. Without the early research and topic approval the final essay will not be accepted. Due date: 11th week.**

Grading Policy

A student's final grade for the course is based primarily on his or her performance on the required work for the course (writing assignments, examinations, class presentations, etc.) and on his or her overall mastery of the material covered in the course. A student's class participation may also be evaluated, and the grade thereon may be used as a factor in determining the student's final grade for the course.

Sample: Consistent with the Attendance Policy grades will be earned through a series of **three tests** (70%), a written **portfolio-essay** described above (20%), and **class participation** which includes participation, lateness and attendance among other things (10%).

Attendance Policy

BCC Attendance Policy:

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

Sample Attendance Policy in this Course:

It is expected that students will attend all class meetings. If a student misses more than three weeks worth of classes throughout the semester he/she will not pass the course. **For example, if the course meets twice a week, no more than six absences are tolerated, for any reason. The student will not pass the course for reasons of absence alone.** For a course that meets once a week, the maximum number of absences tolerated is three. Three latenesses equal one absence; classes when tests are held are included as classes. Illness, accidents and business emergencies sometimes occur; therefore it behooves everyone to **anticipate these emergencies by being in class routinely.** Look upon absences as your sick days and personal days on a job: use them when necessary; take too many and you lose the job! (If you are late be sure to see the Professor that class lest it be counted as an absence.)

Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements [optional but recommended]

Examples:

Statement on plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty.

ADA statement.

Sexual Harassment statement.

Statement on acceptable use of BCC technology.

Statement on the purpose and value of faculty office hours.

Student and Faculty Support Services [optional but recommended]

List support services, e.g., the Writing Center, the Math Lab, the Tutorial Center, Online Writing Lab (OWL), Office of Specialized Services, etc. Include information on the BCC Library.

Example:

Student and Faculty Support Services

The Distance Learning Office – for any problems you may have accessing your online courses	Room C-334	201-612-5581 psimms@bergen.edu
Smarthinking Tutorial Service	On Line at:	www.bergen.edu/library/learning/tutor/smart/index.asp
The Tutoring Center	Room S-118	201-447-7908
The Technology Assisted Learning Lab (Math and English)	Room C-110	201-447-7988
The Writing Center	Room C-110	201-447-7136
The Online Writing Lab (OWL)		www.bergen.edu/owl
The Office of Specialized Services (for Students with Disabilities)	Room S-153	201-612-5270
The Sidney Silverman Library – Reference Desk	Room L-226	201-447-7436

Sample Format for Course Outline and Calendar

Note to Students: The following Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Week(s)	Date(s)	Topic/Activity	Learning Objectives	Assignments/Events
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

See the (1) Sample Course Outline and (2) Sample Course Outline and Calendar below.

(1) Sample Course Outline

I. How to study International Relations and World Politics

- **POWER** is the main focus of Political Science
- Scope of world politics
- Frameworks of analysis: levels of analysis: system, state, individual
- Approaches to understanding: Realism, Idealism, Economics(Marxism), and Scientific.

READINGS: TEXT: Chaps. 1 and 3.

II. The Nation-State System:

- Evolving patterns: tribes>city-states>empires>feudalism> **nation-states**>world-state?
- Neo-Nationalism and Tribalism:
- Micro-states: Nevis-St. Kitts and Bosnia for example

READINGS: TEXT: Chaps. 2 and 4.

TEST 1

III. The Modern Nation State

- What makes a "country"?
- The Nation-State: the modern framework of political organization.
- **Sovereignty**: the ultimate claim.
- Territory, Population, Recognition, Government, Popular support
- National Interest
- How is state power organized: authoritarian or democratic?

READINGS: TEXT: Chap. 6.

IV. Transnationalism: Challenges to Sovereignty and the Nation-State System

- Can we live in anarchy and isolation?
- Some challenges: globalization of the economy, religion, ideology
- Culture: McWorld v. Jihad
- Structure of Internationalism:
 - European Union
 - United Nations

READINGS: TEXT: Chaps. 5 and 7.

V. National Power and Diplomacy: the traditional approach

- National Power: multidimensional and relative
- Diplomacy: "Going abroad to lie for one's country"?
- Achieving goals through non-violent means: one end of Von Clausewitz's continuum
- Conduct of diplomacy: traditional, parliamentary, summitry
- Language and Protocol

READINGS: TEXT: Chap. 8.

TEST 2

VI. International Law and Morality

- Is there a “higher law”?
- Does a country have the right to control its own people and resources?
- If an American commits a crime who should try him/her? Should there be a world criminal court?

READINGS: TEXT: Chap. 9

VII. The Security Problem

- War
 - Force, options, “continuum” of von Clausewitz
 - Scope
 - Conventional, NBC
 - Terrorism
- Collective Security
- Arms control: Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Land Mine Treaty
- Pacifism

READINGS: TEXT: Chap. 10.

VIII. Economics and World Politics

- North and South: EDCs, LDCs, MNCs
- Globalization of the world economy
- North-North relations: trade and competition, WTO, tariffs, balance of trade
- North-South relations: Rich Nations and Poor Nations, LDCs, "3rd World", NICs
- IMF, World Bank

READINGS: TEXT: Chaps. 11 and 12.

TEST 3 - Last Week

(2) SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

[with designation of Student Learning Objectives – by number – for each topic]

Note to Students: The following Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Week(s)	Date(s)	Topic/Activity/Assignments (See the Instructors’ specific course outline for activity and the specific text in use for assignments. Activities may include any combination of classroom discussion, objective tests and examinations, essay tests, papers, short essays, book reports, student classroom presentations, etc., utilizing current (technological and traditional) techniques of social science research and writing.)	Student Learning Objectives
1-2		Introduction: scope of world politics, methods of analysis, major approaches	1-6
3		The nation-state system: evolution	1-6

4-5		The modern nation-state system: sovereignty, territory, recognition, population, national interest Test 1	1-6
6-7		Transnationalism: challenges to the nation-state model, UN, IGOs, regionalism, Islam	1-6
8-9		National Power and Diplomacy: the traditional approach, the state, core political organization	1-6
10		International Law and Morality: higher law, national interest Test 2	1-6
11-12		The Security Problem: war, conventional, NBC, arms control, terrorism Papers Due	1-6
13-14		Economics and World Politics: globalization, North-South, development	1-6
15		Optional Policy Issues Test 3	1-6