



J. F. Oberlin University

ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NAME:

International Relations

MEETING TIMES:

45 Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday (days may vary based on activity schedule)

Periods: 1 – 4 (periods and times may vary based on activity schedule)

DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces important issues and major topics in modern international relations and with discussion on Japan and its relation to course content. Current events will be discussed and how states interact with each other. Subjects covered will be international cooperation, trade, international law, security, conflict and human rights issues. The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two-week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits and a Certificate of Completion for passing with a minimum grade of a D.

COURSE LEVELS:

Classes are taught and conducted in English. No Japanese language level is required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES:

By the end of the session, students should be able to:

- 1) Understand the important issues in modern international relations.
- 2) Understand basic concepts and challenges of contemporary debates and international politics.
- 3) Understand political, economic and social issues and how they affect global systems.
- 4) Critically analyze the common arguments of contemporary international affairs.
- 5) Understand Japan's position in major important issues and topics of modern international relations.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, participatory (dialogical, reciprocal learning), inquiry (research & inquiry, cooperative group, engage by generating questions), critical thinking and constructive thinking (analyzing and examining media, multiple alternative culture), creative future thinking (action agenda, root cause, exchange ideas).

TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR CLASS MATERIALS:

The instructor will provide class materials.

GRADING, CERTIFICATE, GRADING PLAN & EVALUATION:

All students will get a grade for this academic course. You will also get a Certificate of Completion at the end of the course. Students who do not pass with a letter grade of D or above will not be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 79-70 = C 60-69 = D 50 and below = F

Breakdown:

- Class Participation: 25%
- Attendance: 25%
- Assignments: 20%
- Final Project: 30%

COURSE POLICIES:

It is required for students to attend all classes and come to class on time. Students should refrain from using cell phones while in class and eating during class times.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to conduct themselves well in the class. Disciplinary action may be taken for but not limited to dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism.

COURSE CONTENTS

Daily Contents

- Introduction: structure, pedagogy, assignment and grading, forming groups.
- International Relations Theory and critical analysis
- International political economy and major themes in global politics
- Foreign policy
- States and interests in International Relations
- War and its causes; Laws of War
- International Trade, Finance and Humanitarian Aid
- Terrorism
- International Organizations
- Global Governance
- International Relations and the Environment
- Major issues in modern International Relations
- Japan's position in International Relations, Global issues, and in relation to the above topics.