

Honors International Studies

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The United States does not exist in a vacuum. Anything which occurs anywhere in the world may have a direct bearing upon the nations' attention, particularly if the matter revolves around national sovereignty, humanitarian intervention or ideological matters. An environmental crisis somewhere could have a ripple affect upon the continent, just as an economic collapse could register in the American stock market. This is a globalized world in every respect.

This course explores contemporary international relations and global issues. It has a focus upon the power dynamics which exist within and between nations globally, introductory international relations theory, broad schools of thought (Realist, NeoRealist, Idealism), specific issues/themes (human trafficking, contemporary slavery, conflict diamonds), why nations go to war and how war might be prevented, regional relationships, immigration issues, and so on. The focus will largely be the post-war (1945) world, with an emphasis upon the current state of affairs.

Subject Learning Outcomes

- ⇒Students will grasp contending concepts and theories that attempt to explain patterns of international cooperation and conflict, and will be able to apply these theories to historical and/or contemporary cases.
- ⇒Students will critically contemplate the nature of power relationships in the pursuit of transnational objectives, and be able to express the tools nation-states utilize to pursue their interests.
- ⇒Students will understand the concepts of national sovereignty, national security, international organizations and humanitarian intervention, and be able to assess the irreconcilable nature of these vis-a-vis one another.
- ⇒Students will explore the circumstances of why nations go to war, what avenues are available to avert war, and which elements are at the room of dissuading an escalation of conflict.
- ⇒The State of Oregon and Southern Oregon University learning standards are content

Skills-Based Learning Outcomes

- ⇒Organize, maintain and learn how to study from a subject-specific notebook
- ⇒Be able to demonstrate how to take notes (including utilizing two-column format)
- ⇒Be able to engage in meaningful, substantive and respectful discussion with others on political topics.
- ⇒Be able to demonstrate effective and active reading habits (summarization, questioning, agreeing/disagreeing with the text, etc.)
- ⇒Be able to synthesize different facts and interpret the principles guiding actions to make broader conclusions.
- ⇒Be able to identify learning strategies which work for the student.
- ⇒Be able to argue and defend a position in written and verbal formats.
- ⇒Be able to express themselves through fluent writing and with appropriate grammar and sentence structure.

Behavioral Expectations and Grading Policy

- ⇒Attendance, participation and being prepared to learn and engage in the material are daily expectations.
- ⇒A classroom culture of respect and tolerance is critical to create a comfortable environment for all to learn.
- ⇒Digital and electronic devices will not be in use during class time without teacher permission.
- ⇒Do not hesitate to ask questions at any time and for any relevant reason.

Please see supplemental handout on this topic for specifics on classroom rules and grading policy.

In the event of multiple instructors teaching this course, while instructors proceed through lessons at their own pace - out of respect for the integrity of one another's classrooms, teaching styles and expertise - they will strive to never be more than ten days apart in curriculum and from time to time will use common written/essay/examination assessments which will be evaluated jointly. Instructors will meet regularly (as supported by the administration) to discuss their common courses.

Honors International Studies

Overarching Social Studies Thematic Approach

Overarching Social Studies Thematic Approach	The social sciences discipline may be interpreted as a tug-of-war between the perspectives of moral relativism and moral absolutism.
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Comprehensive Approach Toward The Course

Comprehensive International Studies Thematic Approach	Many put forth that countries exist in a world of anarchy wherein nation-states pursue their own self-interest, and it is in the pursuit of this sovereignty which emerges a predictable pattern of behavior. Countries are loath to give up their sovereignty, yet strive to maintain stability at most costs, achieving this with varying degrees of success.
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Enduring Multi-Unit Themes (framed as essay topics)

