Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2021

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| Course Title ( Credits ) | **POL304-1: International Relations** |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| When and Where | Tuesday and Thursday, 09:05-10:35 MIC-1-522 |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Jeong-Pyo Hong, Ph.D. |
| E-mail address | [jhong@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp](mailto:jhong@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp) |
| Office/Ext | MIC1-203/Ext.3721 |
| Office hours | Tuesday and Thursday 15:00-16:30 or by appointment |
| Language Teacher | |
| Instructor |  |
| E-mail address |  |
| Office/Ext |  |
| Office hours |  |

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| **Course Description** | | |
| This course introduces major theories of International Relations as a discipline. It is designed to help students study the world community, its politics, government and war and peace. Topics include current international relations such as North Kora’s nuclear-missile issues, the 3.11 disaster, and the 9.11 terrorism problems requiring action on a global scale, the role of states, international organizations, Japan and its international relations, and the future of international society. | | |
| **Course Goals/Objectives** | | |
| The primary purpose of this course is to help students develop conceptual bases with which to analyze various issues in international relations and to investigate ways of approaching peace. It is also a secondary goal to have students exposed to various current issues in world politics, such as war and peace, human rights, globalization, terrorism, environmental issues etc. | | |
| **Tentative Course Schedule** | | |
| Week | Day Topic | Contents/ Activities |
| **01** | **I. Introduction** | -Understanding International Relations  -The characteristics of international system? |
| -Why is no world government?  -What does the state mean: state sovereignty and anarchy? |
| **02** |  | -What is Ideology?  -Is nationalism the primary cause of war?  -How can stability (if not peace) be achieved? |
| -Why is there such tremendous social and economic inequality in different regions of the world? |
| **03** | **II. Major Approaches to IR** | -Three Paradigms of Approaches to IR: Liberal, conservative, and revolutionary |
| -How does each of them interpret anarchy and state sovereignty? |
| **04** | Great Debate | -What are basic characteristics of realism and idealism? |
| -What is security dilemma?  -How does *Balance of Power* work? |
| **05** | Liberalism &  Game Theory | -What are basic characteristics of liberalism? |
| -Why do liberals consider cooperation among states to be relatively easy? |
| **06** | International Regimes and Cooperation | -What are international regimes? |
| -How do they facilitate cooperation among states? |
| **07** | Constructivism | -What is constructivism? |
| -How does it explain cooperation and conflict among states? |
| **08** | **III. Foreign Policy** | -Perception and misperception in IR?  -How does perception influence foreign policy? |
| -What are Sub-state Actors in FP? |
| **09** | Levels of Analysis | -What are the first level of analysis?  -What are the second level of analysis?  -What are the level of analysis? |
| #Case study: 1/ Personal, 2/ States, 3/ World |
| **10** | Transactional Diplomacy | -Theory |
| #Case study: North Korea’s nuclear-missile issue |
| **11** | **IV. War and Peace** | -Why does a war occur?  -Why does state go to a war?  -Are people innately aggressive? |
| -Meaning of Peace |
| **12** | Terrorism | -What is terrorism?  -Difference between terrorism and war |
| -Engagement with the hidden ethical assumptions of a range of IR approaches |
| **13** | IR Theory & Globalization | -Investigating ways of approaching peace  -What is democratic peace? |
| -Meaning of Globalization |
| **14** | **V. World Order** | -The World Orders of the West and the East |
| -Is A United Nations of Northeast Asia Possible? |
| **15** | Green Theory | -How does environmental issues influence IR? |
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| **Required Materials** | | |
| • Dunnw, Tim, Kurki, Milja, and Smith, Steve (2013). *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  • Goldstein, Joshua S. (2006). *International Relations*, New York: Pearson Longman.  • Michie, Jonathan (2017). *Advanced Introduction to GLOBALIZATION.* UK: Edward Publishing, Inc.  • Mearsheimar, J.J. (2001). The Tragedy of Great Power Politics. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.  • Shimko, Keieth L. (2016). International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies, and Readings. United Kingdom and United States: CENGAGE Learning.  Students will be provided copies of short articles from textbooks, newspapers and magazines as texts. It is required that students do all the readings and assignments before coming to each class.  -Readings  -Participation in Class Room Activities  -Presentation on Readings  -Independent Research Project  -Organization of all course materials in a course binder | | |
| **Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)** | | |
| MIC believes that teaching and learning are reciprocal activities that require regular interaction between students and teachers. Such interaction cannot occur when students actively participate discussions and related activities. So, active participation and discussion are both important requirements in this class.  Exceptions can only be made if there are compelling situations due to illness or for other emergencies. In order for an absence to be excused, a letter of explanation in English is required from you and standard form is needed from your doctor. More than four absences will be viewed very seriously. If a student has more than four unaccounted absences, an instructor will issue a warning. Unless the student shows improvements after the warning, the student will be in a danger of failing this course. “Unexcused” absence means absence from class without adequate reasons such as illness accidents and job hunting.  Getting a solid education at MIC is your responsibility and has dramatic implications for the quality of life that you will lead in the 21st century in Japan and abroad. Education is an investment that you make in yourself. It is up to you to complete assignments on time and during class. During class, I hope that you will ask many questions and challenge ideas pertaining to Japan, East Asia, and global relations. If you need any assistance for any problems, I will listen and offer suggestions and feedback. Discussions made are your decisions. Work diligently, participate discussions and activities, and you will excel then succeed. | | |
| **Class Preparation and Review** | | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson, and one hour reviewing and doing Homework. Please refer to Hong’s *How to Series: Essence of Professional Communication.* | | |
| **Grades and Grading** | | |
| -Participation and Presentation: 20%  -Class and homework assignment: 20%  -Short essays: 20%  -Mid-term: 20%  -Final: 20% | | |
| **Notes** | | |
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