



North Iowa Area Community College Course Outline

Please follow the included instructions when completing this form. Direct questions to Division Chair. After Course Outline is completed, please submit to Division Chair for review, who then submits to Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for review by the Curriculum and Academic Affairs Council (CAAC).

Prepared by:	John Schmaltz
Date Approved by CAAC:	September 9, 2019
Course Title:	International Relations
Course Number:	POL-121
Equivalent Prior Course Numbers:	80-122; POLS-110
Academic Division/Department:	Social Science

Credits – Semester Hours (s.h.):

Contact Hours As defined by the Iowa Department of Education in consultation with Division Chair/Registrar (see attached instructions).

Lecture:	<input type="text" value="45"/>	1 s.h. = 15 contact hours
Lab:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1 s.h. = 30 contact hours
Clinical Practice:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1 s.h. = 45 contact hours
Work Experience:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1 s.h. = 60, 75, 90, or 105 contact hours
Total:	<input type="text" value="45"/>	

Prerequisite(s):

None

Corequisite(s):

None

Course Description:

An introductory course in international relations which offers an analysis of the structure and processes of world politics. Topics covered include the study of foreign policies, a survey of major problems in contemporary world affairs, and an examination of selected global issues.

Required Textbook(s) and Other Required Materials:

Rourke, John T., and Mark A. Boyer, World Politics: International Politics on the World Stage, Brief (8th Edition), McGraw-Hill, 2009

Purpose of Course Check one [X] in consultation with Division Chair.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arts and Sciences (General Education)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts and Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career and Technical (General Education)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career and Technical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Developmental

If course is offered only in specific semesters, please explain below:

Maximum number of weeks for which the course is offered:

16

[Do not edit the following section. Managed by Academic Affairs]

Is this a Core Competency Anchor Course? YES ☐ NO ☐

If "Yes," list Core Competency Student Learning Outcome Numbers being taught and assessed in this course (2.2, 3.1, etc.)

(Example) 2.2 [Press Tab to create new rows for each SLO]

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

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

1. Explain the interconnection of all the actors in the international system and the relation between events taking place in one country and their effects on other countries.
2. Discuss how countries are connected economically.
3. Identify differences in state characteristics, such as natural-resource endowments, population growth, defense spending, spending for domestic programs, and inflation rates.
4. Describe the effects of world politics on individuals, and explain how individuals can affect world politics.
5. Identify global problems, such as population increases, pollution, and resource depletion.
6. Identify the main elements of the cooperation or conflict dimension in world politics, and discuss their effects on the world's peoples.
7. Describe the East-West axis of conflict and the North-South axis of conflict.
8. Compare and contrast the realist and idealist approaches to world politics.
9. Discuss the relationship between perceptions and reality in world politics.
10. Describe the three levels of analysis most commonly used in the study of world politics.
11. Characterize the international system as one composed of sovereign nation-states as the principal actors.
12. Describe the evolution of the modern world system, from the birth of nation-states to the present.
13. Identify the major powers in the system during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
14. Discuss the distribution of power across states throughout the modern period, and give real or hypothetical examples illustrating each power distribution.
15. Define international interdependence, and describe its effects on the international system and the units composing it.
16. Explain the influence of technology on the structure and evolution of the modern world system.
17. Define nationalism, and trace its development.
18. Identify the geographic, ideological, and technological bases of the modern world system.
19. Summarize the operation of the post-World War II bipolar system and the reasons for and mechanisms of its erosion.
20. Summarize the rapid disintegration of the bipolar system and speculate regarding the shape of the world system of the future.
21. Describe what international systems are and how they help the political scientist understand the world.
22. Identify the major actors in the variety of types of world systems, including today's system.
23. List the types and characteristics of the major nonstate actors.
24. Identify and explain the operation of the different polar systems.
25. Discuss the power distribution in the world system in the twentieth century.
26. Describe geographic characteristics of the world system that affect the distribution and exercise of power in the system.
27. Identify the causes and mechanisms of system transformation.

