

INT214-1 International Relations (2008 curriculum) (3 credits)

Shuhei TAKEMOTO

Year: 2015
Semester: Spring
Meeting-time/day: Tuesday, Thursday: 15:30-16:45
Office: C3-5
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 12:00-13:00
E-mail: stakemoto@aiu.ac.jp
Website:

Course Description:

The main purpose of this course is to understand "how" to explain international relations in an academic manner. The course will be divided into three parts. In the first part, the instructor will lecture the basic conceptual framework to analyze international relations and introduce how to explain international relations from different levels of analysis. For the second part, the instructor will lecture important international historical events (WWI, WWII, the Cold War, the post Cold War) by using the framework for analysis taught in the first section and evaluate each level of analysis. For the third and last section, students will conduct presentations about current international events (in Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, the US, Russia). Students are obligated to i) use the framework for analysis taught in the first section, ii) evaluate each level of analysis, and iii) come up with policy implications.

Objectives:

1. Understand how to explain international relations.
2. Understand the key concepts (actor, sovereignty, order) in Political Science.
3. Understand the basic types (imperial, feudal, anarchic) of world politics.
4. Understand the different levels of analysis (system, state, individual) to explain international relations.
5. Understand the basic theories of International Relations (Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism).
6. Understand the various models of Foreign Policy Analysis (system, domestic, organization, decision making unit, and individual).
7. Understand the history of international relations during the 20th century.
8. Understand how to conduct case studies.
9. Understand how to conduct presentations in an analytical way.

Expected Academic Background:

Students should have high interest in international relations and global issues.

Textbook:

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. and David A. Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*, Ninth Edition (New York: Longman, 2012)

Reference Books/Other Study Materials:

1. Robert Jackson & Georg Sorenson eds., Introduction to International Relations: Theories & Approaches, fourth edition (Oxford University Press, 2010).
2. Michael Cox and Doug Stokes, US Foreign Policy, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2012).
3. Henry Kissinger, Diplomacy (Simon & Schuster, 1995).

Assessment:

Attendance: 10%

Contribution to the class: 10%

Mid term: 20%

Group presentation: 20%

Final paper: 40%

Policies & Remarks:

This syllabus is subject to change according to class size.

Class Schedule:**Week 1:**

Course briefing and introduction to International Relations as an academic discipline

Week 2:

Basic concepts of Political Science (actors, sovereignty, order)

Basic types of World Politics (Imperial, Feudal, Anarchic)

Week 3:

Framework for International Relations Analysis (System, State, Individual)

Theories of International Relations (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism)

Week 4:

Failure of the Balance of Power and World War I

Week 5:

Failure of Collective Security and World War II

Week 6:

Making of Modern International Order I: The Origins of the Cold War in Europe

Week 7:

Making of Modern International Order II: The Origins of the Cold War in East Asia

Week 8:

The End of the Cold War in Europe: Continuation or Transformation?

Week 9:

The End of the Cold War in East Asia: Continuation or Transformation?

Week 10:

Where do we go from here?: International Relations in the post Cold War era

Week 11:

Group presentation

Week 12:

Group presentation

Week 13:

Group presentation

Week 14:

Group presentation

Week 15:

Review and submit final papers

AIU ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Acts of Academic Dishonesty: In accord with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, forgery (on a paper, examination, test, or other assignment) will result in the failure of the course at a minimum. An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term. Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.

SOC250-1 Ideas and Theories in the Social Sciences (2008 curriculum) (3 credits)

Salvador Jimenez Murguia

Year: 2015

Semester: Spring

Meeting-time/day: Mondays and Wednesdays 15:30-16:45

Office: TBA

Office Hours: MW 17:00 – 18:00 or By Appointment

E-mail: smurguia@aiu.ac.jp

Website:

Course Description:

This course will examine a sample of the ideas and theories that have developed within social sciences during the last two centuries, as well as some ideas about a current social order that has emerged during the twenty-first century. We will explore the ideas of classical theorists who are considered—not without some controversy—the founding fathers of social science. We will then take a critical turn toward the ideas of modernity and progress that served to reorganize the social sciences into a more critical and inclusive field of study. Lastly, we will briefly survey some new theoretical approaches of contemporary social thinkers.

This course will also provide interpretive models for understanding the social world of ideas and theories in connection with historical, political and cultural contexts within which these ideas and theories originated and flourished. Throughout this course we will ask the following questions: What is theory? What is the use of theory? Whom do these theories address? What are these theories in response to? What drives theoretical questions? What can we learn from theory?

