Syllabus

International Politics (Queens College CUNY)



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Political Science 104
International Relations

Spring 2021
Professor Ziva Flamhaft
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Phone messages: 718-997-5476

Office hours:
Tue, Thu 12:15-1:30
And by appointment
Calls/FaceTIme: 917-667-5767. Please do not abuse this option .

Course Objectives

1. To provide students with an understanding of the diversity of contemporary issues in international relations.

2. To introduce students to the factors that determine political outcomes on the global scene, using major theories, concepts, and practices in International Relations (IR) that explain political outcomes on the domestic and global levels.

3. To promote the ability of students to critically evaluate political institutions. Students will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various political institutional arrangements.

4. To promote the ability of students to think critically about political concepts. Students will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various definitions of key concepts.

5. To promote the ability of students to write coherently about political phenomena. Students will learn how to write critical reviews, including a cogent summary of the main argument, and a further elaboration of its main points.

Course Description

IR is the study of the international systems and all of its components, be they individuals, corporations, religious and other non-state organizations, international organizations or nation-states.

In the first half of the course students will learn to apply traditional theories and innovative concepts to the world they live in. In the latter part of the course students will become familiarized with regional studies, from North and Latin America through Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

By the end of the course students will be able to comprehend numerous issue, including questions such as: Had the US status as a super power declined during the Trump presidency? How does the international system view the return of the US to multilateral agreements under the new Biden Administration? How will the trade

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war between the US and China affect the global economy? Will members of the EU and other US allies join Washington policy on China? Are China's goals in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America stabilizing or destabilizing the international system? Should the US rejoin and strengthen the 2015 Iran nuclear deal? Would a stronger agreement prevent the nuclearization of the Middle East? What should the world do about the rise of white supremacy and anti-immigration sentiments in Europe and the US? Are the US and Russia engaged in another cold war? What role do the UN and other international organizations play in the global system? What is the international system anyhow?

We shall try to answer these and other important questions by studying in depth the conceptual framework that explain inter-state and all other international relations and current international events.

Pathways objectives and leaning outcomes. Please go to the following sites:

http://gened.qc.cuny.edu/pathways/
Learning Outcomes

Academic honesty: The Political Science Department policy is that incidents of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will be penalized. Penalties will vary from an F in the assignment to a grade of F in the course, and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Students should be aware that the College might impose additional penalties, including requiring special coursework on intellectual honesty, temporary suspension, or dismissal from the college. See more on plagiarism on Course Documents in Black Board. For CUNY's policy on academic integrity go to:
https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/
Academic_Integrity_Policy.pdf

or

http://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/studev/Documents/
AcademicIntegrityViolationPolicy.pdf

Recording Zoom Classes

TO PROTECT STUDENTS' PRIVACY, AND TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION, YOUR ISTRUCTOR AND/OR STUDENTS WILL NOT RECORD CLASSES. PLEASE TAKE NOTES AS IF THE CLASSES WERE CONDUCTED FACE-TO-FACE.

Chats

BECAUSE YOUR INSTRUCTOR CANNOT CHAT AND LECTURE AT THE SAME TIME, CHATS WILL NOT BE ANSWERED DURING CLASS.

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Course requirements:

CONTINOUS class participation (15% of the course grade). Class participation will cover reading assignments and required class discussions of world news from sources such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal,* and other reliable sources.

- **A midterm assignment (35% of the course grade),**
- **A multiple-choice final exam or paper (40% of the course grade).**
- **A 2-3 page concluding statement based on the literature and class discussions (10% of the course grade).**

Please notes: Additional assignment may be given based on your instructor's evaluation of the level of students' preparedness for class discussions based on reading assignments.

All written assignments must be submitted through SafeAssign in BB. DO NOT EMAIL ASSIGNMENTS!

Your grades are carefully and fairly calculated. There will be no bargaining over grades.

Required Reading

Book

John Bailys & Steve Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics* (8th Edition).

Documentaries

http://webtv.un.org/watch/kristina-daugirdas-how-and-why-international-law-binds-international-organizations/6072912832001/?term=

http://webtv.un.org/watch/mónica-pinto-on-the-evolution-of-international-society-and-international-law/2623237194001/?term=

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP5F7-RwVgM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOMRF7t5Vn0

Course plan

A. INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: THE PLAYERS.

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Week 1.
The international system; international political theory; level of analysis; nationalism; state and non-state actors; sovereignty, old and new; the globalization of world politics.

Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, Introduction, chs.1, 30.

B. THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

Week 2.
The historical context:
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics,* chs. 4-5.

Weeks 3. Realism:
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, Ch. 8.

Week 4. Liberalism:
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, Ch. 6.

Week 5. Marxist theories in International Relations.
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, Ch. 7.
Feminist theories of International Relations.
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, Ch. 9.

Week 6. The national interest vs. world order (old and new) and the global interest.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YP5F7-RwVgM
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics,* chs. 25, 31.

Week7. Post-Colonial theories of IR.
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, Ch. 10.

C. THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL POWER

Weeks 8:
The Balance of Power.
Reading: TBA.

Conflict, War, Terrorism.
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics,* chs. 14, 28.

Week 9. Security, Defense, Deterrence
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics,* Ch. 15.

Armament, arms control, disarmament, and disarmament regimes.
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics,* Ch. 29.

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D. THE STRUGGLE FOR WORLD ORDER

Week 10.
International law and international standards.
Watch on your own prior to class:
http://webtv.un.org/watch/mónica-pinto-on-the-evolution-of-international-society-and-international-law/2623237194001/?term=
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*, chs. 13, 19.

International Organizations.
Watch on your own prior to class:
http://webtv.un.org/watch/kristina-daugirdas-how-and-why-international-law-binds-international-organizations/6072912832001/?term=
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*. Ch. 20-21.

Week 11. Humanitarian intervention.
Reading: *The Globalization of World Politics*. Ch. 32.

Week 12: International Political Economy
The Globalization of World Politics. chs. 16, 27.

Week 13. Development and the North/South dialogue.
The Globalization of World Politics. Ch. 26.

The global environment.
Watch on your won prior to class:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOMRF7t5Vn0

Week 14, session 1: International Trade

The Globalization of World Politics. Ch. 27.

Session 2: Course conclusion.

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