

International Relations

SSTH043058

Credits: 0.5 units / 5 hours | NCAA Approved

Course Description

This course provides an overview of international relations. Students will analyze interactions among countries, learning different ways to explain why countries act as they do. Main topics include states, nations, war, peace, trade, alliances, international organizations, non-state groups, and globalization. The course assumes students will have survey-level knowledge of world history and will introduce students to the terms and methods political scientists use when studying international relations.

Graded Assessments: 5 Unit Evaluations, 2 Projects, 2 Proctored Progress Tests

Course Objectives

When you have completed the materials in this course, you should be able to:

1. Define states, nations, great powers, international organizations, and non-state actors.
2. Trace the development of international relations from medieval Europe until the twenty-first century.
3. Summarize how international relations have changed since medieval times.
4. Explain why the Thirty Years War, the Napoleonic Wars, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 changed international relations.
5. Define the "human rights revolution," noting both efforts to protect human rights and complications that these efforts may involve.
6. Apply the different levels of analysis to explain international events.
7. Consider the ways in which countries make foreign policy decisions.
8. Understand the realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives on international relations.
9. Describe the different types of wars.
10. Compare realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives on war and peace.
11. Contrast different perspectives on global economics.
12. Express an informed opinion about globalization.
13. Discuss human security issues such as disease and environmental protection.
14. Analyze current events in international relations with the methods presented in this course.

Course Outline

Unit 1: A Historical Overview

Teacher Connect Activity 1
Lesson 1: The Birth of the State System
Lesson 2: State Systems, 1815–1945
Lesson 3: The Cold War and the War on Terror
Lesson 4: Human Rights
Unit 1 Evaluation

Unit 2: Theories and Analysis

Lesson 5: Realism
Lesson 6: Liberalism and Constructivism
Lesson 7: Levels of Analysis
Unit 2 Evaluation
Teacher Connect Activity 2
Progress Test 1

Unit 3: War, Peace, and IGOs

Lesson 8: Types of War
Lesson 9: Peace
Lesson 10: The United Nations and the European Union
Unit 3 Evaluation
Teacher Connect Activity 3
Project 1

Unit 4: Trade and Globalization

Lesson 11: International Trade
Lesson 12: Globalization
Unit 4 Evaluation
Teacher Connect Activity 4

Unit 5: Global Health and the Environment

Lesson 13: Global Health and Disease
Lesson 14: The Environment
Unit 5 Evaluation
Teacher Connect Activity 5
Project 2
Progress Test 2

Required Textbook and Materials

(available through Follett virtual bookstore - <https://www.bkstr.com/nebraskahighschoolstore>)

Textbook: Karen Mingst, et al. *Essentials of International Relations*. 8th ed. Norton, 2019. ISBN 9780393643275