28. Explain the concept of balance of power to system theory.
29. Explain the concept of balance of power to foreign policy choices.
30. Speculate regarding the shape of the future international system, including actor types, interactions, and the distribution of power.
31. Define what is meant by individual-level analysis in world politics.
32. Differentiate between the individual level of analysis and other levels of analysis and recognize the advantages and disadvantages of the individual level for interpreting international behavior.
33. Explain the nature-of-humankind approach.
34. Discuss the humans-in-organizations approach.
35. Describe the humans-as-individuals approach.
36. Identify what is meant by belief systems and distinguish them from ideologies.
37. Explain how perceptions affect the reactions of leaders.
38. Identify the psychological causes of misperception.
39. Differentiate between operational reality and objective reality.
40. Identify individuals who hold no official positions in government but who are nevertheless leaders in world politics.
41. Identify the characteristics of a state, and note the differences between states and other international actors.
42. Explain the meaning of sovereignty and how it affects the expectations and behavior of states.
43. Differentiate between nation, state, government, and regime.
44. Describe the process of making foreign policy.
45. Describe the possible influences of domestic system structures and regime types on foreign policy choices.
46. Identify the important actors in the foreign policy process.
47. Discuss the operation of the foreign policy bureaucracy and its effects on the content of policy.
48. Identify the effect of the type of situation on policy-making.
49. Explain the controversial roles of legislatures, political opposition, and interest groups in making foreign policy.
50. Define nationalism.
51. Identify and explain the ideal concept of nation-state and its relationship to nationalism.
52. Depict nationalism as the product of historical development.
53. Identify the arguments predicting the end of nationalism and the demise of the territorial state.
54. Discuss the trends since the end of World War II that have contradicted predictions that nationalism and the nation-state were in decline.
55. List positive aspects of nationalism.
56. List negative aspects of nationalism.
57. Identify the ideal and actual relationships between nation and state.
58. Discuss the origins of microstates and the problems their existence presents to the state-centric system.
59. Explain the place of nationalism and the nation-state in today=s world where transnational and supernational structures and identifications are also increasing in scope and intensity.
60. Define ideas and ideologies and differentiate between their roles in world politics.
61. Identify the difference between an ideology and a religion and explain how religion affects world politics.
62. Discuss the special influence of Islam on world politics today.
63. Identify types of social theory and how they affect world politics.
64. Identify the distinguishing characteristics of communism and capitalism as economic systems and as ideologies.
65. Explain the role of political theories in world politics and how they compare to ideologies.
66. Discuss the role of democracy as an ideology and as a political theory.
67. Explain the role of morality in world politics and foreign policy decision-making.
68. Evaluate argument both for and against the use of moral standards in international politics.
69. List reasons for the importance of ideas and ideology in the conduct of world politics.
70. Explain why national interest is a difficult concept to define and operationalize.
71. Discuss the arguments that the national interest does not exist and that it exists but is difficult determine.
72. Describe the utility of determining the content of a country=s national interest.
73. Identify major elements of the national interests of the United States.
74. Identify major elements of the national interests of Russia.
75. Identify major elements of the national interests of China.
76. Develop a conceptualization of national interests as a function of the perceptions of policy makers and as a means for citizens to evaluate national policies.
77. Formulate decision rules and methods to test evaluations of policies that claim to reflect the national interest.

78. Define and establish priorities among the dimensions and categories of national interest.
79. Apply these concepts, rules, and priorities, to evaluate specific policies.
80. Define power and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using it to analyze world politics.
81. Differentiate between potential and actual power.
82. Differentiate between real and perceived power.
83. Identify examples of attempts to measure power quantitatively and appraise the difficulty of creating noncontroversial standards.
84. Differentiate between tangible and intangible elements of power.
85. Discuss how power is relative, situational, dynamic, and multidimensional.
86. Describe and evaluate the components of the national core as an element of power.
87. Describe the contributions of infrastructure and economy to the power of countries.
88. Describe the contributions of the military to the power of countries.
89. Describe why effective power is a function of specific situations.
90. Define war and list its important characteristics.
91. Analyze theories regarding the causes of war taken from the three levels of analysis.
92. Describe the role of force as an instrument in world politics.
93. Explain traditional warfare and distinguish it from warfare involving NBC weapons.
94. List and define different types of weapons, including conventional and limited NBC weapons.
95. Differentiate between MAD and NUT as two basic perspectives on nuclear weapons.
96. Define deterrence.
97. Distinguish different targeting and launch doctrines as they relate to the use of nuclear weapons.
98. Explain the different types of nuclear weapons delivery systems and distinguish their respective advantages and disadvantages.
99. Describe the proposal for the development of a Strategic Defense Initiative and the arguments for and against its deployment.
100. Define penetration and intervention.
101. Discuss the increasing importance of penetration and intervention in world politics.
102. Describe the means states utilize to penetrate and intervene in other states.
103. Differentiate between overt and covert passive penetration.
104. List noncoercive techniques of manipulative intervention.
105. Explain what propaganda is and how it is used by one nation to gain an advantage over another.
106. Define coercive intervention.
107. Describe the role of direct military intervention.
108. Identify the arms trade as a means of intervention.
109. Define terrorism and discuss its role as a form of intervention.
110. Define diplomacy and identify its three main elements.
111. Describe the historical development of diplomacy.
112. Characterize the basic nature and aspects of twentieth-century diplomacy.
113. Identify the various functions diplomacy can serve.
114. Identify the various national styles of conducting diplomacy.
115. Summarize the rules for effective diplomacy.
116. Explain the choices diplomats face in handling international negotiations.
117. Define crisis management.
118. Identify the goals of effective crisis management.
119. Explain historical examples of attempts to manage crises, with particular attention given to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962.
120. Explain why politics and economics are intertwined aspects of international relations.
121. Describe how expanding the role of international economics affects interstate relations.
122. Discuss how international trade affects relations among the developed capitalist states.
123. Identify and evaluate the arguments for and against free trade.
124. Describe different state-initiated barriers to trade and the rationales for and against their adoption.
125. Trace the pattern of international economy of the shift from fixed to floating exchange rates.
126. Discuss how international monetary arrangements affect relations among the developed capitalist states.
127. Explain the effect on the international economy of the shift from fixed to floating exchange rates.
128. Discuss how domestic economic policies affect the international political economy.
129. Identify economic issues facing the South as those dealing with physical and economic survival.
130. Describe the level of development of Southern countries and the distribution of income between Northern and

