

POLS 141

International Relations

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

POLS 141 – International Relations: introduces students to the nation-state system as well as the conflict and cooperation in the international arena covering economic and military power, diplomacy, terrorism, international law, and organizations. An emphasis is placed on U.S. foreign policy, analyzing its international impact. The course explores how 20th Century international conflicts such as World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and terrorism influenced 21st Century thinking. Students explain current events and historical cases drawing on international themes, and question and discover what selected political leaders have learned from international conflict.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe the nature of international politics and politics among states and how international politics has changed the ability to exert influence in the current world environment;
2. identify the major actors and non-actors in international politics;
3. discuss the changing role and citizens' views of the United States in the international community and its impact on foreign policy;
4. distinguish among the various theories that are used to examine international changes and conflicts that have emerged in the study of international politics;
5. identify the major causes of conflict between nations, including the role of nationalism, hegemony and wealth in the 21st Century;
6. analyze the system of international law and major issues of arms, arms control and weapons of mass destruction;
7. describe the evolution of terrorism and its impact on international politics;
8. outline the variety of views and tactics of diplomacy on the path to peace which may contribute to a nation's ability to work out differences with other nations;
9. evaluate nations' major foreign policy goals and strategies used to achieve their goals;
10. explain how religion and culture stabilizes international regions;
11. outline the workings of the international economic system, multinational corporations, and their relationship in international public policy;
12. analyze how the divisions between the Global North and Global South have altered world politics and whether conflict is inevitable;
13. recognize the dilemmas and issues of globalization, human rights, population growth, and the decline natural resources in the 21st Century;

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

14. debate international issues and events affecting the current political environment using a variety of technological resources; and
15. find, evaluate, use and cite academic sources on political issues and events based on criteria discussed in the course according to the timeliness, credibility and reliability.

Major Topics

- I. Foreign Policy Decision Making
 - a. Principle actors in international relations: nation-states, intergovernmental organizations (IGO), and multinational corporations (MNC)
 - b. Global North v. Global South: economic development and globalization
- II. Conflict, cooperation, and diplomacy in International Relations
 - a. Theories in international relations: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivist, Marxist
 - b. Hegemons in history
 - c. Causes and conflict in war
 - d. Nuclear proliferation
 - e. Military power and national security in international politics, arms, and arms control
- III. People, Politics, and Political Behavior
 - a. Impact of terrorism on international relations
 - b. Human rights, global justice, and international law
 - c. Population dynamics and global environmental politics
 - d. Prospects for world stability and peace in the 21st Century

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Class participation in five collaborations, debates, oral presentations, and/or online discussion forums about current political events and topics
- Four examinations
- A research assignment or project on a selected topic of interest and approved by the instructor

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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