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GOV 261 - THEORY AND PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (4 credits)

Course Description

Review of the major approaches to the study of international relations. Definition of concepts such as power, nationalism, imperialism, and dependency. Special attention to the use of force and conflict resolution, as well as to the changes in the international agenda following the end of the cold war and the appearance of new global actors.

Course Format

It is a Madrid Campus lecture course. Each session will be presented by the instructor in class. Students will participate in the discussions that will follow the professor's explanation of each topic, which implies preparing the program for the discussion as will be explained in class. Specific cases on current international issues will illustrate the topic. Students must be updated on international affairs by reading newspapers and journals. Students must also write a paper (6 to 8 pages, usual stylistic standards) on a particular aspect of International Relations covered in the class. A tentative version of the paper will be presented in class before the paper is handed in, so comments and suggestions are incorporated. Creative thinking will be encourage and valued.

Course Objectives

The goal is to help students to develop a deeper insight of all the aspects involved in world politics, so they can develop their own conclusions on a solid base.

Course Evaluation-Grade Breakup

Midterm exam: 30 %

Final exam: 35%

Paper and presentation: 25%

Teacher's evaluation of the student's participation in class discussions: 10%

Homework and Participation

The Madrid Campus requires regular attendance. Following the reading assigned for each session will be required. Two unjustified absences will be allowed. Further **unjustified absences will lower the grade** half a point for each subsequent absence. Justified absences require relevant documentation.

Textbooks / Required Materials

Textbook: B. White, R. Little and M. Smith (2005), *Issues in World Politics*, Third Edition, London: MacMillan.

Recommended Readings: S. Burchill and A. Linklater (1996), *Theories of International Relations*, NYC: St. Martin Press.

Press and publications on current European events, especially TIME magazine, The Economist, and Le Monde Diplomatique (all available in the library).

Publications and press releases of the European Commission:

<http://europe.eu.int> + www.europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

See Suffolk's online Student Policy and Procedure Handbook statement:

<http://www.suffolk.edu/studentservices/pol-procedure/ac-reg.html>

Course Outline:

Part I. Theories and Concepts:

Week 1. Introduction to the course.

Week 2. Theories in international relations: Realism and Neorealism

Readings: Chapter 3 in Burchill and Linklater

Week 3. Theories in international relations: Idealism/Liberal Internationalism

Readings: Chapter 2 in Burchill and Linklater

Week 4. Issues in World Politics: New global order

Readings: Chapter 1 in White et al.

Week 5. Security in the 21st Cent.: States and Statehood

Readings: Chapter 2 in White et al.

Week 6. Threats to International Peace: Asymmetrical Conflicts and Terrorism.

Readings: Chapter 14 in White et al.

Midterm Exam

Part II. The New International Agenda

Week 7. Case Study: Current International Conflict.

Visit to an International Organization in Madrid.

Visit to La Moncloa to attend a Press conference of the Spanish Vicepresident.

Week 8. Nationalism and Ethnic and Religious Conflict.

Readings: Chapters 8 and 9 in White et al.

Week 9. New Issues in IR: Environment and Natural Resources.

Readings: Chapter 11 in White et al.

Week 10. Media and Power.

Readings: Chapter 12 in White et al.

Week 11. Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Intervention. UN System.

Readings: Chapter 7 in White et al.

Class Presentations

Week 12. Class Presentations

Week 13. Class Presentations

Review for the Final Exam

***All final papers are due on the day of the final exam. The topic must have prior approval by professor.**