

Naemah Morris
International Relations
Syllabus

Course Description

This one-semester course focuses on the principal theories used in the construction of a nation state's foreign policy. The student learns about the three main levels of analysis used by foreign policy makers in deciding appropriate courses of action to take to deal with international conflicts, humanitarian crisis, and trade relationships. Case studies are used to illustrate the implementation of the theories in world politics. Students participate in simulations to comprehend the practical uses of the founding principles of international relations.

Course Benchmarks and Standards

- ❖ Evaluate and take positions on the scope and limits of a nation-state's obligations within the international community to uphold international law and customary practices, its relationship to intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations.
- ❖ Describe and evaluate the expanding role of American involvement in international relations and its need to protect the nation's national security.
- ❖ Analyze the ways in which countries interact with and participate in the United Nations.
- ❖ Identify and describe current political, social, and economic issues facing the international community.
- ❖ Identify and evaluate ways in which technology enables foreign policy makers to be better informed about international crisis.
- ❖ Improve oral communication ability through asking and answering analytic questions, participating in thoughtful discussion and giving informal presentations.
- ❖ Analyze the roles and responsibilities of the national security and diplomatic agencies and the significance of collaboration in the formulation of foreign policies.

Expectations

In order to develop these skills a student must:

1. Maintain an open mind.
2. Participate in classroom discussion and activities.
3. Keep abreast of current events.
4. Come to class prepared.
5. Respect others.
6. Be on time.
7. Follow class procedures.
8. Conduct herself in accordance with school rules at all times.
9. Approach assignments and class activities with motivation, interest, and a commitment to learning.

Required Books:

Textbook: *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*

Kegley, Charles: Thomson Learning Inc: Belmont, CA. 2007

News Source: You will need to subscribe to a major news publication and will be expected to bring in your news source every Friday.

Required Materials

- ✓ You will need a blue or black pen and #2 pencils with erasers.
- ✓ You will need paper for your homework assignments.
- ✓ You must have your textbooks in school when indicated on the class web-page.

Assignments and Evaluations:

- You will have a mid-term, a final and a major paper this semester. In addition you can expect to be quizzed on your reading and on current events periodically.
- Simulations and role playing activities. In order to more fully understand the concepts discussed in reading and lecture, you will participate in a variety of simulation exercises. You will be expected to prepare for your role in these simulations. Short reflection papers and debriefing exercises will follow simulations.
- You will be expected to check the course web-page daily for announcements and assignments
- Please feel free to ask and answer questions both in and outside of class.
- Students will have the opportunity to turn in rough drafts of papers and assignments and to participate in peer editing sessions throughout the semester.

Grading System/ Policies

1. Your grade for this class is based primarily on chapter tests a mid-term, final, at least one major writing assignment and class participation.
2. If you are absent, it is up to you to find out what work you have missed.
3. Generally, late work is not accepted. The acceptance of late work is left up to my discretion. If work is accepted past the due date, you can expect to receive a reduction in points.
4. Because the bulk of your grade will be based on your mid-term, final and paper, it is imperative that you are here to take your exams and turn your paper in on time. If you are absent for one of these three things you **MUST** make special arrangements with me to schedule a make up and should have a very good reason for your absence!