

Las Positas College  
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## Course Outline for POLI 30

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Effective: Fall 2009

#### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

POLI 30 — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS — 3.00 units

Introduction to international relations, politics, theories and institutions with an emphasis on contemporary practices. Strongly recommended: Political Science 7 and eligibility for English 1A. 3 hours lecture.

3.00 Units Lecture

#### Prerequisite

POLI 7 - Introduction to American Government  
and

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition

ENG 100B - Reading, Reasoning, and Writing II

ENG 104 - Integrated Reading and Writing II

#### Grading Methods:

Optional

#### Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

#### II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT:

#### III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

**Before entering the course a student should be able to:**

- A. POLI7
- B. ENG1A
- C. ENG100B
  - 1. annotate a text during the act of reading
  - 2. employ strategies that enable a critical evaluation of a text
  - 3. respond critically to a text through class discussions and writing
  - 4. use concepts of paragraph and essay structure and development to analyze his/her own and others' essays
  - 5. write effective, objective summaries of texts that avoid wording and sentence structure of the original
  - 6. respond to texts drawing on personal experience and other texts
  - 7. organize coherent essays around a central idea or a position
  - 8. provide appropriate and accurate evidence to support positions and conclusions
  - 9. demonstrate academic integrity and responsibility, particularly when integrating the exact language and ideas of an outside text into one's own writing
  - 10. utilize effective grammar recall to check sentences for correct grammar and mechanics
  - 11. proofread his/her own and others' prose
- D. ENG104

#### IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- 1. explain differences in the elements of national power and their application to foreign policy
- 2. demonstrate understanding of the functional relations of states which arise from interacting foreign policies
- 3. describe real and theoretical settlements of disputes occurring as a result of interacting relationships
- 4. evaluate the foreign policy of a state and assess its success in achieving results generally in line with its national self-interest
- 5. explain general patterns in the history of international relationships

#### V. CONTENT:

- A. Landmark events in the transformation of relations among states
- B. Fundamentals of the state system

- C. The relations of states
- D. Foreign policies
- E. Social/political structures involved in making foreign policies
- F. Fundamental elements of national power
- G. Economics and foreign policies
- H. Ideologies and foreign policies
  - I. The application of power
- J. Contemporary international relations for the United States and foreign powers
- K. Transnational actors
- L. Ethics, international law and systems for implementation of the law
- M. Potential future scenarios for international relationships

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Audio-visual Activity** - Appropriate audio-visual media
- B. **Discussion** - Student discussion/student presentations
- C. **Lecture** - Informal seminar/lectures

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Chapter 1, James Lee Ray, *Global Politics. The Historical Setting*. Identify the major phases of international relations. Students will prepare no less than five written questions and answers to serve as the basis for classroom discussion of the text. B. Chapter 2, Ray, *Global Politics. The Modern Era*. How does the modern era in international relations differ from previous periods? In what way are those difference restraints or factors requiring action for the modern nation state?

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

- 1. Group Projects
- 2. Home Work
- 3. Other:
  - a. Written Assignments
    - 1. Describe, analyze and evaluate the role of bureaucracies, leadership, and pressure groups in making foreign policies? Specify instances in which each of these has been a major factor in an international event/crisis.
    - 2. Describe, analyze and evaluate the role of religious/ethnic/racial identity in three major international events. To what extent is the modern world more - or less - influenced by identity issues than in one other selected period?
  - b. Group Discussions/Online Chats, showing evidence of supporting arguments

##### B. **Frequency**

- 1. Two midterms and a final exam
- 2. Minimum of two significant written assignments of a research evaluative/analytical nature
- 3. Quizzes or reading assignments as appropriate
- 4. Group Discussions/Online Chats as appropriate

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Rourke, John *International Politics on the World Stage*. 10th ed., McGraw Hill, 2007.
- 2. Lamborn, A., Lepgold, J. *World Politics into the Twenty-First Century*. 3rd ed., Prentice Hall Publishers, 2006.
- 3. Viotti, Paul; Kauppi, Mark *International Relations and World Politics: Security, Economy, Identity*. 3rd ed., Prentice Hall Publishers, 2007.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: