

Common Course Outline

POLS 141

International Relations

3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

POLS 141- 3 credits- International Relations introduces students to the nation-state system as well as the conflict and cooperation in the international arena covering economic and military power, diplomacy, terrorism, international law and organizations. An emphasis will be placed on U.S. foreign policy analyzing its international impact. Students explore how 20th Century international conflicts such as World War I, World War II, the Cold War and terrorism influenced 21st Century thinking. Students question and discover what selected political leaders have learned from international conflict.

3 credits

Co-requisites: ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. describe the nature of international politics and politics among states;
2. identify the major actors and non-actors in international politics;
3. distinguish the various theories that are used to examine international changes and conflicts that have emerged in the study of international politics;
4. identify the major causes of conflict between nations, including the role of nationalism, hegemony and wealth in the 21st Century;
5. analyze the system of international law and major issues of arms, arms control and weapons of mass destruction;
6. describe the evolution of terrorism and its impact on international politics;
7. outline the variety of views and tactics of diplomacy on the path to peace which may contribute to a nation's ability to work out differences with other nations;
8. evaluate nations major foreign policy goals and strategies used to achieve their goals;
9. explain how religion and culture stabilizes international regions;
10. outline the workings of the international economic system, multinational corporations and their relationship in international public policy;
11. discuss how international politics has changed a nation's capabilities to exert influence in the current world environment;
12. analyze how the divisions between the Global North and Global South have altered world politics and whether conflict is inevitable;
13. recognize the dilemmas and issues of globalization, human rights, population growth and the decline natural resources in the 21st Century; and

14. debate international issues and events affecting the current political environment.

Major Topics:

- I. Foreign Policy Decision Making
 - a. Principle actors in international relations: nation-states, intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and multinational corporations (MNC)
 - b. Global North v. Global South: economic development and globalization

- II. Conflict, cooperation and diplomacy in International Relations
 - a. Theories in international relations: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivist, Marxist
 - b. Hegemons in history
 - c. Causes of conflict and war
 - d. Nuclear proliferation
 - e. Military power and national security in international politics, arms and arms control

- III. People, Politics and Political Behavior
 - a. Impact of terrorism on international relations
 - b. Human rights, global justice and international law
 - c. Population dynamics and global environmental politics
 - d. Prospects for world stability and peace in the 21st century

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Class participation in at least 5 collaborations, debates, oral presentations and/or online discussion forums about current political events and topics

A minimum of 4 examinations

A research assignment or project on a selected topic of interest and approved by the instructor

Other Course Information:

This course is a Political Science elective.

