

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Fall 2014

Discipline: Politics and International Relations

PLIR 1010: Introduction to International Relations

Division: Lower

Faculty Name: Gary Wayne Glass

Prerequisites: None.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with an introductory overview to the subject of international relations and a vital context from which to consider many topics in the curriculum offered for the fall Atlantic voyage of the Semester at Sea program. The menu is purposely broad, extending from theoretical perspectives on international relations to detailed considerations of critical matters that connect today's world. Major themes include the theory and structure of the international system, the nature of the nation state and nationalism, international problem solving by peaceful or forceful means, international organizations and their functions, contemporary international security issues, the political economy of trade and finance, international development, energy politics and the environment, and global religions, ethnicity, and human rights. The course will feature interactive student exercises in class, simulations, debates, presentations, and lectures. Success in the course will depend heavily on student participation in class exercises as well as performance on quizzes, homework assignments, the field lab exercise, and the final exam. The field lab for the course will take students to meet with consulate officials in Germany to learn about and discuss the key international relations issues of the day with US State Department officials. That visit will provide students with direct insights into the working of US diplomacy abroad and a useful exposure to diplomacy as a possible career path.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to provide the students with a broad overview of the essential elements of the study of international relations. Students will

become conversant with the terms and concepts of international relations, and will demonstrate basic understanding of the political, economic, legal, diplomatic, and security elements making up today's global system. In particular, students will learn and demonstrate knowledge of the geography of regions visited on the voyage. Through various assignments and classroom exercises, students will also learn about writing and presentation techniques that are typically used in the policy workplace. Considerable emphasis will be placed on improving the quality and discipline of writing to ensure that students will be better able to meet professional standards.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHORS: Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi

TITLE: International Relations World Politics

PUBLISHER: Pearson

ISBN# 13:978-0-205-85464-6

DATE/EDITION: 2013/5<sup>th</sup> Edition

Note: One reading assignment (Shaffer) will be available on reserve and CRS Reports assigned will be available as electronic course materials.

### TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

#### International Relations

A1 – August 25

##### A. Course Overview

1. Distribute and review syllabus
2. Identify course goals, assignments, grading
3. Library briefing
4. Introduction: Reasons for studying IR

Assignment for A2: Memo on Reasons for Studying IR

Reading: Text pp. 1-22

A2 – August 27

##### A. The International System

1. Theories
2. History: evolution and trends
3. Multilateralism vs. unilateralism

Reading: Text: pp. 23-51 and 52-99

Map Quiz: Russia and Northern Europe

A3 – September 3

Multilateralism vs. Unilateralism: a Debate

Assignment for A4: Essay on Multilateralism vs.  
Unilateralism

Reading: Text: pp. 284-295

A4 – September 5

A. The Nation-State

1. Definition
2. National Interests
3. Measures of power and influence

Assignment for A5: Essay listing top ten national  
interests

Reading: Text: pp. 121-147 and 200-216

Map Quiz: Germany and Central Europe

A5 – September 12

A. Settling Problems Between Nations: Diplomacy

1. Structure of diplomacy: Track I and II
2. A Day in the Life of a Diplomat: Film

Reading: Text: pp. 217-240

Map Quiz: Benelux and Western Europe

A6 – September 20

A. Settling Problems Between Nations: Conflict

1. Just War Theory
2. International Law
3. Military Intervention

Reading: Text: pp. 294-324

A7 and A8 – September 22 and 28

A. Military Interventions: Recent Cases

1. Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria
2. Iran?

Assignment for A9: Guideline template for  
intervention

Reading: Text: pp. 324-333

Map Quiz: Ireland, UK, Spain and Portugal

A9 – September 30

A. International Cooperation and Security

1. International Organizations

2. Security Alliances
3. Coalitions

Assignment for A10: Memo: NATO or UN Viability

Reading: Text: pp. 274-293

A10 – October 7

A. Controlling Arms: Strategic Nuclear Arms Control

1. History
2. Current Issues

Assignment for A10: Memo on Global Zero

Reading: CRS “The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Key Provisions”; CRS “Next Steps in Nuclear Arms Control With Russia”

Map Quiz: North Africa

A11 A12 – October 13 and 15

A. Controlling Arms: Nonproliferation Regime: Weapons of Mass Destruction

1. Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty
2. Chemical Weapons Convention
3. Biological Weapons Convention
4. Nuclear Weapon Free Zones

