

SYLLABUS

Code: POLI 225

Title: International Relations

Institute: Business and Social Science

Department: Political Science

Course Description: In this course students will be exposed to various theories of international relations, learn about concepts like the state, the nation, the nation-state, sovereignty, and power, investigate the causes of war, examine the role of international law, international organizations and diplomacy in world politics, and explore such issues as arms races, disarmament, and human rights.

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Prerequisites or Corequisites: None

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab/Studio Hours: 0

Required Textbook/Materials:

Instructor will inform students on Day 1 of class.

Additional Time Requirements:

For information on Brookdale's policy on credit hour requirements and outside class student work refer to [Academic Credit Hour Policy](#).

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize what states are and how they interact with one another;
- Describe the international system and how it differs from the concept of individual states;
- Explain important political concepts such as the state, sovereignty, balance of power, interdependence, and globalization;
- Describe and Analyze how states gain and lose power;
- Recognize some of the causes of war and analyze why states go to war;
- Identify the tools of diplomacy
- Recognize the importance of international institutions such as the United Nations and the European Union;
- Examine globalization's impact on international economic relations;
- Summarize what human rights are and why they are important in the struggle for a just and peaceful world.

Grading Standard:

0-64=F 65-69=D 70-76=C 77-79=C+ 80-82=B- 83-86=B 87-89=B+ 90-92=A- 93-100=A

Please see individual instructor addendums for additional grading standards and/or policies.

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Course Content:

Topics – Unit 1: Evolution of World Political System

- Feudalism
- Mercantilism
- City-States
- Kingdoms
- Sovereignty
- The State
- Thirty Years War
- Peace of Westphalia
- Sovereign State
- Realism
- Neo Realism
- Idealism
- Feminist Idealism
- Thomas Hobbes
- Jean Jacques Rousseau
- Jean Bodin
- Hans Morgenthau
- Thucydides
- Nicolo Machiavelli

Topics – Unit 2: Levels of Analysis: Systems, States, and Individuals

- Systems Level Analysis
- Vertical Power
- Horizontal Power
- UniPolar world
- BiPolar world
- TriPolar world
- MultiPolar world
- Endogenous and exogenous variable
- State Level Analysis
- The state as rational actor
- The state as political actor
- The state as black box
- Decision making environments
- National Security
- Domestic pressure points
- Individual Level Analysis
- The head of state as decision maker
- Psychological factors
- Biological factors
- Life experiences and influences
- Group think
- Nature of men and women

Topics – Unit 3: Power, Armaments, War and Peace, Disarmament

- Power defined
- Characteristics of Power
- Determinants of Power
- Benefits and Costs of Power
- Measuring Power

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- Rise and Fall of Power
- Power projections
- Causes of War
- Weapons
- Offensive vs. Defensive
- Tactical
- Strategic
- Conventional
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Arms Races
- State Actors
- Non-state actors
- Theories of disarmament
- Disarmament accords
- Efficacy of disarmament

Topics – Unit 4: Diplomacy, International Law, International Organizations, Human Rights

- Alternatives to war
- Types of Diplomacy
- Duties of diplomats
- Embassies and Consulates
- Diplomatic signaling
- Diplomatic Immunity
- Origins of International Law
- Natural Law
- Positive Law
- Hugo Grotius
- Types of International Law
- Compliance with international law
- Efficacy of international law
- Value of international law
- International Organizations
- Regimes
- Institutions
- Regional Organizations: European Union
- Global Organizations: United Nations
- What are Human Rights?
- UN Declaration on Human Rights
- Amnesty International
- Human Rights abuses

Topics – Unit 5: International Political Economy (IPE)

- IPE defined
- Theories of IPE: capitalism, socialism, command economy, dependency
- Import substitution
- Structural adjustment
- Economic nationalism
- Economic internationalism
- Free trade
- Protectionism
- Primary commodities
- Secondary commodities
- Regionalization

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- Globalization

Department Policies:

- Attendance is mandatory and being on time is imperative.
- Lateness and/or early departure are not acceptable behaviors and will be penalized.
- Cheating and/or plagiarism are unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly, including severe penalties and disciplinary action.
- Electric devices are not permitted during class.
- Students are expected to be *attentive* and *courteous* to everyone in the class. Rudeness and other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Rude behavior includes inappropriate talking, sleeping, reading unrelated material, texting, etc. If a student is engaging in rude conduct, they will be dismissed from class and further penalties will follow.
- Reading the textbook is required. Supplemental readings may be required.
- Paying close attention to relevant current events is necessary.
- Students are supposed to be fully engaged in all aspects of the course.

College Policies:

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit www.brookdalecc.edu/support.

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:

See the Tutoring Center for information <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/tutoring-center/>.

MENTAL HEALTH:

- Mental Health Crisis Support: From a campus phone, dial 5555 or 732-224-2329 from an external line; off-hours calls will be forwarded to BCC police (2222 from a campus phone)
- Psychological Counseling Services: 732-224-2986 (to schedule an appointment during regular hours)

The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.

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