



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
POL 201	International Relations	3.0
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other 3/0/0	Co- or Pre-requisite ---	Implementation Semester & Year FA 2022

Catalog description:

A broad-based survey of international relations using a variety of theoretical perspectives that allow students to better understand and analyze current and past international behavior. Concepts include balance of power, economic interaction, diplomacy, the role of international organizations, leadership styles and public policy making in the international context.

General Education Category:

Goal 5: Social Science
Goal 8: Diversity and Global Perspective

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Required texts & Other materials:

IR, 4th edition. Scott, Carter, Drury, CQ Press, 2022. ISBN: 978-1-5443-8161-9

Handouts & Websites as directed; for updated editions/similar text-check bookstore

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Use theoretical perspectives discussed in class and in the textbook to analyze current events involving international relations and behavior (ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the “actors” (individuals, nations, organizations, etc.) involved in the world “system” (ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
3. Use the principles and perspectives covered in class and in the textbook to write a term project and prepare a class presentation on their project (ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)

Each goal or outcome relates to “political science literacy” with respect to content knowledge and to the “discipline-specific methodologies” of the study of politics with respect to relevant content material. Other learning goals may be specified in particular sections by the instructor with the course coordinator’s approval in addition to but not as a replacement for the above listed goals.

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

MCCC Course Outline; Approved by the Curriculum Committee Fall 2021

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 5. Social Science. Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

Institutional Learning Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Liberal Arts (PLO)

1. Concept Knowledge Understand the vocabulary, methods, and major concepts present in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences
2. Communication Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing
3. Critical Thinking Perform a series of thinking tasks including speculation, analysis, and synthesis (i.e., abstract reasoning)
4. Research Methods Utilize research materials and methodologies

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

The general plan for this course is broadly in two parts; the first unit serves as a primer of international political science; while subsequent units address various contemporary issues and focus on subject particulars and applications of more general international relations issues.

Units in Summary

Unit 1 – Studying World Politics

Unit 2 – Intergovernmental Relations

Unit 3 – State and Local Politics and Political Behavior

Unit 4 – Structure and Functioning of State and Local Government

Unit 5 --Economic Cooperation and Competition

Unit 6 --Pursuing Human Rights and Environmental Viability

Detailed Units:

Unit I Studying World Politics (SLO #1, 2, 3)

Learning Objectives The student will be able to...

1. Discuss the relevance of the study of international relations to their own lives politically, economically and culturally.
2. Discuss and use as an analytic tool the major theoretical perspectives that are widely used to study international relations ("Realist Theory", Liberal Theory", "Feminist Theory", etc.
3. Describe the evolution of the international "system" as it has moved through various historical periods .

4. Analyze the current world international system in terms of its structure, role of the U.S., etc.
5. Describe and give relevant examples relating to the 3 “Levels of Analysis” typically used to analyze international behavior (Individual Level Analysis, State Level Analysis, and System Level Analysis)

Unit II Political Orientations (SLO #1, 2, 3)

Learning Objectives *The student will be able to...*

1. Discuss political ideologies and philosophies and make value judgments based on analysis of these ideas
2. Compare and contrast the concepts of nationalism, trans-nationalism and globalism
3. Discuss Islam and other religions and relate their teachings to the political scene

Unit III Organizational Structures and Participants in International Relations (SLO #1, 2, 3)

Learning Objectives *The student will be able to...*

1. List and describe the role of the many “actors” in international relations such as nations, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations
2. Analyze the role and effectiveness of the above in actual international behavior
3. Compare and contrast “nations” and “states”
4. Discuss examples of the results of a lack of fit of the above

Unit IV International Behavior (SLO #1, 2, 3)

Learning Objectives *The student will be able to...*

1. Analyze the components of power on the national and international level
2. Discuss the limitations of power as well as its uses by international “actors” and individuals in everyday life
3. Discuss the role of terrorism and its challenge to traditional concepts of power
4. Discuss arms control, international security forces and organizations and their role in international relations currently and in the future.

Unit V Economic Cooperation and Competition (SLO #1, 2, 3)

Learning Objectives *The student will be able to...*

1. Analyze the economic concepts that will enable the student to better understand the impact of international economic forces on his/her life
2. Analyze, using economic data, the relative economic position and resources of developed and non-developed nations as well as the possible future impact of the disparities in economic resources
3. Describe and analyze the effectiveness of institutions encouraging economic cooperation internationally and their effect on people

Unit VI Pursuing Human Rights and Environmental Viability (SLO #1, 2, 3)

Learning Objectives *The student will be able to...*

1. Evaluate and analyze international behavior as it impacts human rights and the environment
2. Discuss international organizations that work to monitor these areas and their success or failure

Evaluation of student learning:

Weekly quizzes 20%
Class participation 10%

Multiple reaction papers 5%
Term Project with Oral Presentation 15%
3 Essay exams 50%