

International Contemporary Affairs

Course Description

Faculty of International Studies / University of Jordan

Dr. Walid Khalid Abu-Dalbouh
Email: dr_waleedd@yahoo.com

Course Objective and Description:

This course is meant to be accessible to the graduate students of world politics with little prior knowledge in international affairs. The course attempts to further enlighten the students of the major recent political events and security affairs which are taking place worldwide. In it, it should reflect the empirical dimensions of diplomatic and conflict resolution courses. In parallel, students' analytical foundations shall expectedly encompass conceptual and theoretical fundamentals. The nature of the course shall examine the multifaceted character of international relations disciplines and sub- disciplines. - ranging from, security and strategic studies, diplomacy, negotiations, foreign policy, democracy and human rights, conflict resolution, crises management, international political economy, etc.

The course shall be divided into three main categories to cover major contemporary affairs and its implications on: state level, regional level, and international level. At particular stage, the course is expected to examine the significant role of sub state as well as non state actors - especially when examining the evolution of Arab "Spring" and its implications on current inter and intra Arabs political development affairs. Accordingly, the course is expected to touch upon major international events, movements, phenomenon, policies, and organizations, such as: Arab Spring, regionalism and regionalization and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Arab-Israeli conflicts, International Assistance, WTO, Neoliberalim open market economy and Structural Adjustment Programs, sectarian conflicts, terrorism, nuclear proliferation and the Iranian nuclear 'ambitions', and so on.

General Readings

Textbooks

Martin Needler (1966), *Understanding Foreign Policy*, NY: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.

Stephan E. Ambrose and Douglas G. Brinkly (1997), *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938*, NY: Penguin Books.

A collection of various articles and materials related to US foreign policy

Steven Gill and David Law, *The Global Political Economy* (Hemel Hempstead; Harvester-Wheatsheaf, 1988).

Robert Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1987).

Susan Strange, *States and Markets* (London: Pinter 1994, second edition).

Richard Stubbs and Geoffrey Underhill (eds), *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order* (London: Macmillan, 1994).

Robert Tooze and Craig Murphy (eds), *The New International Political Economy* (London: Macmillan, 1991).

Barry Buzan: *An Introduction to Strategic Studies*, 1988.

The Middle East in International Relations by Fred Halliday (2000).

The Foreign Policies of Middle East States (The Middle East in the International System) by Raymond A. Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami (2002).

International Relations of the Middle East by Louise Fawcett (2009).

<http://www.amazon.com/Middle-East-International-Relations/dp/0021097412-#>

Journals

Foreign Policy

Mediterranean Politics

International Organization;

Review of International Political Economy;

World Development;

World Politics

Students will be provided with some selected articles and relevant online websites via their emails.

Grades:

Mid-term examination (٧٥%)

Presentation (١٠%)

Research Paper (٧٥%)

Final Exam (٤٠%)

Teaching Methods

One lecture per week involves student presentations. Each student will choose one of the topics introduced after the midterm about which he/she will prepare a written critique, deliver an oral presentation, and lead class discussion.

Module aims

- To introduce and explore the main theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of IPE;
- To offer an understanding of the origins, development, and global significance of the of IPE;
- To discuss a series of policy-relevant questions associated with these studies;
- To assess contemporary debates about the future of IPE.
- To develop students' skills in the effective collection and interpretation of information.
- To develop students' abilities to argue cogently, concisely and critically.

Course Outline:

A: Conceptual and Theoretical Perspectives:

Theories of War and Conflict:

١. Realism.

٢. Liberalism.

٣. Forms of Power

- ξ. Security in the aftermath of the Cold War
- ο. State Security versus Individual Security

B: Empirical Perspective:

- ι. Case studies: Conflicts in the Arab World.
- ϒ. The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- ϓ. The Cultural conflict in the North-South relations: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership:
- ξ. Minority and ethnicity in the Arab World
- ο. Inter-societal conflicts: Identity, Democracy and Human Rights.
- ϕ. North-South relations: Foreign Aid/ International Assistance
- ϗ. Regionalism and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
- ⊕. International Regimes
- ϑ. International Institutions and Organizations
- ιο. Transnational and multinational corporations
- ιι. Dependency Theory
- ιϒ. Modernization Theory
