

PLS210 International Relations

1st and 2nd quarters, Sophomore

Instructor	Ryuhei Hosoya
Style of Class	Lecture, Seminar
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	Monday, period 5

Course Description

This course is a primer on international relations. It will cover the many facets of international relations in omnibus fashion adopting a multidisciplinary approach. Starting from the history of international politics, we will look in turn at international law, diplomacy, international institutions, international economy, international relations theory, and finally globalization, maintaining throughout a holistic perspective. There will be a lecture in each area, followed by a debate on a relevant motion. The knowledge and cognitive abilities acquired through this course will form the basis for the case studies in the next course, "International Policy" which is scheduled for the 3rd and 4th quarters. In keeping with GCS policy, the present course will include a specific focus on the global-local interface.

Course Objectives

- (1) To acquire overall knowledge of international relations through a crosscutting study of its various dimensions.
- (2) To gain an understanding of the different aspects of international relations and the principles that govern their dynamics.
- (3) To develop a perspective of international relations with a focus on the role of local communities.

Prerequisites

Introduction to Global and Community Studies

Class Materials

- (1) Oka Yoshitake, *Kokusai seijishi* (History of International Politics), Iwanami Gendai Bunko, 2009.
- (2) Yokota Yozo (ed.), *Kokusaihou nyuumon* (Introduction to International Law) Yuhikaku Arma, 2005.
- (3) Hosoya Yuichi, *Gaikou* (Diplomacy), Yuhikaku Insight, 2007.
- (4) Mogami Toshiki, *Kokusai kikou ron* (Theory of International Institutions), Tokai Daigaku Shuppankai, 2006.
- (5) Yoshikawa Naoto and Noguchi Kazuhiko (eds.), *Kokusai kankei riron* (Theory of International Relations), Keiso Shobo, 2006.
- (6) Imai Ryukichi and Hosoya Ryuhei (eds.), *Atarashii sekai zo* (A New Image of the World), Sekai Heiwa Kenkyusho, 1998.

Course Methods

The course will feature a lecture and a debate on each of the seven areas of international relations studies. The lectures will give an overview of the area concerned, and a specific motion for debate will be proposed. Students will be given assigned material to read, and will also be expected to carry out spontaneous research in preparation for the debate in class the following week. The specific modality of the debate will vary depending on the nature of the motion and the number of students in attendance. The basic format will be a contest between two teams of several students each, defending respectively the affirmative and negative positions. The remainder of the class will be asked to judge on the outcome of the debate.

Evaluation/Assessment

Students will be graded on their participation and level of performance in the debates, including teamwork. At the end of the course, each student will be asked to submit a written report.

Grading

70% Debate

30% Report

Course Schedule

- Week 1:** General introduction to the course. An overview of the different areas and approaches to international relations will be presented.
- Week 2:** Lecture on the 1st area: *History of international politics* (structure of international politics throughout history, the changes it underwent through each era).
- Week 3:** Debate on the history of international politics.
- Week 4:** Lecture on the 2nd area: *International law* (birth of the nation state, formation and development of international law governing international relations, the system of contemporary international law and its role).
- Week 5:** Debate on international law.
- Week 6:** Lecture on the 3rd area: *Diplomacy* (historical evolution of diplomacy, including foreign policy and international negotiations in pursuit of national interest, present-day concepts of diplomacy).
- Week 7:** Debate on diplomacy.
- Week 8:** Lecture on the 4th area: *International institutions* (historical evolution of international organizations created by agreement among nations, their current configuration and the issues they face).
- Week 9:** Debate on international institutions.
- Week 10:** Lecture on the 5th area: *International economy* (principles governing trade, investment, international finance and other transactions, relevant treaties and organizations).
- Week 11:** Debate on international economy.
- Week 12:** Lecture on the 6th area: *International relations theory* (overview of realism, liberalism, constructivism, and world systems theory, their applicability to real world events).
- Week 13:** Debate on international relations theory.
- Week 14:** Lecture on the 7th area: *Globalization* (placing the relevant social processes in perspective and in the light of theory, glocalization as a refinement of the concept).
- Week 15:** Debate on globalization. Recapitulation and summing up of the course.

Preparation and Follow-up

Before each class, review reference materials as appropriate. After each lecture, read assigned handouts and do research of other sources as appropriate in preparation for the debate in the following week.