



**SUFFOLK**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
MADRID CAMPUS

**GVT 261 M1 - THEORY AND PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Instructor Information:**

**Instructor:** Ana B. Soage

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**Course Information:**

**Catalog Description:** Review of 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. Special class project.

**Instructor's Additional Course Description:** overcoming the barrier between theory and practice in IR, we will cover substantive real world issues, examining the use of force and conflict resolution, as well as changes in the international arena following the events of 9/11 and the appearance of new global actors.

**Prerequisites:** GVT 110 and GVT 120 or consent of instructor.

**Credit Hours:** 4.

This course follows the US Federal Government's Credit Hour definition: "An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutional established equivalence that reasonably approximates no less than:

- (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours."

For full up-to-date statement:

[https://cihe.neasc.org/sites/cihe.neasc.org/files/downloads/POLICIES/Pp111\\_Policy\\_On\\_Credits-And-Degrees.pdf](https://cihe.neasc.org/sites/cihe.neasc.org/files/downloads/POLICIES/Pp111_Policy_On_Credits-And-Degrees.pdf)

A more detailed breakdown of the student engagement is given below:

<b>Assignments/Activities</b>	<b>Engagement Estimate</b>	<b>Engagement Hours</b>
Course Readings:	270 pages x 10 minutes per page	45
Research Paper:	20 hours preparation	20
Class Presentation:	20 hours preparation	20
Midterm Exam:	12 hours preparation	12
Literature Review:	15 hours preparation	15
Homework assignments:	12 hours preparation	12
Final Exam:	12 hours preparation	12
Class Attendance:	3 hours x 15 weeks	45
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>181 HOURS</b>

### **Textbook/Course Materials:**

***-Issues in 21<sup>st</sup> Century World Politics [Second Edition] (2013), M. Beeson & N. Bisley. London: MacMillan***

Please consult the press and publications on current news, especially TIME magazine, The Economist, and *El País* (all available in the library). Other materials, as well as the class slides, will also be available on BlackBoard before the midterm and final exams.

**Chapters of the following textbooks will also be used for reading and/or reference:**

- *Spheres of Influence in International Relations: History, Theory and Politics* [electronic resource] (2014), by Susanna Hast. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Pub. Company.
- *Handbook of international relations* [electronic resource] (2013), edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons. London: SAGE.
- *The fundamental principles of international relations* [electronic resource] (2010) by J. Martin Rochester. New York: Westview Press.

### **Course Goals & Learning Objectives:**

<b>Upon successful completion of this course, students will know/understand:</b>	<b>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b>	<b>How the student will be assessed on these learning outcomes:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic political theories of international relations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify different theories</li><li>• Compare &amp; contrast them</li><li>• Interpret sociopolitical events according to various theories</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrated knowledge of the readings in class discussion</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The central role of international politics in recent world history</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain causes &amp; effects in politics</li><li>• Name principal actors &amp; their vested interests</li><li>• Explain events in world history in terms of these international relations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Active, appropriate and positive class participation</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The essential (sociopolitical and/or economic) alliances in the world today</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name, identify, explain, compare &amp; contrast global issues today</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Possible pop quizzes on the readings</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The history, structure and function of the UN, as well as its achievements and limitations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Narrate key parts of history, identifying significant actors &amp; events</li><li>• Describe, explain &amp; analyze achievements &amp; limitations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Midterm exam (essay type)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The role of the USA and its foreign policy in the last hundred years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give a chronological account of events</li><li>• Describe &amp; explain the impact of US foreign policy on world partners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Midterm exam (essay type)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to think critically and independently about world politics and its actors</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distance yourself from the mainstream information aired by the media</li><li>• Distinguish reliable sources of information and data</li><li>• Elaborate objective arguments for discussion and debate in a changing world</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final exam (essay type)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How to approach international relations from a broader, enhanced perspective</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revisit the position of the US and its foreign policy in light of facts and data learned during the course</li><li>• Make founded predictions on several global issues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research paper &amp; Oral presentation</li></ul>

### **Assignments/Exams/Papers/Projects:**

Students will be evaluated in the following areas:

- Exams: Midterm and Final.
- Oral presentation of research topic in class on a topic agreed with instructor.
- Research paper on a topic agreed with instructor.

### **Grading/Evaluation:**

Research paper	20%
Oral presentation	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Participation	20%

*Grading scale:*

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
93-100	A	73-77	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
88-89	B+	68-69	D+
83-87	B	63-67	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
78-79	C+	59 or less	F

### **Course and Classroom Policies:**

We shall seek to make this class open, respectful and engaged. Please come prepared to participate in each class session, and help create an environment of respect for all religions, ideologies, ethnic groups and gender identities. Courtesy towards each other is expected. Therefore, no food or drink (except water) should be brought into class. Please refrain from using cell phones. It is expected that students will remain in the classroom throughout the class meeting (except for emergencies).

