

## Shuhei TAKEMOTO

Academic year: 2021  
 Semester: Spring  
 Faculty: International Liberal Arts  
 Department: Department of International Liberal Arts  
 Field: Advanced Liberal Arts Courses  
 Credit: 3.00  
 Class time/day: Tue : 09:00 - 10:15 D204 Unavailable  
 Thu : 09:00 - 10:15 D204 Unavailable  
 E-mail: stakemoto@aiu.ac.jp  
 Office: C3-5 (TAKEMOTO)  
 Office hours: By appointment  
 Notes: Not open to students who have taken INT210.

## Course description:

This course is designed to fulfill two large goals. The first is to enrich students' critical understanding of International Relations. For this purpose, this course will provide a general survey of the key approaches in the study of International Relations. The approaches that this course will cover will be 1. the structural approach (Defensive Realism and Offensive Realism), 2. the progressive approach (Liberalism and Constructivism), 3. the societal approach (the English School), 4. the perspectives approach (Neoclassical Realism and the Levels of Analysis). After two introductory sessions on each approach, there will another two sessions which will focus on applying each approach to historical as well as contemporary cases in international relations. Through understanding the essence of the different approaches as well as the relevancy of them to actual issues, students will eventually learn how to view international relations from multiple perspectives and integrate diverse knowledge. The second goal is to enhance students' understanding and interest in international relations by actively engaging into the subject. For this purpose, students (in groups) will be facilitating seminar-style sessions (presentations with follow-on class discussions). Students will be asked to choose a controversial issue in international relations foreign, review the existing arguments, provide their own assessment, arguments, and practical solutions, and initiate a discussion with the rest of the class. Examples of controversial issues are but not limited to 1. Does anarchy inevitably lead to conflict? 2. Are democracies more peaceful? 3. Does free trade benefit all? 4. Does globalization erode state sovereignty? 5. Does International law matter? 6. Is humanitarian intervention justified? 7. How dangerous is nuclear proliferation? 8. What is the appropriate repose to terrorism?

## Objectives:

The primary objectives for this course are as follows.

1. Enrich our critical understanding (view from diverse perspectives and integrate knowledge) of international relations.
2. Understand the relevancy of the diverse approaches by applying them to actual historical and contemporary issues.
3. Provide the historical background and context in which the nature of international relations formed into its current form.
4. Understand the existing controversial issues and debates in the contemporary international relations.
5. Enhance students' understanding of and interest in international relations through issue-based learning (focusing on a controversial issue in contemporary international relations).

## AILA Element:

1. Enrich interdisciplinary knowledge

Students will learn that the study of International Relations is highly connected with other disciplines such as World History, International Law, Political Science, and Political Theory. Through connecting this course on International Relations with other courses offered at AIU, students will be able to approach global issues in an interdisciplinary manner.

2. Enrich critical thinking

In this course, students will learn the different theories and concepts to view international relations from diverse perspectives. Through obtaining this knowledge, students are expected to enrich their critical understanding of international relations.

3. Enhance the ability to collaborate with other students

One of the key assignments for this course is to conduct a group project. Through this project, students will experience to discuss and argue on issues related to international relations and collaborate with other students.

## Textbook(s):

Author: There will be NO assigned textbooks for this course.

Title: -

Publisher: -

ISBN: -

Reference/Other study materials:

Keith L. Shimko, *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies, and Readings*, 5th edition (Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2015).

Assessment:

1. Class participation: 20%

- Attendance.
- Active participation (raising questions and comments) during class sessions.
- Quality of response papers during student-led seminar sessions.

2. One Midterm Essay Exam: 20%

The purpose the midterm essay exam is to assess how well students understood the substance of lectures. Students will be assessed by the following criteria on a scale from S (Superb = 5) to F (Fail = 0).

- i) Comprehension of lectures.
- ii) Integration of knowledge.
- iii) Critically thinking capability.
- iv) Overall quality (structure, logic, vocabulary) of the essay.

3. One Presentation (group project): 30%

The purpose of the presentation is to enhance students' understanding of and interest in international relations through actively engage into the subject and conducting own analysis. Students will be asked to choose a controversial issue in international relations, review the existing arguments, provide their own assessment, arguments, and practical solutions, and initiate a discussion with the rest of the class. Students will be assessed by the following criteria on a scale from S (Superb = 5) to F (Fail = 0).

- i) Significance and relevancy of the chosen issues for discussion
- ii) Sufficient review of existing arguments
- iii) Critical assessment of existing arguments.
- iv) Providing plausible practical solutions.
- v) Effective facilitating of class discussions
- vi) Overall quality (structure, logic, vocabulary) of the presentation.

4. One Final Paper (2000 words minimum, individual project): 30%

The purpose of the final paper is to enhance students' understanding of and interest in international relations through actively engaging into the subject and conducting own analysis. The topic for the final paper SHOULD be the same as the topic chosen for the presentation. Students will be assessed by the following criteria on a scale from S (Superb = 5) to F (Fail = 0).

- i) Significance and relevancy of the chosen issue.
- ii) Sufficient review of existing arguments.
- iii) Critical assessment of existing arguments.
- iv) Providing plausible practical solutions.
- v) Incorporation of comments (from the instructor as well as the students) raised during the presentation sessions.
- vi) Overall quality (structure, logic, vocabulary) of the paper.

DUE DATE: Will be announced on the first day class

Late submission will NOT be accepted.

Expected academic background:

No prerequisites. However, students SHOULD have high interest and awareness on current as well as historical issues related to international relations.

URL of other information:

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Policies & remarks:

1. This syllabus is subject to change according to class size.
2. Detailed course syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.
3. Attendance will be taken. Students should inform the instructor when they are going to miss a class.
4. Students should have the upmost respect of others during class sessions.
5. Late submission of final paper will NOT be accepted.

Notes:

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Class schedule:

W1: 4/13 and 4/15

Course Briefing and Introduction to International Relations as an Academic Discipline: The Three Intellectual Traditions of International Theory

W2: 4/20 and 4/22

The Structural Approach to International Relations: Defensive Realism and Offensive Realism

W3: 4/27 and 5/6

Applying Defensive Realism and Offensive Realism: the Security Dilemma and the Security Paradox in the Asia-Pacific

W4: 5/11 and 5/13

The Progressive Approaches to International Relations: Liberalism and Constructivism

W5: 5/18 and 5/21

Applying Liberalism and Constructivism: Collective Security and the End of the Cold War

W6: 5/25 and 5/28

The Societal Approach to International Relations: the English School of International Relations

W7: 6/1 and 6/3

Applying the English School: Debating Humanitarian Interventions

W8: 6/8 and 6/10

The Critical Approach to International Relations: Neoclassical Realism and Levels of Analysis

W9: 6/15 and 6/17

Applying Neoclassical Realism: International Relations in the Post-Trump Era

W10: 6/22 and 6/24

Review of the Approaches and Midterm Essay Exam

W11: 6/29 and 7/1

Student-led Seminar Sessions 1 and 2

W12: 7/6 and 7/8

Student-led Seminar Sessions 3 and 4

W13: 7/13 and 7/15

Student-led Seminar Sessions 5 and 6

W14: 7/20 and 7/22

Student-led Seminar Sessions 7 and 8

W15: 7/27 and 7/29

Review Tutorial Session and Submission of Final Assignment

AIU Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Acts of Academic Dishonesty: In accordance 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.