



COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:	International Relations	COURSE CODE:	POLS210
PREREQUISITES:	None	SEMESTER:	FALL 2020
INSTRUCTOR:	R. KRYS	CREDITS:	3
EMAIL:	rkrys@groupe-igs.fr	SCHEDULE:	Friday 8h30-11h30

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Basic concepts and processes of world politics will be illustrated through the analysis of power rivalries, competing images and ideologies and transformation of world economic relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The class will be developed through lectures, readings and oral presentations/class discussions. Will be dealt with in class:

- Historic international systems; the contemporary global system
- The purpose of states : foreign policy goals & strategies
- Foreign policy actions : power, capabilities & influence
- Instruments of policy : diplomatic bargaining, propaganda, economic rewards & coercion
- Clandestine actions & military intervention
- Law and world opinion in explanations of foreign policy
- Ethics in explanations of foreign policy
- Interaction of states : conflict & conflict resolution
- International cooperation

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students should acquire a basic understanding of the nation state system, power relationships, the balance of power, and of political and economic relations among nations so that they will be more aware and informed as world citizens.

As to transferable skills, the student should be able:

- to write effectively, that is, comprehensively, coherently and critically;
- to generate ideas;
- to synthesize results;
- to distinguish between fact, opinion, and judgment;
- to analyze and interpret the ideas and intellectual works of others;
- to evaluate and use sources of information;
- to prepare and deliver meaningful and effective oral presentations;
- to defend a position, a point of view, or an interpretation; and
- to interact cooperatively and effectively with others.



MANDATORY TEXTBOOK:

You are not obliged to purchase a textbook. I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.

EVALUATIONS:

The final grade will be based on class participation and class presentations (35%), written log (30%), and the final examination (35%).

Presence in class is mandatory. More than 2 absences will lead to a failing grade.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Unless otherwise specified, grades will be based on the standard ABS Grading Rubrics available on become.

Written work and group presentation grades will be based on the following evaluation criteria:

SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE	SUFFICIENT PERFORMANCE	WEAK PERFORMANCE	INSUFFICIENT PERFORMANCE
There is evidence in the work of a very good ability to evaluate, criticize, and produce well-reasoned arguments in defense of a point of view. There is an analytical approach to relevant material. Work will show the ability to identify and engage in the relevant issues within a clear and very well organized structure. Presentation standards are high and the assessed task is completed with a high degree of competence.	Work is mainly descriptive but demonstrates a good coverage of relevant issues. Evidence exists of an ability to produce arguments relative to the issues under focus but with only limited, if adequate, evidence of an analytical, critical or evaluative response. Material is presented with reasonable care and has a discernible structure. The assessed task is completed competently but the work is largely descriptive and lacks originality.	Work is descriptive and covers some of the relevant material but lacks depth and offers little evidence of an analytical, critical or evaluative approach. Evidence exists of some ability to produce a limited range of arguments relative to the issues under focus. The work draws on only a very limited range of references. Material is not particularly well presented or well-structured but there is an attempt at organization. Although there is evidence of an adequate understanding, the interpretation of a topic is limited while remaining intelligible.	Work is of unsatisfactory quality lacking in structure and organization. The relevant issues are not identified or properly understood. Knowledge is superficial and sources uncited. Analysis and argument are very weak. Presentation is poor.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Dates	Reading/Homework	Session Content
Session 1 18 Sept	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	Introduction to course. What is International Relations? Discussion of what constitutes high-quality class participation and class presentation. Discussion about how to distinguish between fact, opinion, and judgement.
Session 2 25 Sept	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	Realist Theories. Liberal and Social Theories.
Session 3 2 Oct	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	Foreign Policy. What is a foreign policy? What are foreign policy goals? How are foreign policy decisions made? What are the instruments of foreign policy?
Session 4 9 Oct	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	International Conflict. Why states go to war? Is war a permanent feature of international relations or can we eliminate it?
Session 5 16 Oct	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	Military Force and Terrorism. Conventional forces. Weapons of mass destruction. What is the role of nuclear weapons in international relations today? Terrorism.
Session 6 23 Oct	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	International Organization, Law, and Human Rights. How prepared is the United Nations to meet its current challenges? What is international law? When and why is international law obeyed? How important an influence is International Law in solving world problems? Can steps be taken to improve the effectiveness of international law? What are human rights? What are the tools for implementing human rights?
Session 7 30 Oct	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	International Trade. What are the rules of international trade? How is the World Trade Organization handling problem areas in international trade?
Session 8 6 Nov	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	Global Finance and Business. Can international monetary relations be managed? International business: engines of modernization or agents of imperialism?
Session 9 13 Nov	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	International Integration. Can other regions of the world duplicate the success of the European Union in creating an effective regional organization? Is the European Union falling apart?

Session 10 20 Nov	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	Environment and Population. To what extent are the problems facing the global commons truly “commons” problems and to what extent are they the responsibility of particular states? Is it possible to construct an architecture for managing the global commons? What should the guiding principles be for such a system?
Session 11 4 Dec	I will provide you with the necessary weekly readings.	The North-South Gap. Which regions of the South face the most difficult challenges? What are the major obstacles standing in the way of Southern unity in world politics? International Development. Models of international development. Capitalism and democracy in the developing world: do they facilitate or undermine development? Tying up loose ends. REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAMINATION
Session 12 11 Dec		FINAL EXAMINATION

PROPER USE OF COMPUTERS IS ALLOWED. If you are not quite sure as to what constitutes “proper use” please come and see me. Also, **PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR INTERGALACTIC COMMUNICATORS.**

The schedule of Final Exams will be confirmed and published by 31 October 2020. The last day of the semester is 18 December 2020. DO NOT PLAN ANY TRAVEL BEFORE THIS DATE AS THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.