Miyazaki International University

Course Syllabus

Spring 2023

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| Course Title (Credits) | **POL304-1 International Relations** |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Rui Saraiva, Ph.D. |
| E-mail address | rsaraiva@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | MIC2-202 / Ext 3771 |
| Office hours | Mondays 15:00-16:00 & Wednesdays 14:30-16:30 |

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| **Course Description:** | | |
| This course introduces the fundamental concepts, theories, and debates in international relations (IR). The course is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how states, non-state actors, and international or supranational organizations interact with each other in the context of international politics. The course provides an overview of the history and evolution of modern diplomacy and explores key IR concepts and theories. The course also examines relevant contemporary issues in international relations, such as major shifts in the geopolitical power balance, the rise of non-state actors, ongoing armed conflicts in various regions, the rise of violent extremism, human rights issues, the impact of recent advances in information technology, environmental challenges, and the respective international responses to address these challenges. | | |
| **Course Objectives:** | | |
| * Through readings, discussions, case studies, and data collection methods, students will gain a deeper understanding of the key concepts and theories that underpin international relations (IR). These include state and non-state sovereignties, international law and diplomacy, power relations and international security, IR theories, such as realism, idealism, the English school, and constructivism. Students will also learn to examine historical and contemporary IR issues and challenges. * By engaging with a variety of perspectives and analyzing real-world examples, students will develop critical thinking skills and evaluate the effectiveness of international responses to global problems. In addition, they will develop clear communication and analytical skills for expressing and discussing their evidence-based academic outputs. | | |
| **Course Schedule:** | | |
| **Day** | **Topic** | **Content/Activities** |
| **1** | Introduction | Introduction to IR |
| **2** | Who are the key actors of IR? States or non-state actors? |
| **3** | Power and sovereignty | State and non-state sovereignty |
| **4** | Power and IR: what is the current power distribution in the international system? |
| **5** | Levels of analysis: individual, state, and international | Kenneth Waltz's “Man, the State, and War” |
| **6** | Applying different levels of analysis in different case studies |
| **7** | IR theories | Realism, liberalism, the English school, and constructivism, |
| **8** | Discussing non-Western IR theories |
| **9** | Foreign policy | Foreign policy analysis and diplomacy studies |
| **10** | Discussing diplomatic history: The cases of Benjamin Franklin, Klemens von Metternich, Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand, Henry Kissinger, and Zhou Enlai |
| **11** | Global governance | International organizations and institutions |
| **12** | Assessing the effectiveness of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods system |
| **13** | Conflict and IR | Inter-state and intra-state wars, and cyberwarfare |
| **14** | Discussing the impact of current cases of civil wars, competition among great powers, and cyberattacks |
| **15** | Terrorism and IR | The rise of terrorism and violent extremism in contemporary IR |
| **16** | The changing nature of terrorism, radicalization, and recruitment |
| **17** | International security | Traditional and non-traditional security approaches |
| **18** | Exploring nuclear deterrence in the 21st century |
| **19** | International law | International ethics, international law, and international human rights |
| **20** | Are human rights universal or contextual? |
| **21** | Refugees and forced migration | An overview of the international regime that governs refugees and forced migrations and its main institutions |
| **22** | The refugee crises in Europe, Palestine, Syria, Myanmar, and Central America |
| **23** | Global poverty and inequality | Global poverty, hunger, inequality, and development |
| **24** | Assessing sustainable development |
| **25** | Identity and IR | Nationalism, cultural identity, and globalization |
| **26** | What is "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order" about? |
| **27** | The Anthropocene debate in IR | The Anthropocene and emerging discourses in IR |
| **28** | How are environmental and climate issues affecting international politics and global governance? |
| **29** | Complex systems and IR | Complexity theory and IR: A new paradigm |
| **30** | What kind of anarchy is unfolding in 21st-century international relations? |
| **Materials:** | | |
| Book chapters, short articles or relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.  Suggested bibliography:   * Carlsnaes Walter and Thomas Risse-Kappen. 2012. *The Sage Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks Calif: SAGE. * Ainley Kirsten and Chris Brown. 2009. *Understanding International Relations* 4. Ed. rev. and updated ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. * Baylis John Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. 2023. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 9th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. * Jackson Robert H Georg Sørensen and Jørgen Møller. 2022. *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches* Eighth ed. Oxford United Kingdom: Oxford University Press. * Kagan Robert. 2009. *The Return of History and the End of Dreams*. London: Atlantic. * Kissinger Henry. 2012. *Diplomacy*. London: Simon & Schuster Limited. * Sen Amartya Kumar. 2015. *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*. London: Penguin | | |
| **Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)** | | |
| * Your participation is crucial to the success of this course. Before joining the class, please make sure to finish the reading materials or homework given by the instructor. * Your withdrawal from the course will be recommended after five unexcused absences. * Make sure you arrive on time. Absences will be recorded if you are more than 20 minutes late. * It is crucial to take plagiarism seriously. In the event that a student violates the Institution's Academic Honesty Guidelines, they may fail their assignments or courses. * Please properly cite other authors in your midterm and final papers. Political science and international relations rely on primary or secondary data. Therefore, you should not copy ideas from other authors, books, reports, articles, etc., and claim them as your own. * Office Hours: You are welcome to discuss the course materials, assignments, readings, etc., with me. If you would like to make an appointment, please send an email (please wait for a response within one business day). * Politics can be a highly sensitive topic because it involves the exercise of power and influence over people’s lives and well-being. Political decisions often have far-reaching consequences, and different groups may have competing interests and perspectives on how resources should be allocated, laws enforced, or policies implemented. In this context, **there will be no tolerance for harassment or discrimination of any kind**. Please respect others. | | |
| **Class Preparation and Review** | | |
| Students should spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework to prepare for each lesson. | | |
| **Grades and Grading Standards** | | |
| * In-Class participation: 20% * Assignments and presentations: 20% * Mid-term paper (500-750 words): 30% * Final examination: 30% | | |
| **Methods of Feedback:** | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. | | |
| **Diploma Policy 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 | | |
| **Notes:** | | |
| Throughout the semester, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as necessary. | | |