



HLC Accreditation Evidence

Title: POLS 1804 International Relations

Office of Origin VP

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Document Summary:

**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS**

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number: POLS 1804
Course Title: International Relations
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: None
Division/Discipline: Academic Division/Political Science
Course Description: A study of the fundamentals of the nation-state system: sovereignty, nationalism, diplomacy, collective security, the balance of power, and international organizations.

II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

III. COLLEGE POLICIES

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The College assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. The student is responsible for learning the rules of, and avoiding instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism. Information about academic integrity is located in the Student Handbook.

The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is determined to be detrimental to the College educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and College Policy & Procedure Manual. (Most up-to-date documents are available on the College webpage.)

Any student seeking an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is to notify Student Support Services via email at disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu.

IV. COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM

This course gives introductory-course students a basic understanding of the history of the international system from the first world war to the present. It will explain the current issues and crises in the global political system, and demonstrate the possibility of discovering patterns in the foreign policies of states and the operation of the global system.

V. ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they

know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

Course Outcomes, Competencies and Supplemental Competencies:

A. Explain how to think about world politics.

- 1.Explain the importance of paradigms in the study of international relations.
- 2.Explain why “all politics is global”.

B. Explain Realism.

- 1.Outline the tenants of the realist paradigm.
- 2.Define and explain the prisoner’s dilemma and the security dilemma.
- 3.Explain and assess the major theoretical critiques of realism (liberalism, constructivism, feminism and neomarxism).

C. Explain the historical origins and critically evaluate contemporary debates in international politics, including globalization, war, terrorism, and the use of force, development, and international trade.

- 1.Define and differentiate between state and nation.
- 2.Explain the historical origins and evolution of the modern state system.
- 3.Compare and contrast collective security and balance of power approaches to foreign policy, and assess the validity of each based on historical experience.
- 4.Explain the structure and origins of the post-World War II international system.
- 5.Evaluate the major challenges of the post-Cold War international system.

D. Explain Levels of Analysis.

- 1.Define the “levels of analysis” problem in international relations.
- 2.Use the levels of analysis to explain a contemporary issue in international relations.
- 3.Explain and evaluate Waltz’s argument regarding the nature of the international system and its effect on state behavior.
- 4.Assess the correlation between the grand paradigms and levels of analysis.

E. Describe the making of foreign policy.

- 1.Explain how foreign policy is a “two stage process.”
- 2.Explain and critically evaluate the rational actor model of foreign policy decision making.
- 3.Explain and critically evaluate the bureaucratic model of foreign policy decision making.

F. Describe the realist’s world.

- 1.Explain the origins and historical evolution of total warfare in the modern state system.
- 2.Compare and contrast the explanations for the outbreak of war offered by the major theoretical paradigms.
- 3.Compare and contrast the explanations for peace offered by the major theoretical paradigms.
- 4.Explain the concepts and identify the specific criteria of jus ad bellum and jus in bello.

G. Describe International Law and Organization

- 1.Compare and contrast the major forms of international law.
- 2.Define liberal institutionalism and critically assess its ability to explain the nature of interstate cooperation in the modern world system.
- 3.Evaluate the role of custom and norms in international law.
- 4.Explain the structure, functions, and impact of the International Court of Justice.
- 5.Explain the structure and critically evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations system.
- 6.Assess proposals for reform of the United Nations

H. Describe the Human Rights Revolution.

1. Assess the reasons why some states resist the idea of human rights.
2. Explain and critically evaluate cultural relativism argument about human rights.
3. Compare and contrast positive and negative rights.

I. Explain the construction of International Norms

1. Assess the role of norms in the maintenance of human rights.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the International Criminal Court as a mechanism to protect human rights.
3. Assess the effectiveness of efforts to monitor and enforce human rights.

J. Explain Economic Globalization.

1. Compare and contrast the major theoretical paradigms of global political economy.
2. Assess the explanatory power of mercantilism in the contemporary global political economy.
3. Define comparative advantage, being sure to differentiate from absolute advantage, and evaluate the role of each in international trade.
4. Outline the structures, roles, and functions of the major institutions of the world economy.
5. Define globalization and assess its impact.
6. Define interdependence.

K. Describe transnational actors and issues.

1. Explain and assess the transition from national security to human security.
2. Outline the major challenges facing states in the post-Cold War environment.
3. Define collective goods and explain their importance in the international system.
4. Assess the impact of the internet on global politics.
5. Assess the role and power of the state in the current international system.

L. Discuss Global Futures.

1. Explain and critically evaluate the seven futures outlined by Bova (end of history, one world, a world state, war becomes unthinkable, an endangered peace, clash of civilizations, and great-power war,).
2. Define global governance.
3. Outline the most important challenges facing the global system.
4. Compare and contrast offensive and defensive realism.

VI. INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS

VII. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

VIII. REFERENCES

IX. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION

X. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

XI. COURSE OUTLINE