Identify and explain the extent to which international law is a threat to democracy.
Assess and contrast the foreign policy doctrines of President Bush Jr and President Obama
Assess the reasons and extent to which the global financial meltdown is presenting a threat to world peace.
Which should carry more weight in policy formulation: human rights considerations or strategic self-interest?
Explore the relationship between foreign policy and economic stability
Would you characterize the world as existing in a state of anarchy (ie, unpredictable chaos) or in some kind of predictable structure, or perhaps something else altogether? Explain the reasoning/rational for your answer in detail.
Identify and explain how each theory in international relations is a counterpoint (or successor) to one another, and assess what the proper manner in which to view the world really is.
Identify and explain the extent to which transnational entities represent a threat to national sovereignty.
What is the proper place of the United States on the world stage, and in what manner should it respond to regional Hegemonic challengers. ↳ Russia in Europe, North Korea in Asia, Iran in the Middle East, etc.
When considering the sources of conflict and comparative statistics between nations, identify and explain which patterns emerge, and assess whether these are indeed irreconcilable.
Explain the reasons underlying the transformation from our First/Third World conceptual structure of the 1950s to the First/Secondworldview embraced today.
What criteria is, and /or should, be considered when identifying the distinction between developed and developing

"Overarching Social Studies Thematic Approach"

This is an overarching approach for all courses in the Social Studies department

"Comprehensive Approach Toward The Course"

This presents the broad approach and lens through which material in this course will be examined.

"Enduring Multi-Unit Themes"

These are questions, themes or big ideas, framed as comprehensive essay topics, which stretch across multiple, sometimes overlapping, units. It provides an opportunity for students to connect historical and contemporary dots over time.

"Individual Instructional Units"

These are the targeted learning outcomes (Power Standards) per unit of instruction. They are amended by key learning targets, essential vocabulary, and essential figures. This latter category offers examples of figures who represent different poles on any given spectrum of perspectives for students to identify with.

In Other Words . . .

The "Individual Instructional Units" allow a student to walk into a bookstore, glance at a book and have a sense of what that book may be about before they even open it. "Enduring Multi-Unit Themes" allow a student to finish the book, return to browse 50 titles remaining in the bookstore and recognize these books all talk to each other; that is, that these books offer different focus, perspective or emphasis on related topics.

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UNIT TOPICS		POWER STANDARD	KEY LEARNING CONCEPTS AND KEY VOCABULARY	ESSENCIAL FIGURES	
Quarter 1	The Great Debate: Liberalism/Idealism v. Realism and the Emergence of IR Theory.	1. Identify and explain the foundations of and disparities between the Liberalism/Idealism and Realism schools of thought.	Balance of Power theory Hegemony Treaty of Westphalia War-Concert-Balance	E.H. Carr Hans Morgenthau Reinhold Neibuhr Thomas Hobbes Niccolo Machiavelli	
Quarter 1	The Great Debate 2: NeoRealism v. NeoLiberalism	1. Identify and explain how NeoRealists view the world operating system 2. Identify and explain how a nation may exert power in the international arena, and assess the strength of this effort.	Structuralism Security Dilemma Collective Security	Kenneth Waltz Robert Keohane Joseph Nye Henry Kissinger	
Quarter 1	The Great Debate 3: Rationalism v. Reflectivism	1. Identify and explain the impact of the Reflectivism (feminism, critical theory, constructivism) approaches upon how IR interprets the world, and assess its implications on regional post-conflict resolution	IR feminism Critical Theory Constructivism		
Quarter 1	American Interests in the Middle East	1. Identify and explain the causes underlying the Israeli-Palestinian-Conflict, and how these may be addressed in possible negotiations. 2. Identify and explain the sources of tension in the Western-Arab conflict. 3. Identify and explain the rational for American interest and engagement in this region.	OPEC Intefadeh Shatterbelt Region Hamas and Fatah, Hezbollah Zionism, Pan-Arabism	Petropolitics Occupied territories Refugee camps Two-state solution	Yitzhak Rabin Yassir Arafat Thomas Friedman
Quarter 1	International Organizations	1. Identify and explain the extent to which the United Nations represents a threat to national sovereignty. 2. Identify and explain the arguments in support of and criticisms levied against the United Nations, and assess the proper light in which the organization should be viewed.	Security Council Permanent members General Assembly Collective Security		
Quarters 1 and 2	Specific sources of conflict	1. (Africa) Identify the circumstances which create a demand for child soldiers and explain the circumstances under which the youth are indoctrinated into it. 2. (culture) Identify and explain the sources of conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and other disputed territories. 3. (wealth) Identify and explain the manner in which conflict diamonds have encouraged fighting, and the role of the West in maintaining the conflict. 4. (ethnic) Identify the role of ethnic rivalries and recent history in explaining the challenges Iraq has in rebuilding itself. 5. (failed states) Identify the indicators which pre-stage a failed nation-state, and explain the dangers to global and regional stability posed by failed states.	Failed states		
Quarters 1 and 2	International crime, Terrorism, and the Proliferation of Nuclear Weaponry	1. Identify what Interpol is and explain the limitations it has in affecting real change. 2. Identify the role of international art theft has in the criminal justice system, explain the challenges posed to reclaiming stolen item when considering the import of jurisdiction, and assess whether such laws hinder or strengthen the locating of an item.	Jurisdiction Interpol Europol		

