HON 103: International Relations

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This course introduces major international relations theories and organizations and investigates the relationship between citizens, governments and global policy. It is an intensive, 3-week survey course equivalent to an introductory college-level international relations course. Following an overview of major theories of international relations, students will have the opportunity to analyze, debate and create problem-solving scenarios based on current events, and critically compare their findings and recommendations with the outcomes as they actually occurred. The course itself is a discussion and activity-centered exercise during which lectures are kept to a minimum and quizzes will be used to synthesize information as much as to measure progress.

Topics covered during the first phase of the course include an overview of international relations theory, including realism, idealism, intergovernmentalism, functionalism and interdependence, as well as an introduction to variations on game theory. Central to all these discussions will be an inquiry into the nature of national power— who has it and to what ends it may legitimately be used. We will use case studies from regions throughout the world to identify theoretical underpinnings and practical motivations inherent in international interactions.

The second phase of the course will introduce students to major regional and international bodies. These will be limited to supranational topic areas such as human rights, regional/international security, economic development, trade, health policy, environmental and labor concerns. Students will be exposed to the history and current relevance of these organizations through case studies and then be required to critically develop alternative outcomes to the given scenarios. After this, we examine the increasing power of multi- and transnational corporations— their makeup, growth and influence within the international system.

The last phase of the course will shift the focus to non-governmental organizations and their effects on international relations. Here, areas of both cooperation and conflict with the agendas of multinational corporations and nation-states will be outlined on a case-study basis. International Relations culminates in group projects which imaginatively construct systems of international cooperation based on maximum citizen input against the backdrop of the changed world order post-September 11th and post-Operation Iraqi Freedom.
I. Introduction to Course
   - General Expectations/Syllabus and Rubric Review
   - Group Activity/Team Building
   - World Geography- What's Where?
   - Actors: Nation-States, Individuals, International Organizations, Multinational Corporations
   - Reading/Groupwork: Ernest Renan, *What is a Nation?*

II. Sources of Power: Contending Theories of International Relations
   - Realism vs. Idealism
   - Intergovernmentalism vs. Functionalism
   - Interdependence
   - Billiard Balls
   - Reading/Groupwork: Mingst, pp. 55-99, 159-163.
   - Reading/Groupwork: Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History?* (www.wku.edu/~sullib/history.htm)

III. Uses of Power: Game Theory
   - Players, Payoffs, Rules, Strategies
   - Prisoner’s Dilemma, Chicken
   - Rational Choice
   - Variable-Sum and Zero-Sum Games
   - issue: the Cold War
   - Film: *Thirteen Days*

IV. Regional Organizations and Issues I- The Middle East in International Relations
   - Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
   - the League of Arab States
   - the Gulf Co-Operation Council (GCC)
   - Reading: Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations* (coursepack)
   - issues: Western oil dependency, political Islam, terrorism, Operation Iraqi Freedom

V. Regional Organizations and Issues II- Europe in International Relations
   - The European Union (EU)
   - the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
   - issues: the EURO, widening/deepening of the EU
   - Debate: *The Kyoto Protocol*; Weekly QUIZ

Week 2

VI. Regional Organizations and Issues III- Europe in International Relations, Continued
   - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
   - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
   - The Council of Europe
   - the new transatlantic security framework

VII. Regional Organizations and Issues IV- The Americas In International Relations
   - North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA)
   - Organization of American States (OAS)
   - issues: maquiladoras + unionization, drug policy, human rights/democracy
   - Reading: Mingst, pp. 254-256.
   - Film: *Clear and Present Danger*
VIII. Global Organizations and Challenges I - Peace and Democracy
- UN General Assembly and Security Council
- UN Peacekeeping Missions (“blue helmets”)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Reading/Groupwork: Mingst, pp. 166-180.
- issues: US/World role in peacekeeping operations, arms control/inspection, UN dues
- Simulation: UN Security Council Debate

IX. Global Organizations and Challenges II - Economic Development
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- The World Bank
- The World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- issues: currency speculation, 3rd World debt, investment/sustainable development
- Readings/Groupwork: Mingst, pp. 256-264.
- Simulation: IMF/Developing Country Negotiations

X. Global Organizations and Challenges III - Human Rights
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html)
- Case Study: Henry Kissinger (http://www.harpers.org/online/kissinger_forum/?pg=1)
- Debate: The International Criminal Court (ICC); Weekly QUIZ

Week 3

XI. Multinational Corporations I - Consumer Products
- Royal Dutch/Shell, BP
- Monsanto, Novartis
- Nike, Reebok
- Nestle, Philip Morris, Chiquita, Archer Daniels Midland
- issues: “made in USA?”, genetically modified food, environmental disasters, labor standards
- Discussion: In which countries are our clothes made? (Clothing Worksheets due)

XII. Multinational Corporations II - Defense and Related Industries
- MPRI, DynCorp, Strategic Outcomes
- Carlyle Group
- EADS
- issues: arms control/proliferation, military-industrial complex
- Film: Dr. Strangelove

XIII. Non-Governmental Organizations I - Elite Policy Institutes
- The "Big Three": The Brookings Institution, CFR, Heritage Foundation
- Trilateral Commission
- Aspen Institute
- CATO Institute
- RAND Corporation
- The Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS)
- The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations (CCFR)
- issues: US/Russia summits, “Young Leaders” conferences, think-tanks, position papers
XIV. Non-Governmental Organizations II- Citizen Movements

- Greenpeace
- Amnesty International
- Doctors Without Borders
- World Wildlife Fund
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- International Red Cross/Red Crescent
- CARE
- Readings/Groupwork: Mingst, pp. 267-269.
- Issues: global environmental concerns, endangered species, arms control/proliferation
- Debate: Student-Chosen Topic

XV. World Challenges and Our Solutions

- Student presentations
- Course evaluations
- Final Exam (comprehensive)