

Miyazaki International College

Autumn 2022

Course Syllabus

Course Title (Credits)	POL307 Comparative Foreign Policy (3 credits)
Course Designation for TC	N/A
Time and Location	Tuesdays, 14:40-16:10 & 16:20-17:50
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Atsushi Yasutomi, Ph.D.
Email address	ayasutomi@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp
Office/Ext	n/a
Office hours	by appointment

Course Description
Discusses foreign policy of major states in the 21st Century. This course introduces the different characteristics of the selected countries such as the United States, Japan, China, and Russia. It also discusses topical global issues and examines how each state takes its unique approach to the problems.

Course Goals/Objectives
<p>Students will gain a familiarity with the basic knowledge, concepts, and policy discourses in forming foreign policy of major countries such the US, Japan, China, and Russia in the 21st Century.</p> <p>In the end of the class, students will be able to critically discuss and analyze key issues and challenges in the global politics from the perspectives of foreign policy in the selected countries. Students therefore should accomplish these objectives with a focus on developing their critical thinking and communication skills.</p> <p><u>Students' Communication and Critical Thinking Skill Objectives</u></p> <p>1) Students should try to improve the following communication skills this semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write and speak with clarity (communicate without ambiguity or confusion) Write and speak with precision (communicate in definite and exact terms) Write and speak with depth (communicate complex issues effectively) <p>2) Students should try to improve the following critical thinking skills this semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify salient information Determine underlying presumptions or presuppositions Evaluate conclusions from premises Avoid fallacies - authority, expertise, straw man, etc. Ask the right questions to understand a problem Categorize appropriately Evaluate the effects of conclusions/judgments on different parties (moral imagination) Develop a new way to solve an old problem

Course Schedule		
Session #	Topic	Content
1 Tue, 10/4	Syllabus & Course Introduction Introduction activity	- Self-introduction - Explaining the course structure, class requirements, examinations, etc. - Ice-breaking activities
2 Tue, 10/11	Preventing wars and armed conflicts: UN and its challenges 1	- The basics of the UN System - Challenges of the UN System
3 Tue, 10/18	Preventing wars and armed conflicts: UN and its challenges 2	- Case studies: The Ukraine-Russia War
4 Thu, 10/27	International Cooperation for development 1	- History of colonialism in Africa and Latin America - Basics of international development

5 Tue, 11/1	International Cooperation for development 2	- Foreign aid
6 Tue, 11/8	Nuclear weapons 1	- basics of nuclear weapons - nuclear regime
7 Tue, 11/15	Nuclear weapons 2	- recent discussions on nuclear weapons use ban
8 Tue, 11/22	Environmental issues and the impact on foreign policies	- Environmental issues and the impact on foreign policies
9 Tue, 11/29	Middle East	- Policies towards Iraq: wars and economic development
10 Tue, 12/6	Southeast Asia	- Policies towards Myanmar under the military regime
11 Thu, 12/15	The Korean Peninsula 1	- North Korean policy towards the US/West
12 Tue, 12/20	The Korean Peninsula 2	- Policies towards the North Korean nuclear issues
13 Tue, 1/17	Southeast China Sea and South China Sea 1	- US-China relations since the end of the Cold War
14 Tue, 1/24	Southeast China Sea and South China Sea 2	- China and the Southeast China Sea
15 Tue, 1/31	Review	- Review
Final Tue, 2/7	<u>Final Exam/final project</u>	<u>Final Exam/final project</u>

Required Materials

Students will not be required to purchase a specific textbook. We will work from a number of handouts to be distributed during the class.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

Attendance: **Attendance is mandatory. Students with five unexcused absences will be asked to withdraw.** Excusing absences is the prerogative of the instructor. Students must notify the instructor of their absences before the start of class and provide college-approved documentation. Attendance is not part of the grade for this class. Participation is part of the grade, and students must attend class to participate.

