



CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL**

Date: **MAY 27, 2002**

B: Department/ **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Program Area: **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

New Course		Revision	X
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If Revision, Section(s) Revised: **D, F, M, N, P, Q, R**

Date Last Revised: **NOVEMBER 1995**

C: POLI 103

D: INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS

E: 3

Subject & Course No.

Descriptive Title

Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description:
This course will introduce students to the fundamental concepts of international politics and provide a broad overview of theoretical approaches to studying international relations. The course examines the role of states and non-state factors in the contemporary international system and provides an introduction to current issues in international security and economic relations. This course is designed to assist students in recognizing the importance of world politics and to develop the tools to analyze and understand current events.

G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings

Primary Methods of Instructional delivery and/or Learning Settings:

Lecture & Seminars 4 Hrs

Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)

**Lecture: 2 hrs per week
Seminar: 2 hrs per week**

Number of Weeks per Semester: **14**

H: Course Prerequisites:

NONE

I: Course Corequisites:

NONE

J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:

POLI 203

K: Maximum Class Size:

35

L: PLEASE INDICATE: As a component of Block Transfer

Non-Credit

College Credit Non-Transfer

College Credit Transfer:

Requested

Granted

SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bccat.bc.ca)

M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Describe the main approaches to the study of international politics, and the characteristics of the contemporary international system
2. Explain the concept of sovereignty, levels of analysis, foreign policy decision making, the role of international organizations, regimes, and international law
3. Describe contemporary security and economic relations
4. Apply basic concepts and knowledge of security and economic relations to the analysis of contemporary international issues
5. Utilize concepts, theory and knowledge to write a formal research essay relevant to course content and objectives
6. Take more advanced courses in international politics

N: Course Content:

Part One: An Introduction to International Politics and the Contemporary International System

1. The study of international politics - international politics, international relations, international system, levels of analysis, states, and non-state actors, anarchy, the security dilemma
2. Theoretical perspectives - realism, idealism, liberalism, critical perspectives, neo-realism
3. The origins of the contemporary international system - the modern state, Peace of Westphalia, nationalism, WW I, WWII, the cold war, the balance of power, collective security
4. Foreign policy - objectives, models of decision making: rational actor, bureaucratic politics; group dynamics, perception, other individual level factors, nationalism, ideals and values
5. Characteristics of the contemporary international system - sovereignty, nationalism, weak states/strong states, non state actors, polarity, cleavages, regimes, alliances, globalization,, fragmentation, integration, cooperation, competition
6. International Organizations - regional organizations: types; goals
7. International Law and Regimes - development and role, effectiveness
8. Diplomacy - purpose, functions, negotiations, crisis management, propaganda

Part Two - International Security

1. International Security I - power, influence & capabilities, force as a political instrument, the evolution of warfare, types of military activity: intervention, arms transfers, demonstrations of force, low intensity conflict, subversion, the political issues of intervention
2. International Security II - conventional weapons; non-conventional weapons: nuclear, biological and chemical; deterrence strategies; the effectiveness of force; terrorism: definition, state, non-state
3. Managing insecurity - self help, alliances, arms control and disarmament, U.N. peacekeeping, peace making
4. Alternatives to military force - economic sanctions, boycotts, embargoes

Part Three: International Economic Relations

1. International Political Economy - introduction to concepts: balance of trade, balance of payments, current account, comparative advantage, exchange rate, GNP
2. The evolution of the global economy - the Bretton Woods System, GATT, IMF, WTO, IBRD, IFC, IDA
3. International Trade Issues - protectionism, tariffs, non-tariff barriers, countervail, dumping, subsidization
4. International Monetary Issues - exchange rates, currency fluctuations
5. Economic Globalization - interdependence and dependence, foreign aid

Part Four: Contemporary Issues

1. Overview of contemporary issues: poverty, debt, environment, human rights, the global economic problems

Course and Subject Number

O: Methods of Instruction

Presentation of the course will involve the use of formal lectures, structured group work by students, and in class discussion of assigned material. Additional readings may be assigned for each unit of the course and placed on reserve in the library. Where appropriate, audio-visual materials will be used.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Text and course readings will be selected by instructors after consultation with the department.

Examples of texts to be used:

Rourke, John T. *International Politics on the World Stage*, 8th ed. Guilford: Dushkin McGraw-Hill, 2002

Sens, Allen and Peter Stoett. *Global Politics: Origins, Currents, Directions*, 2nd ed. Scarborough: Nelson Thomson Learning, 2002

Other materials may be used by instructors as supplements, and texts will be periodically updated

Q: Means of Assessment

This course evaluation will be based on the course objectives and in accordance with Douglas College policy and the policies of the Political Science Department. A minimum of 50% of the student's grades will be assigned to the midterm and end of term examinations. A minimum of 30% of the student's grades will be assigned to a formal research essay. A maximum of 20% of student's grade will be based upon a series of components, for example, quizzes, short essay, attendance, participation, class presentations. The specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

An example of an evaluation scheme:

Midterm Exam	20%
Seminar Presentation	20%
Research Essay	30%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%
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	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer(s)

S. Tyakoff

Dean/Director

Education Council/Curriculum Committee Representative

Registrar