Course Objective: This course is designed to introduce you to the studies of international relations. By examining the ways in which various “actors” of international politics interact between and among them, you will be led to grasp the dynamics of the politics on the world stage.

Political science is a broad field of study. Depending on your interests, you can analyze the same phenomena from a variety of angles at different “levels of analysis.” As one of its sub-fields, International Relations is a very ambitious subject. It examines, among other things, the factors that affect the decisions of political leaders. Naturally, the scope of the subject is very wide and you could spend years just to cover all the relevant issues. As an introduction, however, this course is designed to familiarize you with the basic concepts and important issues of world politics.

Learning Outcome: As a result of taking this course, successful students will 1) understand the fundamental concepts, issues, and theories central to world politics, 2) demonstrate understanding of the leading theories, literature, and approaches in the field of international relations, and 3) demonstrate competence in formulating effective argumentation about world politics in writing and oral presentation.

Required Readings: The following are the required textbooks.

Rourke, John T.,

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You are also required to read The New York Times (NYT) everyday to supplement the course material and enhance your understanding of current global issues. You will be evaluated based on your participation in the discussion sessions on Fridays, during which you are expected to critically examine the NYT’s articles of the past week. Apparently, in order to participate in the discussions, you need to read the NYT everyday!
**Group Project:** As part of the course requirements, you are expected to take part in the weekly simulation exercises and debates on several important issues of international relations. You will be tested on the contents of the debates later in the exams. Make sure to take detailed notes during the debates. You will also be graded based on your performance during the simulations and on the assignments. The details will be explained in class.

**Grading:** The course grade is determined based on the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weightage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>60% (20% X 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Section</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simulations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Notice that 40% of your course grade depends on your active ‘participation’ (not attendance). Take participation seriously. **If you miss three classes without a legitimate excuse,—i.e., sickness (which the campus health center would be able to verify) or an accident that prevents you from coming to class,—your course grade will go down by one letter grade. That is, after you skipped the class twice without any legitimate excuse, the third time you skip the class without a legitimate excuse, your course grade will automatically go down by one letter grade. If you are late for class three times, that will be an equivalent of one un-excused absence. Apparently, this rule applies to all of the class periods including the discussion sessions on Fridays!**

**Schedule:**

1/11 Introduction/ The Study of International Relations

1/13 Approaches to the Study of World Politics
       Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 1&6.

1/15 Discussion

1/18 Approaches to the Study of World Politics (Continued)

1/20 Changes in the World System
       Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 2.

1/22 Discussion
1/25&27 Levels of Analysis
    Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapters 3.

1/29 Discussion

2/1 Levels of Analysis (Continued)

2/3 **First Midterm Exam**

2/5 Discussion

2/8&10 Factors that Influence International Politics
    Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapters 4&5.

2/12 Discussion

2/15 Factors that Influence International Politics (Continued)

2/17 **NO CLASS (I will be out of town for a professional conference.)**

2/19 Discussion

2/22-26 **MID-TERM BREAK**

3/1 Factors that Influence International Politics (Continued)

3/3 Power, Force, and International Politics
    Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 8.

3/5 Discussion

3/8&10 Power, Force, and International Politics (Continued)
    Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 8.

3/12 Discussion

3/15 **Instructions on Simulation** (Practice session)

3/17 **Second Midterm Exam**

3/19 Discussion
3/22  International Organizations
       Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 7.

3/24  National Security and Warfare
       Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 10.

3/26  Discussion

3/29  International Security and International Law
       Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapter 9&11.

3/31  **NO CLASS (I will be out of town for a professional conference.)**

4/2   Discussion

4/5&7  International Economic Relations
       Assigned Reading: IPWS, Chapters 12 & 13.

4/9   Discussion

**Lab Schedule**

1/11  Grouping, Explanations on Simulations, Debate, Choice of topics, Division of Labor, etc.
       Simulation #1

1/18  Simulation #2

1/25  Debate #1: “Is Economic Globalization a Positive Trend?”
       Assigned Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #1.

2/1   Simulation #3

2/8   Simulation #4

2/15  Simulation #5

2/22  **SPRING BREAK**
3/1 Debate #2: “Does the United Nations Deserve Support?”
     Assigned Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #16.

3/8 **Instructions on Simulation: #6 ~ #8.**

3/15 Simulation #6

3/22 Simulation #7

3/29 Simulation #8

4/5 Debate #3: “Is Preemptive War an Unacceptable Doctrine?”
     Assigned Reading: Taking Sides, Issue #12.