



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number POL 201	Course Title International Relations	Credits 3
Hours: lecture/Lab/Other 3 lecture hours	Co- or Pre-requisite none	Implementation sem/year Every Spring Semester

Catalog description (2006-2009 Catalog):

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.

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? Revised February 2008

Required texts/other materials:

John T. Rourke, *International Politics on the World Stage* 12th. Edition

Revision date:

Feb.. 25,2008

Course coordinator: (Name, telephone number, email address)

Prof. Guy DeRosa
X3855
derosag@mccc.edu

Information resources:

Reserve Texts
DVDs and Videos
International journals

Other learning resources:

Tutoring

Course Competencies/Goals:

The student will be able to:

- Use theoretical perspectives discussed in class and in the textbook to analyze current events involving international relations and behavior
- Demonstrate knowledge of the “actors” (individuals, nations, organizations, etc.) involved in the world “system”
- 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

Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills. [

General Education Knowledge Goals

Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

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.

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

Goal 8. Diversity. Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.

Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical issues and situations.

MCCC Core Skills

Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.

Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Goal C. Ethical Decision-Making. Students will recognize, analyze and assess ethical issues and situations.

Goal D. 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.

Goal F. Collaboration and Cooperation. Students will develop the interpersonal skills required for effective performance in group situations.

Goal G. Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Unit I Studying World Politics

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Discuss the relevance of the study of international relations to their own lives politically, economically and culturally.
- 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.
- Describe the evolution of the international “system” as it has moved through various historical periods .
- Analyze the current world international system in terms of its structure, role of the U.S., etc.
- 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

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

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

Unit III Organizational Structures and Participants in International Relations

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

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

Unit IV International Behavior

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Analyze the components of power on the national and international level
- Discuss the limitations of power as well as its uses by international “actors” and individuals in everyday life
- Discuss the role of terrorism and its challenge to traditional concepts of power
- 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

Learning objectives

The student will be able to...

- Analyze the economic concepts that will enable the student to better understand the impact of international economic forces on his/her life
- 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
- Describe and analyze the effectiveness of institutions encouraging economic cooperation internationally and their effect on people

Unit VI Pursuing Human Rights and Environmental Viability

Learning Objectives

The student will be able to...

- Evaluate and analyze international behavior as it impacts human rights and the environment
- 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%

Academic Integrity Statement:

Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity -- the honest, fair and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work, and that faculty and academic support services staff members will take reasonable precautions to prevent the opportunity for academic dishonesty.