Southern countries and within the countries of the South.

131. Explain the different approaches to development, including liberal, radical, and mercantilist.
132. Validate why capital is the basic economic need of countries in the South.
133. Identify the reasons for the problems with the debt burden of many Southern countries.
134. Describe the relationship between trade and development.
135. Identify the problems with obtaining capital from nonmarket sources, such as foreign aid and loans from multilateral agencies.
136. List reasons for rising expectations of people in the Third World.
137. Describe the development of Third World movements and the objectives they seek.
138. Explain the variety of responses of Southern countries to the economic issues they face.
139. Analyze changes in the international system with the rapid rise in the number of international organizations.
140. Classify international organizations into two broad categories of governmental and nongovernmental organizations.
141. Explain the different ways of classifying international organizations by purpose and by the geographical location of their members.
142. Identify the various goals international organizations seek to achieve.
143. Discuss the effects of membership, voting, administrative structure, and financial arrangements on the functioning, legitimacy, and scope of international organizations.
144. Identify the prevention of war and military security as one of the main roles of the United Nations.
145. Describe the peacekeeping role of the United Nations.
146. List the nonmilitary roles of the United Nations.
147. Discuss the three dimensions of the interaction of states with international organizations.
148. Identify the different interactive relationships between the United Nations and the United States, Russia, China, and the Third World.
149. Compare international law to legal systems in domestic societies.
150. Evaluate the effectiveness of international law.
151. Compare and contrast the different sources of international law.
152. List ways that international law is made.
153. Evaluate adherence to international law.
154. Evaluate international law enforcement.
155. Describe the process of adjudication in international law.
156. Enumerate problems in applying international law to different cultures.
157. Identify the international-law issues that have developed during the twentieth century, and explain how changes in the world system have affected these issues.
158. Illustrate how and why international law has been increasingly applied to individuals rather than only to states.
159. Trace the origins and history of the acquisition of arms.
160. Describe the objectives of arms control and disarmament.
161. Evaluate the economic effects of military expenditures.
162. Describe the relationship between war and both arms and arms races.
163. Evaluate the various approaches to arms control, including disarmament and arms limits.
164. Define nuclear nonproliferation and conventional arms proliferation.
165. Describe the many barriers to arms control in the contemporary world.
166. Explain why political factors and technical complexities make verification of arms control measures so difficult.
167. Discuss how and why a country's interest groups and economic factors can encourage arms proliferation.
168. Predict what the future may hold for arms control.
169. Evaluate different responses to the problem of poverty, malnourishment, illiteracy, and other global issues.
170. Identify characteristics of the global economy.
171. List the varieties of existing international economic cooperation.
172. Explain why many of today's global economic issues encourage cooperation among the world's countries and peoples.
173. Evaluate global and regional efforts of economic cooperation.
174. Discuss the structure and current status of the European Union.
175. Describe international trade and monetary cooperation.
176. Identify the efforts toward international development cooperation.
177. Evaluate the South's criticism of international economic cooperation.
178. Evaluate the global problems related to population, including their causes and international efforts to address

them.

179. Evaluate the global problems related to food, including their causes and international efforts to address them.

180. Evaluate the global problems related to health, including their causes and international efforts to address them.

181. Evaluate the global problems related to education, including their causes and international efforts to address them.

182. Identify international efforts designed to implement respect for human rights.

183. Describe global problems related to the exploitation of petroleum, natural gas, and minerals.

184. Describe global problems related to land, forests, and wildlife.

185. Outline the efforts at resource conservation.

186. Identify problems of the global environment and international efforts designed to protect it.

187. Discuss the trade-offs between Third World economic development and environmental protection and the possible role of the developed countries in helping to ease that problem.