Objectives:

The objective of this course is to teach students how the shapers of the social sciences viewed, interpreted, and at times, explained the social world. After completing this course, students will have the ability to (1) identify key social theorists and their ideas that have made notable contributions to the social sciences; (2) interpret, for themselves, the relevance of these ideas and theories, both past and present; and (3) develop a command of their written and spoken expression through a social science vernacular.

Expected Academic Background:

Students are expected to have completed an introductory course in at least one discipline (i.e. sociology, anthropology, psychology, etc.) among the social sciences.

Textbook:

NONE (Handouts will be provided in lieu of a textbook.)

Reference Books/Other Study Materials:

TBA

Assessment:

Students' final grades will be assessed based upon their performances in the following three areas: (1) Case Study Quizzes, (2) a Midterm Exam, and (3) a Final Exam.

Case Study Quizzes:

At the close of each unit, students will be provided with a case study that attempts to synchronize the major theoretical concepts introduced during each unit. These case studies will be followed by a brief in-class quiz. Each quiz will consist of five short-answer questions and must be completed within a 30 minute time-frame. Students may use their case studies and any notes that have taken about these case studies during the quizzes.

Midterm Exam

The Midterm Exam will consist of 45 questions pertaining to readings, lectures and discussions on the topics of viewing society and the foundations of structural functionalist, conflict and symbolic interactionist perspectives. The exam will be made up of three sections, divided into the following formats: multiple choice, matching and true/false questions. Students will be given 90 minutes to complete the exam. A single sheet of A4 paper with notes (front and back) may be used during the exam.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will consist of 60 questions pertaining to readings, lectures and discussions on the topics of the varieties of structural functionalism, conflict and symbolic interactionist perspectives—this exam is not cumulative. The exam will be made up of four sections, divided into the following formats: multiple choice, matching, true/false questions, and two short answer questions. Students will be given 90 minutes to complete the exam. A single sheet of A4 paper with notes (front and back) may be used during the exam.

Case Study Quizzes (8 @ 5%) 40%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 35%

Policies & Remarks:

None

Class Schedule:**Week 1:**

Unit 1, Viewing Society

Week 2:

Unit 1, Viewing Society

- Constructing Reality—P. Berger & T. Luckmann
- *Case Study 1 Quiz

Week 3:

Unit 2, Foundations of Structural Functionalism

- The Invention of the Social—E. Durkheim

Week 4:

Unit 2, Foundations of Structural Functionalism

- Centering Community—E. Durkheim
- *Case Study 2 Quiz

Week 5:

Unit 3, Foundations of the Conflict Perspective

- Contention and Criticism—K. Marx

Week 6:

Unit 3, Foundations of the Conflict Perspective

- Strange Illusions—K. Marx
- *Case Study 3 Quiz

Week 7:

Unit 4, Foundations of the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

- Social Order and Social Organization—M. Weber

Week 8:

Unit 4, Foundations of the Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

- God and Capital—M. Weber
- *Case Study 4 Quiz
- *Midterm Exam

Week 9:

Unit 5, Structural Functionalist Perspectives

- “Making” Sense of Difference—R. K. Merton

Week 10:

Unit 5, Structural Functionalist Perspectives

- The Social in Action—T. Parsons
- *Case Study 5 Quiz

Week 11:

Unit 6, Conflict Perspectives

- Forgotten Founders—W.E.B. Dubois; H. Martineau; J. Addams; M. Weber

Week 12:

Unit 6, Conflict Perspectives

- Intersections of Inequality—P.H. Collins
- *Case Study 6 Quiz

Week 13:

Unit 7, Symbolic Interactionist Perspectives

- The Social and the Self—G. Simmel
- Viewing Oneself—G. H. Mead

Week 14:

Unit 7, Symbolic Interactionist Perspectives

- Everyday Life—E. Goffman
- Deriving Meaning from Everyday Encounters—H. Garfinkel
- *Case Study 7 Quiz

Week 15:

Unit 8, Postmodernities

- Of Culture—P. Bourdieu
- Liquid and Solid Modernities—Z. Bauman
- Hyperreality—J. Baudrillard
- *Case Study 8 Quiz
- Final Exam

AIU ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Acts of Academic Dishonesty: In accord with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, forgery (on a paper, examination, test, or other assignment) will result in the failure of the course at a minimum. An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term. Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.