

# International Relations

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## Course Description

### OBJECTIVE:

This course is an introduction to the field of International Relations. International Relations has become increasingly important to the United States in recent years and includes a number of different (and often conflicting) theories and approaches advanced by various authorities, some of whom may be familiar names. During this semester we shall read selections by a number of these authorities. You will be exposed to a limited amount of theory; my perspective is primarily policy oriented.

### ORGANIZATION:

The course will follow the outline presented in our principal text, *The Contours of Power*, by Donald Snow and Eugene Brown, and is divided into three sections. The first deals with the international system and how it developed: "How did we get where we are?" The second section covers the world we live in and some of the problems we face, including war and the gap between the developed and less developed states. The third looks to problems we can expect to face in the future. Each section includes case studies to clarify and amplify the basic text material, and our second book presents much basic material by the authorities mentioned above. It is my hope that, at the end of the semester, you will have gained a better understanding of the events and issues we shall have to deal with in the future.

## Course Reading

### REQUIRED BOOKS:

1. Donald M. Snow and Eugene Brown, *The Contours of Power--referred to as Text*
2. Phil Williams, Donald M. Goldstein and Jay M. Shafritz, *Classic Readings of International Relations--referred to as Reader*

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS :

1. George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy, 1900 1950*
2. Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*
3. Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, The State and War*
4. Edward H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939*
5. Joan E. Spero and Jeffrey A. Hart, *The Politics of International Economic Relations*

## Course Schedule

### I. The International System

Sept. 3 Introduction; Examples of International Relations

Sept. 5 Definitions; Idealist and Realist Orientations

Sept. 8 Approaches and Perspectives;; Realism

Sept. 10 Tiers of States; Levels of Analysis

Sept. 12 The State; Sovereignty

Sept. 15 Power; Balance of Power:

Sept. 17 Nonstate Actors; Examples of Power

Sept. 19 Geography and Geopolitics Colin S.Gray, ch 1 & 2 (on reserve)

Sept. 22 Changes in the International System; The 18th Century System

Sept. 24 The 19th Century System

Sept. 26 The Interwar System; 20 Year Crisis

Oct. 1 Review

**(Paper Topic Due)**

Oct. 3 Examination No. 1

## **II. Current Problems**

Oct. 6 Foreign Policy

Oct. 8 Barriers to Rationality

Oct. 10 War and Politics

Oct. 13 Nuclear Weapons

Oct. 15 Causes of War

Oct. 17 No Class

Oct. 20 Ending the Cold War

Oct. 22 Cold War Residues

Oct. 24 First Tier States: US

Oct. 27 First Tier States: Europe

Oct. 29 Japan & China

Oct. 31 Second Tier: Colonialism

Nov. 3 Second Tier Problems

Nov. 5 Examination No.2

## **III. The Future**

Nov. 7 International Political Economy

Nov. 10 Multinationals

Nov. 12 New Issues  
Nov. 14 Environment  
Nov. 17 Security Changes  
Nov. 19 Arms Control; Proliferation  
Nov. 21 Instability; Civil War; Ethnicity  
Nov. 24 Diplomacy  
**Papers Due**  
Nov. 26 Modern Diplomacy  
Nov. 28 No Class  
Dec. 1 International Law  
Dec. 3 The UN; Peacekeeping  
Dec. 5 Regional Organizations  
Dec. 8 US Leadership?  
Dec. 10 Clash of Civilizations  
Dec. 12 Review  
Dec. 20 **FINAL EXAM - 10:30 12 :30**

### Course Requirements

1. A short (7-10 double spaced typewritten pages) research paper will be due November 24. You are to examine the international relations of a state of your choice (but not the United States) over a period no longer than ten years. While thesis style need not be followed, sources should be identified (encyclopedias are not suitable sources), and a bibliography provided. *See me if you have any questions.* Topics are due October 1.
2. There will be two one-hour examinations and a final examination. The weight of each is listed below.
3. This is primarily a lecture course, but students should not hesitate to ask questions on any subject that is not entirely clear, either in the lectures or in the readings. You are responsible for all assigned reading, which should be completed *before* the applicable class period. The lectures will not always cover the material in the readings but a related topic.
4. Class attendance is expected. If you do not need to attend class, you do not need the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.
5. I expect you to have a basic knowledge of world history and geography. In addition you should keep up to date in world affairs by reading the appropriate sections of a major national newspaper such as *The New York Times* or *The Christian Science Monitor*, or a news magazine such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, or *The Economist*. The examinations may well include questions on current problems from these sources.
6. Grades will be calculated as follows:  
Exam No. 1     20%

E~am No. 2 20%  
Research Paper 30%  
Final Exam 30%