

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY- AFRICA  
COURSE SYLLABUS

IRL 4025: WORLD CRISES AND TRANSFORMATIONAL POLITICS  
CREDIT: 3UNITS

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## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to explore the most serious challenges facing the world today such as political unrest, conflicts, climate change, communicable diseases, access to education, financial instability, governance and corruption, international terrorism, violation of Human Rights, migration, sanitation and access to clean water, malnutrition and hunger, and subsidies and trade barriers. The causes of these challenges will be critically assessed and its impact will be analyzed both at the national and international level. The course will also present major themes in field of transformational politics which deals with transition strategies as alternative solution to world crises today.

## 2. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Explain concepts and theories in International Relations.
2. Explain and use Research Methodology in International Relations.
3. Collect, Collate, analyse and respond to critically to information.
4. Critically analyze the dynamics of world politics.
5. Identify threats and opportunities to national strategic interests, and formulate policies in response.
6. Apply understanding of a global, multicultural and complex interconnected world to explain and predict issues in International Relations.
7. Demonstrate diplomatic etiquette in the International context.

## 3. LINK TO PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Analyze current international situations and come up with appropriate strategies.
2. Critically appraise contemporary issues in the international arena.
3. Identify threats and opportunities to national strategic interests and formulate policies in response.
4. Apply understanding of a global, multicultural and complex interconnected world to explain and predict issues in International Relations.

## 4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To provide a general overview of world crises and transformational politics.
2. Acquaint students with major challenges facing the world today, their causes and impact.
3. To understand and identify the deeper historical context of these challenges.
4. To appreciate and understand the main themes within the field of transformational politics.
5. Enhance student's abilities to come up with peaceful alternatives or solutions to world crises.

## WEEK 2: POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHALLENGES

### Discussion topics

- ❖ Governance and corruption
- ❖ Armed conflicts and arms proliferation
- ❖ Access to education
- ❖ Gender Issues
- ❖ Religion issues
- ❖ Cultural Imperialism

### Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Identify the main areas of political challenges affecting world contemporarily.
- ✓ Understand the social and cultural issues that are posing challenges today.

### Assignment:

- Lecture notes
- Lomborg, Bjørn, (ed.) (2004), *Global Crises, Global Solution*, UK, Cambridge University Press.

## WEEK 3 AND 4: ECONOMICAL AND FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

### Discussion topics

- ❖ Economical crises
- ❖ Financial instability
- ❖ Transport and infrastructure
- ❖ Subsidies and trade barriers
- ❖ Uneven distribution of wealth and resources

### Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Understand the causes and impact of economical and financial crises
- ✓ Discuss the consequences of economical and financial crises
- ✓ Identify factors contributing to economical and financial crises

### Assignment:

- Lecture notes
- Lomborg, Bjørn, (ed.) (2004), *Global Crises, Global Solution*, UK, Cambridge University Press.

## WEEK 5 AND WEEK 6: ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

### Discussion topics

- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Deforestation and land degradation
- ❖ Chemical pollutions and hazardous waste
- ❖ Depletion of the Ozone Layer
- ❖ Depletion of water resources
- ❖ Lack of energy
- ❖ Loss of diversity
- ❖ Vulnerability to natural disaster
- ❖ Watch- *Inconvenient Truth* (Movie by Al Gore)

### Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Understand how environmental crisis threatens our existence
- ✓ Identify the main factors contributing to environmental crisis
- ✓ To appreciate the importance of respecting our environment

### Assignment:

- Lecture notes
- Lomborg, Bjorn, (ed.) (2004), *Global Crises, Global Solution*, UK, Cambridge University Press.

## WEEK 7: HEALTH AND POPULATION CHALLENGES

### DOCUMENTARIES ON MALARIA AND HIV/AIDS

#### Discussion topics

- ❖ Communicable and non-communicable diseases
- ❖ Malnutrition and hunger
- ❖ Sanitation and access to clean water

### Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Identify how health and population challenges can contribute to world crises
- ✓ Understand the consequences of communicable and non-communicable diseases both locally and globally
- ✓ To appreciate the benefit of good sanitation and access to clean water

### Assignment:

- Lecture notes
- Lomborg, Bjorn, (ed.) (2004), *Global Crises, Global Solution*, UK, Cambridge University Press.

## MID-SEMESTER EXAM (WEEK 1-7)

## WEEK 8: SECURITY CHALLENGES

#### Discussion Topics

- ❖ International Terrorism
- ❖ Watch – *Fahrenheit- 9/11* (Movie by Michael Moore)
- ❖ Field trip to the Nairobi Bomb Blast Memorial

### Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Experience the effect of International Terrorism by visiting the Nairobi Bomb blast site
- ✓ Debate: Is International terrorism a security challenge globally?
- ✓ Debate: Has the world changed since 9/11/01?

## WEEK 9: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION CHALLENGES

### GUEST SPEAKER/WATCH 14 KILOMETRES

#### Discussion Topics

- ❖ The Boat people
- ❖ Xenophobia

### Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Understand the causes of International migration
- ✓ Discuss the impact of international migration
- ✓ Identify the different reasons why people migrate

**Assignment:**

- Lecture notes
- Lomborg, Bjorn. (ed.) (2004). *Global Crises. Global Solution*. UK. Cambridge University Press.

**WEEK 10 AND WEEK 11: TRANSFORMATIONAL POLITICS**

**Discussion topics**

- ❖ Violent transformational politics
- ❖ Rebellion
- ❖ Revolution
- ❖ Urban Guerrilla warfare
- ❖ Insurgency
- ❖ Nonviolent transformational politics
- ❖ Civil disobediences
- ❖ Nonviolent movement
- ❖ Feminism
- ❖ Citizen Empowerment
- ❖ Mediation

**Learning Outcomes**

- ✓ Understand the development of the transformational politics and its main themes
- ✓ Identify the difference between violent and nonviolent transformational politics
- ✓ Assess nonviolent movement and feminism as transformational politics
- ✓ Appreciating transformational politics as an alternative to transform world crises peacefully

**Assignment:**

- Lecture Notes
- Schwerin, Edward W. (1995). *Mediation. Citizen Empowerment and Transformational Politics*. Westport, Praeger Publishers.

**WEEK 12: GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

**Group Presentation Topic:**

- ❖ Group 1; Food crises and transformational politics
- ❖ Group 2: Economical and financial/monetary crises and transformational politics
- ❖ Group 3: Environmental crises and transformational Politics

**WEEK 13: GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

**Group Presentation Topic:**

- ❖ Group 4: Water crises and transformational politics
- ❖ Group 5: Armed conflict/international terrorism and transformational politics
- ❖ Group 6: International migration and transformational politics

**WEEK 14: FINAL EXAM**

## 9. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

- The course will be conducted using lectures, active class discussion, personal experiences and student presentations.
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Assignments
- Group discussion
- Guest speakers based on their availability and documentary / video show will be arranged as appropriate.
- Student punctuality and active participation is highly encouraged. Participatory learning is the ideal

## 10. COURSE EVALUATION

1. Class Attendance and Participation	10%
2. Presentation	10%
3. Two Article Reviews	20%
4. Mid Semester Exam	30%
5. Final Exam	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## GRADING

90 – 100	<b>A</b>	70 – 73	<b>C</b>
87 – 89	<b>A-</b>	67 – 69	<b>C-</b>
84 – 86	<b>B+</b>	64 – 66	<b>D+</b>
80 – 83	<b>B</b>	62 – 63	<b>D</b>
77 – 79	<b>B-</b>	60 – 61	<b>D-</b>
74 – 76	<b>C+</b>	59 and below	<b>F</b>