



Created by: Wesley D. Nishiyama
Reviewed by: Tina Mendoza
Reviewed by: Michelle Oja
Textbook update: Spring 2024
Date Reviewed: Spring 2024
C&GE Approved: Spring 2024
Semester Effective: Fall 2025

Political Science (POSC) 1504 Introduction to International Relations (3 Units) CSU

Pre-requisite: N/A

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours of lecture. 96 Outside of class hours (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of POSC 1501 with a grade of “C” or higher.

Catalog Description:

Introduction to International Relations considers the interactions among nation states through examining national, international, transnational, and subnational actors and institutions. International theories will be applied to historical world events regarding peace, conflict, trade, and globalization and particular global issues such as global warming. This course will meet one of the Political Core requirements for the Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer.

Text:

Mingst, Karen A. 2021. Essentials of International Relations 9th Edition

Additional Instructional Material: May also include supplementary material.

Course SLO's:

1. Identify and explain major state actors on the international stage
2. Apply dominant theories of international relations including, but not limited to realism, liberalism, and constructivism
3. Analyze the importance of historical events in the 20th and 21st Centuries regarding peace, conflict, trade on the international stage
4. Analyze the roles that cultural values and histories play at the individual, national, state, and global levels.
5. Conduct research regarding current issues in international relations (i.e., peace, conflict, trade, and globalization) using the library and academic, governmental, and NGO websites.

Course Objectives:

Upon successfully completing the course, the student will:

1. Know the major theories of international relations including idealism, realism, liberalism, neorealism, neoliberalism, and constructivism
2. Understand international institutions
3. Recognize the role of national, international, transactional, and subnational actors
4. Survey the history of American diplomacy and different foreign policy doctrines including the Monroe, Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Obama Doctrines
5. Identify major treaties between the United States and other countries in the 20th and 21st Centuries (i.e., Versailles, SALT I and II)
6. Explore the relations between domestic and international policies.
7. Consider war and peace with an emphasis on WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War, Post-cold War, Grenada, Iraq, Afghanistan, and tensions in the Middle East, China, and North Korea
8. Examine the effectiveness of Intergovernmental Organizations (i.e., NATO, UN) and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO's)
9. Contemplate international events and apply theories to contemporary issues.
10. Describe global issues (i.e., the environment, human rights, human trafficking, cybersecurity, food insecurity, etc.).

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I – Introduction to International Relations

- A. History
- B. Philosophy
- C. Behavioralism
- D. Approaches

Unit II – Theories of International Relations

- A. Idealism
- B. Realism
- C. (Classical) Liberalism
- D. Neorealism
- E. Neoliberalism
- F. Constructivism

Unit III – The state and international systems and institutions

- A. International systems according to liberals, realists, and radicals
- B. State Power
- C. Challenges to the state

Unit IV – Strategic interaction between domestic and international politics

- A. Strategic Interaction
- B. International Externalities
- C. Domestic Politics
- D. Presidential Doctrines

Unit V – Intergovernmental Organizations – Their attempts to achieve peace.

- A. The League of Nations
- B. The United Nations
- C. NATO
- D. The European Union

Unit VI – Conflict

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. North Korea
- D. The Middle East

Unit VII – International Political Economy

- A. Economic Liberalism
- B. Global Inequality
- C. Economic Regionalism
- D. Challenges

Unit VIII – Globalization

- A. Human Rights
- B. Health and Disease
- C. The Environment and Global Warming

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Reading the assigned text and taking notes
3. Complete written assignments
4. Participate in on-line discussions
5. Watch online media and movies
6. Keep a world news journal

Method of Instruction:

1. Class lectures

2. In-class simulations
3. Group debates and discussions
4. Media clips

Method of Evaluation:

1. In class or take-home examinations
2. Quizzes
3. Written assignments
4. In-class simulations
5. Presentations and debates
6. Class participation

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220700: Political Science
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online;
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam



Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	IG4H: IGETC Area 4H LAHI: Local Course American History LES: Local Ethnic Studies LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci
Disciplines List:	Political Science