Please be on time to class; those arriving once teaching has begun will have it counted as half an absence. **The Madrid Campus requires regular attendance. Absences will affect your grade**, and 10% of your final grade will depend on your participation in class. All required assignments are to be submitted on time. In deference to your punctual peers, final papers that are handed in late will be marked down. If a problem arises regarding attending a class session or delivering work on time, please speak to the instructor beforehand. Minor allowances for justified absences can be made if enough advance notice has been given.

### **Participation/Attendance Policy:**

The SUMC Student Handbook states the following:

*Once a student is registered for a course, attendance at every meeting of every class is expected, including those held in the first week of the semester. A maximum of two unjustified absences is permitted. Each additional absence will cause the final course grade to be lowered by one-third of a letter grade, i.e., from A to A-; A- to B+; B+ to B, etc.*

*Excessive absences in a course will have a negative effect on the final grade. When a student is absent, the quality of his or her work in a course will deteriorate since material missed in class sessions can rarely be made up satisfactorily, even though the student remains responsible for that work.*

*Please note that even when a student has a justified reason for missing class, such as illness, the negative academic impact on learning will be the same as if the absence were for spurious reasons.*

In this course, any absence due to illness should be justified by a note from the student's physician or other health professional confirming the day(s) on which the student was unable to attend class. A written excuse from a student's host parent or residence supervisor is also acceptable.

In the event that a class meeting is unexpectedly cancelled, students will be expected to continue with readings or other assignments as originally scheduled. Any assignments due or class activities (e.g., a quiz, exam or presentation) planned for such a cancelled class are due at the next class meeting unless other instructions are communicated.

**Disability Statement:**

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in my classroom.

If formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at the main Campus in Boston so that I am notified of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations. Check the ODS web site at [www.suffolk.edu/disability](http://www.suffolk.edu/disability) for information on accommodations.

**Student Resources:**

SUMC provides a range of student services, both academic and personal. To learn more about course-related tutorials and academic workshops, refer to the SUMC Student Handbook, Section 2 "Academic Policies and Services". Section 5, "Living in Madrid", contains information on the medical and mental health resources, including an English-speaking therapist, available to you.

**Midterm Review:**

At midterm, on week 6, you will be given a midterm grade based on your progress to date and performance on assignments, quizzes and midterm exam. Midterm grades of C- or below will be reported to the Madrid Campus Academic Standing Committee, with an explanation of what I believe has contributed to that grade: excessive absences, poor time management or study skills, lack of effort, difficulty with the course material or with writing or language skills, etc. The Academic Standing Committee or I may contact you to suggest strategies for addressing these difficulties. I strongly encourage you to visit me during my office hours so we may discuss how you can be successful in this class.

**Academic Misconduct:**

[www.suffolk.edu/about/mission-history/policies-procedures/academic-misconduct-policy](http://www.suffolk.edu/about/mission-history/policies-procedures/academic-misconduct-policy)

Suffolk University expects all students to be responsible individuals with high standards of conduct. Students are expected to practice ethical behavior in all learning environments and scenarios, including classrooms and laboratories, internships and practica, and study groups and academic teams. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, use of unauthorized electronic devices, self-plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data, and other types of academic misconduct are treated as serious offenses that initiate a formal process of inquiry, one that may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

Student work will be thoroughly examined for academic integrity and may be scanned using plagiarism detection software. A faculty member suspecting academic misconduct will contact the student using the Suffolk email address to schedule a meeting and will make all effort to do so within five business days of detecting the incident. During the meeting, the faculty member will present the documentation that led to suspected academic misconduct. Resolution of the incident will be according to the procedures outlined in the SUMC Student Handbook.

**Academic Grievances Policy:**

[www.suffolk.edu/student-life/student-services/student-handbook/university-policies-for-student-cas-sbs/grievances-academics](http://www.suffolk.edu/student-life/student-services/student-handbook/university-policies-for-student-cas-sbs/grievances-academics)

**Course Schedule:**

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning.

<b>Week</b>	<b>General Topic of Lesson</b>	<b>Readings or other Assignments Due</b>
1	Intro: What is a theory? What are IR theories?	
2	Theories I. Liberalism	
3	Theories II. Realism	
4	Theories III. Critical studies (Postcolonialism, Feminism)	
5	Theories IV. Constructivism	
6	Revision & <b>Midterm</b>	
7	Changes and challenges I. Globalization (political)	
8	Changes and challenges II. Globalization (economic)	
9	Changes and challenges III. The environment	
10	Changes and challenges IV. Cyber security	
11	Changes and challenges V. Terrorism	
12	Changes and challenges VI. Human security	
13	Revision for final exam	
14	Final exam	