Assignment Deadlines: Students must turn in assignments on the due date. Students with an 'excused absence' on the due date should submit assignments on the due date via email unless granted an extension by the instructor. All late submissions of assignments that are not approved by the instructor will be penalized by minus 5% per day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays).

Academic Integrity: MIC's Academic Honesty policy prohibits cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. The Bulletin and Handbook of Student Information explains this policy. Students should understand it and ask the instructor if they have any questions. Violating the Academic Honesty can result in losing all credit (0%) for an assignment, being asked to withdraw from the course, or other appropriate actions.

Student Preparation & Review Time

Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson and one hour reviewing and doing homework. Therefore, because we meet for 90 minutes per week, you should be doing at least 180 minutes preparing and reviewing each week. In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc.

Grades and Grading

33% Class contributions
33% Assignments
34% Final examination/final project

The grading system at MIC is as follows:

- A (Excellent) 90-100%
- B (Above average) 80-89%
- C (Average) 70-79%
- D (Below average) 60-69%
- F (Fail) 59% or less


Methods of Feedback

In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback i.e., grade, comment, rubric, etc.

Diploma Policy Standards Satisfied by Course Objectives

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
3. The ability to identify and solve problems
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English
5. Proficiency in the use of information technology

文部科学省から採択された 大学教育再生加速プログラム 		Advanced	Proficient	Developing	Emerging	No Attempt
Critical Thinking	Ability to Identify & Solve Problems	Insightful comments in class discussions Student shows proven ability to analyze data, gather and assess resources, and disseminate opinions in a scholarly manner.	Able to contribute to class discussions, and to perform a basic analysis of data, gather and assess resources, and express opinions in an adequate manner.	Beginning to visualize the ways in which information can be combined and applied to solving a given problem, but struggles with complex and relationships	Student shows motivation but must learn the concepts and mechanisms that apply to critical thinking, such as information gathering, assessment and synthesis	No attempt was made to achieve these objectives.
	Information Gathering					
	Assessment of Credibility					
Advanced Communication Proficiency	Public Speaking	Speaking is clear, using a broad range of vocabulary and relative jargon. Student uses appropriate social cues and nuance.	Able to create a relevant response when asked to express an opinion or respond to a complicated situation, but pronunciation and grammar can often make responses and explanations unclear to a listener and must be interpreted.	Able to answer questions and give basic information. However, inconsistent pronunciation, intonation and stress may sometimes make their responses difficult to understand or interpret.	Student is unsuccessful or finds it very difficult when attempting to explain an opinion or respond to a complicated scenario. The response may be limited to a single sentence or part of a sentence.	
	Social Skills					
	Professional Skills					
Global Perspectives	Cultural Relevancy	Fully engaged in current events and shows and understanding of social inequalities and cultural differences.	Student is aware of current events and world cultures, but is unable to apply macro-level situations to her/his own life.	Exhibits interest and intrigue in current events and world culture, but has difficulty understanding relevancy.	Student expresses one-sided ideals from an ethnocentric point of view. Completely lacks awareness of world issues or events.	
	Awareness of Current Events & Global Issues					
English Language Ability	Reading	Exhibits fluency/near fluency in speaking and writing. Grammar and reading ability similar to native English speaker. Able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.	Proficient English ability; relies mainly on familiar vocabulary. Should be encouraged to advanced beyond comfort zone.	Adequate English ability; must reference dictionary often	Student has some English ability, but lacks confidence in using and understanding. Very limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar and pronunciation Unable to form questions	
	Writing					
	Oral Communication					
Japanese Language Ability	Reading	Able to express one's self clearly and succinctly both in writing and orally. Able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.	Proficient oral and written communication; relies mainly on familiar vocabulary. Should be encouraged to advanced beyond comfort zone.	Adequate oral and written communication; tends to have difficulty clearly expressing ideas.	Student shows a lack of confidence in writing, reading, and oral communication. Very limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar Unable to form questions	
	Writing					
	Oral Communication					