COURSE INFORMATION FORM

DISCIPLINE
Political Science

COURSE TITLE
Introduction to International Relations

CR.HR 3 LECT HR 3 LAB HR CLIN/INTERN HR CLOCK HR

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
This course acquaints students with the core concepts, processes, issues, and analytical tools of international relations. The course details the actors in international relations, how foreign policy is made, and the role of power. The course examines past, contemporary, and future problems in the international system, including military conflict, economics, demography, and the environment. Upon completion of this course, students should have a strong basic understanding of international relations.

PREREQUISITES
None

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE COURSE
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define and describe international institutions, structures, processes, and cultural ethical perspectives across a range of historical periods and cultures.

2. Differentiate and classify the major and minor actors in the international political system.

3. Outline the historical development of the international system of states.

4. Explain the intimate linkages between what are usually thought of as separate: "domestic" and "international" politic.

5. Explain and employ political science modes of inquiry such as game theory and case study through research and writings, and simulations.

6. Compare and contrast the main international relations theories, and the values implicit in each of these different ways of looking at the world.

7. Critique and assess competing explanations for international events by analyzing and applying a variety of research materials, i.e. primary documents, secondary accounts, newspapers, electronic resources and major interpretive studies of international politics.

8. Evaluate how the United States as an actor differs from or appears similar to that of other nation-states.

9. Evaluate current international events and processes focusing on specific issues that are at the center of political debates around the globe.
CLASS-LEVEL ASSESSMENT MEASURES
Student accomplishment of expected student outcomes will be assessed using the following measures. (Identify which measures are used to assess which outcomes.)

Quizzes and examinations (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9)
Short papers and research projects (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
Class projects and group work (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES ADDRESSED

General Education Outcomes
Specify which general education outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes and assessment measures.

Occupational Program Outcomes
Specify which occupational program outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes to assessment measures.

N/A
Individual instructors may order this outline as fits the needs of their individual courses. In addition, they may place more emphasis on some areas than on others. What is assured is that this particular list is covered in the course. Other topics may be added to a course as the instructor sees fit, and as time and interest allow. An *asterisk can be used to mark an item as optional.

I. Theoretical Underpinnings:

A. Theoretical Approaches, Conflict and Cooperation, Levels of Analysis.
B. Realism and Power Politics
C. Liberalism (old and new), International Organizations and Law
D. Marxism and Dependency Theory
E. Domestic Politics Approaches
F. Individual Actors and Rational Choice Approaches
G. Decision Making Approaches: Rational Choice, Bounded Rationality
H. Perception and Misperception
I. Game Theoretic approaches

II. Security Studies:

A. Military Force and the Causes of War
B. Domestic Political Structures and Waging War
C. Alliances and the Democratic Peace
D. Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars
E. The Politics of (Humanitarian) Intervention
F. International Terrorism
G. Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nuclear, Chemical, Biological
H. Case Study: Decision making and World War I***(optional)

III. International Political Economy:

A. The International Trading System
B. International Trade Policy
C. The International Monetary System
D. Debt, the IMF and the World Bank
E. Globalization and Regionalism
F. Development

IV. Current Issues in International Relations:

A. Collective Action Problems and Interdependence
B. The Environment, Infectious Diseases and International Crime
C. Nuclear Weapons Proliferation
D. Oil
E. Overpopulation