

SYLLABUS

COURSE CODE: POL 210
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to International Relations
SEMESTER: Spring 2004
PLACE/TIME: Room MC 203, Mon & Thurs, 12:15-1:35 pm
INSTRUCTOR: Bruce Sabin
bruce@webbercareers.com
<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~bsabin>
TEXTBOOK: Goldstein, Joshua S. *International Relations, Brief Second Edition*.
Pearson Longman, New York, NY, 2004.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A brief introductory survey of the history of international relations and an examination of current diplomatic arrangements, techniques and concepts. Focus on helping the future American business person understand the international environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completing this course, students should be able to explain:

- 1) various ways power is obtained and used in the international community
- 2) the development and roles of various international agencies
- 3) factors of international trade and economic regulation
- 4) ways that nations seek to resolve conflicts
- 5) ways that international issues such as health, the environment, and human rights affect international relations
- 6) their own views on many international issues
- 7) ways individual nations develop foreign policy agendas

EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) Students are expected to attend class and be on time. After three unexcused absences, your final grade may drop one letter for each additional unexcused absence. Coming to class late may reduce participating credit. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Videos watched in class usually cannot be watched later, so be sure to be in class.
- 2) All work assigned for each class meeting is the responsibility of each student, and is part of the final grade. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work may not be accepted without prior permission.
- 3) In accordance with the University mission, this course seeks to develop professional competencies in students. Students are expected to perform all work in a professional manner. All work must be typed and include a cover page.
- 4) Students are required to have an e-mail address and provide that address to me. I will e-mail articles, announcements, etc. from time to time. All work must be given to me in class and e-mailed to me by the end of date due.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The *Student Handbook* contains examples of academic dishonesty and appropriate disciplinary actions. Students are personally responsible for understanding the rules. The most common reason students cheat is because they failed to plan. Often students procrastinate studying or writing papers. When the assignment is almost due, and they no longer have adequate time, they feel stuck. So, they cheat. Plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time before due dates. Your instructor is always available to help if a problem arises. Do not cheat or plagiarize.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER

- 1) The most important suggestion for any class is to talk to the professor if you are having a problem. If you don't understand an assignment, have a family emergency, anything, let the professor know. I can't help if I don't know.
- 2) Read the syllabus. Know the syllabus. Live the syllabus.
- 3) The textbook I chose for this class includes access to a good website and on-line practice tests. Use those resources.
- 4) Come to class prepared to think about and discuss the issues of the week.
- 5) Plan ahead for all your work and act early. Don't wait until the night before a class to read a 50-page chapter.
- 6) The tests and quizzes constitute 40% of your grade in this class, so study for those. Study early and study often.
- 7) Pay attention to the news and interpret the news with the information you're learning in this course. What's the point of taking this class if you can't or don't apply the knowledge? Plus, the class will be more fun if you can find how it relates to your life.
- 8) A common guideline for college students is that a 3 hour course should require between 6 and 9 hours of outside work, each week. If you're taking 15 hours of classes, you should expect to spend between 30 and 45 hours studying. You're not called "full-time" students for nothing.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Research paper:	30%
Reaction papers:	20%
Participation:	10%
Quizzes:	10%
Mid-term:	15%
Final:	15%

CLASS SCHEDULE:**January**

8 Introductions, Review Syllabus, Read chapter 1

12, 15

19, 22 Read chapter 2

26, 29 Read chapter 3

February

2, 5 Read chapter 4

9, 12 Read chapter 5

16, 19 Read chapter 6

23, 26 Read chapter 7

March

1, 4 Read chapter 8

8, 11 **Spring Break!!!**

15, 18 **No class on the 18th. Finish your papers!**

22, 25

April

29, 1 Presentations

5, 8 Presentations

12, 15 Presentations

19, 22 Presentations and final exam review

RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

America and the African AIDS Epidemic

American-Chinese Relations

America and the Cuban Embargo

America and the European Union

American 'Nation-Building' Abroad

The Kyoto Agreement

America and the Islamic World

America's 'War on Terror'

The World Trade Organization

The International Monetary Fund

International Debt Reduction

Globalization's Effect on Farmers (or Unions, etc.)

International Labor Standards

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Al-Jazeera's Impact on Arab Views of the West

Should Taiwan be Independent?
How America's Foreign Policy has Developed
International Water Conflict
Nuclear Proliferation
Illegal Diamond Trafficking
Small Arms Trafficking
Drug Trafficking
The Bush Doctrine
Foreign Policy in Presidential Election Campaigns

Grade distribution for POL 200 last semester
A = 4 (15% of class) 92% was highest grade
B = 7 (27%)
C = 9 (35%)
D = 5 (19%)
F = 1 (4%)