Quarter 2	<p>Globalization</p> <p>Transnational Corporations</p> <p>Outsourcing and International Economics</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and explain the advantages and disadvantages of a globalized world. 2. Identify and explain how a globalized world can affect individual nations financial institutions and economies. 3. Identify and explain the hypocrisy often seen at anti-globaliation demonstrations. 4. Identify and explain the prime causes which led to a globlizing world, and assess the extent to which these may be rescended (if at all) 5. Identify and explain the mechanisms which govern exchange rates, and how nations strive to make their currency counterproof 	<p>Globalization</p> <p>World Trade Organization</p> <p>Outsourcing</p> <p>Most Favored Nations status</p>	
Quarter 2	<p>International Law</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and explain the extent to which international law and treaties represents a threat to national sovereignty. 2. Identify the two sources of international law, and explain which maintains a stronger pull upon litigation. 3. Identify the Law of the Sea, and explain its affect on what nation-states may or may not do. 4. Identify and explain the mechanisms of extradition and diplomatic immunity 	<p>International Court of Justice</p> <p>Treaty law; customary law</p> <p>War crimes tribunals</p> <p>Extradition</p> <p>Diplomatic immunity</p> <p>Treaty position 'reservation'</p> <p>Ambassadors</p>	
Quarter 2	<p>Global Human Migrations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and explain the difference between human trafficking and modern-day slavery. 2. Identify and explain the structure of the criminal underworld which facilitates both human trafficking and modern-day slavery. 3. Identify and explain actions taken by the international community to affect human migration (legal and illegal), and assesses the impact of these initiatives. 	<p>Slavery v. trafficking</p>	
Quarter 2	<p>Human and Child Rights</p> <p>Population Issues</p> <p>Global Health Concerns</p> <p>Environmental issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the rational underpinning China's one-child policy, and explain whether or not it should be considered a success. 2. Identify and explain the role of transnational corporations in affecting the environment. 3. Identify and explain the status of the AIDS/HIV/ARC epidemic in the world. 4. Identify the demographic (birthrate and gender) shift occuring through Europe, and explain the risk this poses to western culture and strategic dominance 5. Identify global environmental initiatives, and explain the challenges confronting their implimentation. 		
Quarter 2	<p>American National Security Interests</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the regions and explain the rational for Ameican engagement in far away lands under the auspices of national security. 2. Identify the arguments for and against humanitarian intervention as a motivation for American engagement overseas, and assess whether this is an advisable approach. 3. Identify the criteria whihc may be used ot designate failing states, and explain the circumstances in which they may represent a threat to American national security interests. 		
Quarters 1 and 2	<p>'Why Nations Go To War' (book) by John Stoessinger</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and explain the reasons why nations go to war, and assess what patterns emerge in this regard through the twentieth century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ This book will allow for exposure to mirco-scale topics related to World War's I and II, the Korean conflict, Vietnam, Sarajavo and the former Yugoslavia, and India-Pakistan 		

Quarters
1 and 2

Contemporary global
events

This course will also address current events of importance as they emerge on the world stage. Due to the unpredictable nature of such events, they will be covered as they occur, so long as they are relevant to the course topic.