Assignment for A13: Memo Middle East Weapon Free Zone

Reading: Text: pp. 241-259

Map Quiz A12: West Africa

A13 – October 21

A. International Terrorism

1. Defining Terrorism: Roots and Scope
2. Current trends and status

Reading: Text: pp. 334-359

A14 – October 23

A. Transnational Crime

1. Trafficking
2. Drugs
3. Mafia

Reading: Text: pp. 359-368

A15 – October 29 MIDTERM EXAM

A16 – October 31

A. Political Economy of International Trade

1. Trade Theory
2. Multinational Corporations
3. Monetary policy
4. International Trade Regimes

Reading: Text: pp.369-417

A17 – November 3

A. Political Economy of Investment and Sustainable Development

1. Development Theory
2. US Foreign Aid policies and programs.

Reading: Text: pp. 418-452

A18 – November 5

A. Politics and Economics of International Energy

1. Hydrocarbon based energy
2. Nuclear energy
3. Renewable and sustainable energy

Assignment: Prepare for Resource Allocation Simulation

Reading: Shaffer pp. 1-18 (On Reserve)

Map Quiz: South and Central America

A19. – November 15

A. Energy Resource Allocation Simulation

Assignment for A20: Memo Energy Resource Allocation Plan

A20 – November 17

A. Political Geography and Environmental Politics

1. Overview global political geography
2. Managing population and the environment

Reading: Text: pp. 496-518

A21 – November 20

A. Religion and Conflicting Human Identities

1. Global religions
2. Ethnic and language distribution
3. Nationalism

Reading: Text: pp. 108-121

Map Quiz: Caribbean

A22 – November 25

A. Human Rights

1. Overview Universal Declaration of Human Rights
2. Displaced populations and refugees.

Assignment for A23: Memo revised Bill of Rights

Reading: Text: pp. 453-493  
A23 – November 27 Review Session: Course Overview  
A24 – December 4 Final Exam

## FIELD WORK

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Students are advised to ensure no conflicts in schedule arise when a field lab activity is scheduled.

## FIELD LAB COMPONENT

The field lab component comprises twenty percent of the course work and is integral to a central component of the course concerning diplomacy as a key element of international relations. On, Tuesday October 9, The students will visit with US diplomatic personnel assigned to the US consulate in Hamburg. They will receive briefings on the structure and process of the functions of the consulate, as well as a summary of current critical policy matters involving the United States and Germany. To complete the field lab exercise, students will submit a rapporteur memo summarizing the key learning points of the embassy visit.

## FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

At the beginning of the voyage, each student will choose a thematic topic on which to pursue inquiry during port visits scheduled for the voyage. The professor must approve each student's proposal before the student may proceed. For example, a student may choose to investigate the structure and processes concerning elections. While in port and at sea, the student could investigate details regarding elections in each state or locale scheduled on the voyage. Each student will keep a journal dedicated to the thematic topic selected. The journal will be submitted with the mid term and final exams for evaluation and grading.

The field lab memo and journal will comprise 20% of the student's final grade for the course.

## METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Final grades for the course will be allocated according to these proportions:

Assignments and map quizzes: 15%

Classroom participation: 15%

Mid Term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Lab Assignment and Journal: 20%

“Classroom participation” is based upon attendance including promptness. Roll call will be taken for each class. In addition, students will be required to participate in at least two classroom exercises outlined in the class plan including, presentations, debates, or simulations. The quality of participation in those classroom exercises will be taken into consideration.

#### RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHORS: Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi

TITLE: International Relations: World Politics

PUBLISHER: Pearson

ISBN-13: 978-0-205-85464-6

DATE/EDITION: 2013/ 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

AUTHOR: Brenda Shaffer

TITLE: Energy Politics

PUBLISHER: University of Pennsylvania

ISBN 978-0-8122-4200-3

DATE: 2009

#### ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

CRS Report “The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Key Provisions”, Amy Woolf, July 2013, R41219

CRS Report “Next Steps in Nuclear Arms Control with Russia: Issues for Congress”, Amy Woolf, June 2013, R43037

#### HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The students will affix their signature to all work submitted in accordance with course requirements.



International relations (IR) or international affairs (IA)â€”commonly also referred to as international studies (IS), global studies (GS), or global affairs (GA)â€”is the study in interconnectedness of politics, economics and law on a global level. Depending on the academic institution, it is either a field of political science, an interdisciplinary academic field similar to global studies, or an entirely independent academic discipline in which students take a variety of internationally focused courses