

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for POLI 30

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

POLI 30 — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS — 3.00 units

Introduction to international relations, politics, theories and institutions with an emphasis on contemporary practices.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

POLI 7 - Introduction to American Government
with a minimum grade of C

- Eligibility for ENG 1A -

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Political Science

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	108.00
Total Hours:	162.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. POLI7

1. Explain the founding and development of the U.S. Constitution
2. Identify and evaluate institutions and political processes within the United States and California
3. Discuss and analyze contemporary political issues and operations in the United States and California
4. Explain the civil liberties and civil rights of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions
5. Analyze the role of culture, diversity and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States and California
6. Analyze how to effectively participate in politics at the national, state, county and/or city levels

B. -Eligibility for ENG 1A

1. Use strategies to assess a text's difficulty, purpose, and main idea prior to the act of reading
2. Annotate a text during the act of reading
3. Employ strategies that enable a critical evaluation of a text
4. Respond critically to a text through class discussions and writing
5. Use concepts of paragraph and essay structure and development to analyze his/her own and others' essays
6. Write effective summaries of texts that avoid wording and sentence structure of the original
7. Respond to texts drawing on personal experience and other texts
8. Organize coherent essays around a central idea or a position
9. Apply structural elements in writing that are appropriate to the audience and purpose
10. Provide appropriate and accurate evidence to support positions and conclusions
11. Produce written work that reflects academic integrity and responsibility, particularly when integrating the exact language and ideas of an outside text into one's own writing
12. Utilize effective grammar recall to check sentences for correct grammar and mechanics
13. Proofread his/her own and others' prose

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Explain international relations theory.
- B. Identify international institutions and actors
- C. Describe the roles of national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors

- D. Analyze and evaluate key topics such as globalization, conflict, cooperation, diplomacy, international law, human rights, and international political economy
- E. Discuss contemporary issues in international relations
- F. Apply relevant theoretical concepts to events

V. CONTENT:

- A. International relations theory
 - 1. Economic
 - 2. Constructivist
 - 3. Feminist
 - 4. Postmodernism
- B. International institutions
 - 1. States, IGO, NGO, TNO, etc.
 - 2. Historical development patterns and relations of international institutions and actors
- C. The roles of national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors
 - 1. Statecraft
 - 2. Levels of analysis
 - 3. Roles of national, international, transnational, and sub-national actors
 - 4. Landmark events in the transformation and on-going influences on the relations among states, national and international actors
- D. Key topics in the field of international relations such as globalization, conflict, cooperation, diplomacy, international law, human rights, and international political economy
 - 1. Topics
 - a. globalization, conflict, cooperation, diplomacy, international law, human rights, and international political economy from history to the present.
 - 2. Ethics, international law and systems for implementation of laws
 - 3. Economic, political, military, diplomatic, and conflict and impact and nation-states, people, and foreign policy.
 - 4. Social, political, cultural, economic institutions and structures involved in making and enforcing foreign policies
 - 5. soft vs hard power
- E. Discuss contemporary issues in international relations.
 - 1. Theoretical and practical settlements of disputes occurring as a result of interacting relationships
- F. Contemporary issues in international relations
 - 1. Application of theoretical concepts to current events
 - 2. Game theory

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Projects** - Around research assignments
- B. **Research** - Research papers/projects
- C. **Guest Lecturers** - Visiting Lectures, e.g. CSUEB
- D. **Classroom Activity** - Small group
- E. **Demonstration** - Demonstration of concepts
- F. **Student Presentations** - Presentation of research
- G. **Lecture** - Formal and informal seminar/lectures
- H. Primary and secondary readings and internet assignments
 - I. **Discussion** - Student discussion/student presentations
- J. **Audio-visual Activity** - Appropriate audio-visual media
- K. **Field Trips** - I.E. SF World Affairs Council

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Small group/class discussion readings
 - 1. Students will identify the major phases of international relations and prepare no less than five written questions and answers to serve as the basis for classroom discussion of the textbook.
- B. Critical thinking
 - 1. How does the modern era in international relations differ from previous periods?
 - a. In what way are those different restraints or factors requiring action for the modern nation state.
- C. Research paper/project
 - 1. Select and research a LDC; then research one IGO, one NGO and one TNC operating in that country, explaining the historical relationship and assessing the success or failure of the IGO, NGO, TNC.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 - 1. Exams/Tests
 - 2. Quizzes
 - 3. Research Projects
 - 4. Papers
 - 5. Oral Presentation
 - 6. Projects
 - 7. Field Trips
 - 8. Group Projects
 - 9. Class Participation
 - 10. Class Work
 - 11. Home Work
- B. **Frequency**
 - 1. Up to two midterms and a final exam.
 - 2. Quizzes or reading assignments per instructor.
 - 3. Group Discussions/Online Chats per instructor.
 - 4. One research project and/or paper.
 - 5. Oral presentation(s) as determined by instructor.
 - 6. Weekly home work reading assignments
 - 7. Field trips as determined by instructor.
 - 8. Groups projects as determined by instructor.
 - 9. Class participation/work as determined by instructor.
 - 10. Minimum of one significant written assignments of a research evaluative/analytical nature.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Pevehouse, Jon, and Joshua Goldstein. *International Relations*. 11th ed., Pearson, 2016.
2. Karen, Mingst, and Ivan Arreguin-Toft. *Essentials of International Relations*. 7th ed., Norton, 2016.
3. Nye, Joseph , and David Welch. *Understanding Global Conflict: An Introduction to Theory and History*. 10th ed., Pearson, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: