



IRL 3001: Foundations of International Relations

Fall 2011

Monday & Thursday 17:00 – 20:00

Location: Room 105

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Office: Teachers' Room

Office Hours:

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Units: 3

Grading: Letter

I. Rationale:

This course exists to give students an insight into contemporary international relations and the role of International Organizations, NGOs and national governments in the international system, as well as basic knowledge of the main IR theories. The course offers specialized knowledge for other courses within the International Relations curriculum. Its learning objectives are aligned with the entire program outcomes listed below, especially outcomes 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. It also contributes to the fulfilment of Alliant's mission statement stated below.

Desired Program Outcomes for the Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

Having completed the Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the complex and interconnected world through close study of historical, political, economic, legal, and cultural forces;
2. Demonstrate understanding of human and cultural diversities;
3. Understand the role of international law and international organizations in furthering peaceful and harmonious world relations;
4. Be trained to launch careers in diplomacy, international business, and governmental and non- governmental international organizations;
5. Be trained to hold positions in multinational corporations, research institutions, and educational institutions;



6. Be prepared for further graduate study in international relations, international law, political science, or policy studies.

Alliant's Mission Statement

Alliant International University prepares students for professional careers of service and leadership, and promotes the discovery and application of knowledge to improve the lives of people in diverse cultures and communities around the world.

Alliant is committed to excellence in four areas:

1. Education for Professional Practice

Alliant's educational programs are designed to give students the knowledge, skills and ethical values they need to serve and lead effectively in a variety of professional settings. Alliant graduates are expected to achieve mastery of a body of knowledge and be able to apply that knowledge in professional practice in order to achieve desired and beneficial outcomes.

2. Scholarship

Scholarship in the Alliant context includes the discovery of new knowledge; the discovery of new applications of knowledge to solve practical problems; the integration of knowledge in new ways; and innovation in teaching knowledge and professional competencies.

3. Multicultural and International Competence

Alliant is an inclusive institution committed to serving diverse populations around the world by preparing professionals to work effectively across cultural and national boundaries; by increasing the number of professionals working in underserved areas; and by understanding and responding to the needs of diverse communities.

4. Community Engagement

Alliant's faculty, students, alumni and staff are dedicated to making a positive difference in the world through professional education and practice. We measure the success of our university in part by the impact we have, both directly and indirectly, on the welfare of individuals, families, organizations and communities.



CALENDAR FALL 2011

FALL SEMESTER 2011

Aug. 1 Monday: Last day to register for Fall Semester without paying a late fee

Aug. 22-27 Monday – Saturday: New student orientation -- Attendance is mandatory for new students

Aug. 29 Monday: Instruction begins for Fall Semester [full-term (16-week) and Session 1 (8-week) courses]

Sept. 13 Tuesday: Add/Drop Deadline for Fall Semester full-term courses. Last day to drop a full-term course for 100% refund

Friday, September 16-- Mexican Independence Holiday—NO CLASSES

Sept. 23 Friday: Last day to withdraw from Fall Semester Session 1 courses in good standing

Oct. 21 Friday: Last day to withdraw from Fall Semester full-term courses in good standing

Oct. 22 Saturday: *Alliant Makes A Difference Day*

Oct. 23 Sunday: Last day of Fall Session 1 courses

Oct. 24 Monday: Instruction begins for Fall Semester Session 2 (8-week) courses

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 2 –Día de los Muertos Holiday—NO CLASSES

Nov. 4 Friday: Fall Semester Session 1 grades due to Registrar's Office

Nov. 18 Friday: Last day to withdraw from Fall Semester Session 2 courses in good standing. Fall Semester Session 1 grades available on-line

Monday, November 21 --Mexican Revolution Holiday—NO CLASSES

Nov. 28 Monday: Registration for Spring Semester begins

Dec. 11 Sunday: Last day of Fall Semester full-term courses

Dec. 12-18 Monday – Sunday: Final Examinations; make up classes (in case of holidays, etc.); semester-end activities

Dec. 18 Sunday: Last day of Fall Semester Session 2 courses

Dec. 26 Monday: Last day to register for Spring Semester without paying a late fee

Jan. 6 Friday: Fall Semester full-term and Session 2 grades due to Registrar's Office

Jan. 13 Friday: Fall Semester grades available on-line

ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY—MEXICO CITY 2012 SPRING SEMESTER 2012

Jan. 17 -20 Tuesday – Friday: New student orientation/Attendance is mandatory for new students

Jan. 23 Monday: Instruction begins for Spring Semester [full-term (16-week) and Session 1 (8-week) courses]

Feb. 6 Monday: Add/Drop Deadline for Spring Semester full-term courses. Last day to add or drop a full-term course without late fee. Last day to drop a full-term course for 100% refund

II. Course Description, Purpose, Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment:

A. Course Description

This course provides the students with the analytical tools needed in order to understand the contemporary international system and the working of International Political Institutions. It also gives an insight of the main IR theories. In specific, will be analyzed the ideas, ideologies and the historical context behind the creation of international political institutions and the network of relations between different actors in world politics. This is an advanced course that will help the students in subsequent studies in IR. Students are required to participate in class seminars and to lead panel discussions on assigned reading topics. They will also be required to choose particular subject areas to develop their expertise, conduct oral presentations and submit a research essay from a designed list.

B. Purpose of the Course

Students will increase their awareness of current international issues, the historical background of the contemporary international system and the role of the major international organizations in it. They will also acquire a good understanding of how international affairs are conducted and how foreign policy decisions are taken at national level and within international organizations such as, the United Nations Security Council.

C. Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Develop social and political interaction skills for making a more positive impact on group cohesiveness and group processes

Assessment Methods: Class participation, discussions, group exercises.

- 2) Acquire a greater understanding of political issues related to the workings of international organizations such as:

- a. The interaction of national governments in the United Nations Security Council
- b. The role of the permanent members of the Security Council of the UN
- c. The factors and themes involved in foreign policy decision-making process
- d. The linkages between domestic, regional and international politics
- e. The nature of military and diplomatic instruments used to guarantee global security and promote peace.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, discussions, case studies, reading assignments, essay composition and final examinations.

- 3) Acquire a more advanced knowledge of mainstream theories in the study and analysis of international relations and political sciences in general.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, discussions, case studies, reading assignments, essay composition and final examinations.

- 4) Recognize the sources of international, regional and sub-regional conflicts.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, discussions, case studies, reading assignments, essay composition and final examinations.

- 5) Gain experience in presenting information to a wide and not always friendly audience by:

- a. choosing the appropriate language,
- b. understanding the dynamics of publicly expressing themselves both verbally and in writing,
- c. importance of body language,
- d. tone manner, active versus passive listening,
- e. gaining acceptance for ideas,
- f. self-control techniques and effective face-to-face interaction with others.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, engagement in group discussions, oral presentations.

- 6) Develop an understanding of the required research skills, critical thinking, and writing skills based on:

- a. the rational and logical construction of theory-building,
- b. methodology,
- c. gathering primary and secondary research data,
- d. formatting a written formal style in papers or research essays.

Assessment Methods: Class participation and discussions; reading assignments and general academic papers such as, books and journal articles; compose written assignment.

D. Instructional Strategy

The format of the classes for this course will be divided in three stages:

Stage 1) lecture given by the teacher;

Stage 2) one oral presentation (**15-20 minutes long**) given every week by a different student;

Stage 3) seminars and discussion to be attended weekly by all students, but will also

include: videos, PowerPoint presentations and the use of internet in order to gather academic relevant material for research and referencing the student's work.

E. Description of Course Requirements and Assessment Methods

There are no grading curves in this course. The grading system is criterion-referenced in measuring student performance for grades in the course. Subjective performance is measured by attendance, punctuality, participation, and the willingness to assume leadership roles in course activities, e.g., discussions, etc.

Course Requirements	Notes	Evaluation Weights	Percent Grade
Seminars	In Class	25 points	12.5%
Oral Presentation	In class	25 points	12.5%
Essay	Take Home	50 points	25%
Final Exam	In Class	100 points	50%
Totals:		200 points	100%

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade	Decimal Grade
190-200	95% and above	A	4.0
184	85%	A-	3.7
174	77%	B+	3.3
170	75%	B	3.0
164	72%	B-	2.7
154	67%	C+	2.3
150	65%	C	2.0
144	62%	C-	1.7
134	57%	D+	1.3
130	55%	D	1.0
124	52%	D-	0.7
123 or below	51 and below	F	0.0

* Note that 52% (124 points) is the lowest possible passing grade. Cumulative points below 52% will result in the letter grade of "F".

Oral Presentation (25 possible points, 12.5% of final grade)

There will be one oral presentation, (15 to 20 minutes long) in class, consisting of a critique or summary of a weekly topic developed by each student.

Scoring Table for Oral Presentation	Points Possible %	Points
Poise and Confidence	1%	3
Knowledge and Preparedness of Material	5.5%	10
Engagement of Participation	3%	6
Mode and Effectiveness of Delivery	3%	6
Total	12.5%	25

Presentations, once scheduled and committed, will not be rescheduled without teacher authorization and will be graded as 0 Points, if not completed. All presentations should have copies of summaries to all of the class at the time of the presentation, in order to achieve the highest result. Students are invited to use all the means available to them, to deliver the presentation; these include: Power Point presentation, lecture style presentation, use of videos, acetates, photocopies and any other mean they may think useful for a good final outcome.

Students can review a List of Topics that can be used for their oral presentations, or select a relevant topic of their own. Students scheduling presentations after the initial scheduled time must accept the earliest and/or remaining available dates.

Seminars (25 possible points 12.5% of final grade)

During seminars all students should participate. Students are expected to give contributions, ask questions to the student presenting the oral presentation for that week and engage in discussion with other students expressing their opinions with references to the assigned reading. Students who will show knowledge of extra sources of information, besides those suggested in the handout as basic reading for that week, will be awarded extra points.

Written Essay, 2000 to 2500 words length (50 possible points, 25% of final grade)

The Essay shall be an assignment culminating in a formal style written report and must have its premises, hypotheses, methodologies, and formats approved by the course instructor. The three primary criteria for the selection of topics should be:

- (1) passion and meaningful to the student,
- (2) practical utility, and

(3) the overall widespread benefits that are gained from researching the project.

Essay titles can be chosen among a list of titles given to the students by the teacher on the first day of class with the course handout. No Essay, whose title is not included in the course list, will be accepted without having their topics and outlines approved.

Please note that Essay topics and Oral Presentation topics may be the same or different. Students are responsible for making their own decisions on structuring these assignment criteria.

Research Reports will be due no later than **October 13, 2011**. Reports not submitted on the due date, without mitigating circumstances delay approved by the teacher, will be discounted 10% for being late. Essays submitted after the final class (**October 17, 2011**), will not be accepted and will receive a “0” or “F” as a grade for it.

The Essay (formal style), must contain: a Bibliography following academic standard format such as, Harvard reference style, end note or footnotes. The reference style must be coherent all throughout the Essay. It also should contain Appendices, if any. No less than five secondary references are required. At least 3 out of 5 references must be from current (since 1990) sources.

Students are encouraged to submit drafts of their reports for consultation although it is not a course requirement. It is advisable to note that reports using “Internet Sources,” newspapers, magazines, documents, journals, and books, realize that some are credible, some are not, so these references should not dominate the number of sources used as evidence in the report. Investigate the credibility of the sources before relying on them! The use of more than five total sources will not necessarily add to your grade; but using less than five sources will detract from your grade. Only word-processed or typewritten, double-spaced reports will be accepted.

Formal Style Research Reports may refer to any of the following references for format, structure, grammar, content, and style: APA; MLA; CBE; Chicago Manual of Style; and Turabian. Further references are available by website for OWL Publishing at Purdue University. The website address for accessing the research report link at Owl Publishing is: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/reportW/introduction.html>

under: “Writing Lab” – “Workshops and Presentations” – “Research Reports”

– “Understanding the Sections of Your Report.” General Format Structure of the Research Report

For specific information regarding pagination protocol, students are advised to consult any of the aforementioned sources, as they will vary upon which of the sources the student has chosen to use for writing their research reports.

Here below the student can find an explanation of how a research essay should be structured:

Introduction

In the introduction the student should explain the topic is going to research, giving a brief introduction for the reader to understand. She/he should also describe which methodology is going to follow or use and what she/he expects to find out from his research effort.

Body

In the body the student should develop the argument and expose the findings of his research, illustrating all the data analysis, if any. A good logic development should be formed by 3 to 5 points which are explained and organized in a coherent and clear manner. The style should be kept sober and clear, avoiding redundancies in exposing the argument and obvious statements.

Conclusion

The conclusion should be the final part of the Essay, where the student sums up the arguments developed during the research, and, where she/he finally gives the answer to the original question, if any.

Bibliography or Works Cited (alphabetical order), and Appendices (optional), e.g., glossary, indices, maps, photographs, correspondence, etc.

Bibliography or Works Cited must be constructed in alphabetical order and must be in one of the academic format. Students should keep in mind that the prevailing and most reader friendly referencing style in Political Science is the Harvard format (e.g.):

This reference style includes the reference to the book used in the text of the essay, as follow (e.g.):

S. Jackson reports: “.....” (**Jackson, 2001:35**).

Where first in order is the name of the author, second is the date of the publication and finally the page number. Students must remember that all quotations must be reported and highlighted between “quotation marks”; failure to do so may incur the student in plagiarism procedures.

Example of Harvard bibliography format to be written at the end of the essay:

Jackson, S. (2001), The Globalization of World Politics, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Final Exam (100 possible points 50% of final grade)

The Final exam will take place in the class after the last day programmed for this course (06 December 2010) and it will last three hours. The candidates will be asked to answer two questions to be chosen from a list of twelve.



Each question will be strictly related to one of the topics studied during the course. The answer to the question should be given in essay format. Extra points will be awarded to those students who will show critical insight in their answer, as well as mention of relevant sources to reference their conclusions.

Failing to attend the examination session without a mitigating circumstance form approved by the teacher, will result in a “0” or “F” grade for the final exam.

III. Course Readings and Materials

Due to the ever changing nature of the topic treated in this course, the book listed below is just indicative. Additional material up to date will be given in classroom. Students proactive in the research of recent material on the week topic will be rewarded with extra points.

Baylis J. & Smith, S. (2006), “The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations”, Oxford University, New York, USA.

Homework assignments, class readings, or articles may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Students should also make use of Alliant’s library and electronic library, in order to get hold of journals articles and other relevant sources to the topic discussed each week.

IV. Policies and Procedures:

Behavioral Expectations/Attendance

1. Policies Related To Class Attendance, Lateness, Missed Exams or Assignments

The University expects regular class attendance by all students. Each student is responsible for all academic work missed during absences. When an absence is necessary, students should contact the instructor as courtesy and to check for assignments. See the University Catalog for the complete policy on attendance. Attendance criteria for this class are: Excessive absences, arriving late, and leaving early are unacceptable. Every absence, late arrival, and early departure from class without reasonable cause may adversely affect the final grade. Classes will vary in their analyses of the readings having material presented by students and/or the instructor for lectures and group participation, e.g. videos, overhead transparencies, PowerPoint, etc. For that reason, attendance is extremely important and strongly recommended, with the following conditions:

- Students whose performance has been demonstrated to be marginal.
- Classes when quest lecturers and/or oral presenters, i.e., students that are scheduled to make their presentations. When possible, notification will be given in advance for scheduled times. Students are encouraged to ask questions and to seek assistance; and will be responsible for the assigned readings.



- Periodically throughout the course, selected classes will frequently be designated and used as “Writing Labs” presenting students with opportunities to ask questions, receive consultation on assignments and discussions, and edit drafts of their term project research reports. Three Writing Lab Dates will be scheduled.

2. Information on Participation/types of participation required by the course

Readings and participation are the central elements in the course. The assignments provide details for class discussions, small and large work groups; and will vary on each assigned topic. This is an interactive course and students are expected to read the assigned material prior to class. The amount and quality of participation in activities and discussions will be reflected in the students’ final grades. It is the student’s responsibility to identify and complete any work missed in the course.

3. Responsibility to Keep Copies

Remember – it is good practice to keep copies of ALL major assignments/papers you turn in. On rare occasions, work may be lost because of computer failure or other mishaps.

4. Respectful Speech and Actions

Alliant International University, by mission and practice, is committed to fair and respectful consideration of all members of our community, and the greater communities surrounding us. All members of the University must treat one another as they would wish to be treated themselves, with dignity and concern. As an institution of higher education, Alliant International University has the obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias and to provide an equal educational opportunity. Professional codes of ethics (e.g., from the APA for psychology students) and the Academic Code shall be the guiding principles in dealing with speech or actions that, when considered objectively, are abusive and insulting.

5. Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics

The University is committed to principles of scholastic honesty. Its members are expected to abide by ethical standards both in their conduct and in their exercise of responsibility towards other members of the community. Each student’s conduct is expected to be in accordance with the standards of the University. ***The complete Academic Code, which covers acts of misconduct including assistance during examination, fabrication of data, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and assisting other students in acts of misconduct, among others, may be found in the University Catalog.*** The University reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software.



6. Disability Accommodations Request

If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, please see me privately. All accommodations must be requested in a timely manner (at least 2 weeks ahead of time) with a letter of support for Alliant's Office of Disability Services. If you have questions about accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services.

7. Policy on Course Requirements During Religious Holidays

Alliant International University does not officially observe any religious holidays. However, in keeping with the institution's commitment to issues of cultural diversity as well as humanitarian considerations, faculty are encouraged to appreciate students' religious observances by not penalizing them when they are absent from classes on holy days. Alliant International University faculty will be sensitive to these matters. Students should be similarly respectful of faculty members' right to observe religious days.

8. Resources for Obtaining Tutoring or Other Student Support Services

Tutors are available to help students with course-based or exam-based needs. Contact the Academic Success Center for information on obtaining tutoring – or other student support services.

9. Problem Solving Resources

If problems arise with faculty, other students, staff, or student support services, students should use the University Problem Solving Procedures located on the web at http://www.alliant.edu/academic/studentproblemsolving/Student_Grievance_Policy.pdf or contact the University Ombudsperson at rkunard@alliant.edu.

V. Course Schedule:

The following is the general structure and content of the course. Students should remember that the exact content and schedule of the syllabus is subject to change without prior notice to meet student, faculty, or other needs. We may spend more time on some topics as needed, and conversely, may move more quickly over other topics. Because the subject matter in the oral presentations and/or videos and films may be similar at times with the information that is introduced in the course core text book, the reading schedule may be adjusted or even eliminated to avoid duplication in the presentation of the course's learning materials.

Date	Topic/Activity	Readings
August 29	Introduction to syllabus and research requirements; writing essay; scheduling of oral presentations.	None
September 01	The Globalization of World Politics	Chapter 1
September 05	The Evolution of International Society	Chapter 2
September 08	International History 1900-45	Chapter 3
September 12	International History 1945-90	Chapter 4
September 15	The end of the Cold War	Chapter 5
September 19	Realism	Chapter 7
September 22	Liberalism	Chapter 8
September 26	Neo-Realism & Neo-Liberalism	Chapter 9
September 29	Marxist Theories of IR	Chapter 10
October 03	Reflectivist and Constructivist Approaches to IR	Chapter 11
October 06	International Global Security in the post-Cold War era	Chapter 12
October 10	International Political Economy in an Age of Globalization	Chapter 13
October 13	The UN and International Order Essay deadline	Chapter 16
October 17	Trans National Actors and IOs in World Politics (Late Essay Deadline)	Chapter 17
October 20	Final Exam	

Final Exam exact location will be communicated during the semester

- 1) Assess and evaluate the process of Globalization in Contemporary World Politics.
- 2) How has international society evolved since the early 20th century?
- 3) What have been the consequences of the end of the Cold War?
- 4) What are the main features and characteristics of Realist Theory?

- 5) What are the main features and characteristics of Liberalism?
- 6) Assess and evaluate the main differences between Realism and Neo-Realism.
- 7) Assess and evaluate the main differences between Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism.
- 8) What are the main features and characteristics of Marxist theories of IR?
- 9) How and why Reflectivist and Constructivists approaches to IR are different from the classical approaches?
- 10) What are the main challenges for peace and security in the post-Cold War era?
- 11) How has International Political Economy evolved in the 21th century?
- 12) The United Nations Organization is the centerpiece of global governance. Discuss.
- 13) What is the role of trans-national actors in world politics?



Appendix: Alliant Mission, Values, Professional Practices and Competencies

A. Alliant Mission

Description: Alliant's mission is:

Alliant International University prepares students for professional careers of service and leadership, and promotes the discovery and application of knowledge to improve the lives of people in diverse cultures and communities around the world.

Purpose: The purpose of this anchor is to ensure that the Program fits within the University and School mission and vision.

B. Alliant Core Values

Description: The Alliant Core Values are Integrity, Intellectual Advancement, Diversity, Social Responsibility, Innovation, Stewardship, Partnership and Collaboration.

Purpose: The purpose of this anchor is to ensure that Alliant's Programs are planning and operating in accordance with Alliant's Core Values.

C. Alliant Professional Practice University Components of Excellence from the Mission

Description: The four components of a professional practice university explained in Alliant's mission are:

Education for Professional Practice

Scholarship

Multicultural and International Competence

Community Engagement

Purpose: The purpose of this anchor is to ensure that the 4 components of Alliant as a professional practice university are incorporated into the Programs.

D. Professional Practice Competencies

Description: The Alliant Professional Practice Competencies (A-IMPACT) are:

A discipline-specific body of knowledge and research/scholarship

Insight into the context of practice

Multicultural/International competence

Professional literacies

Application of knowledge and research in new ways

Conduct, judgment, dispositions and ethics

Team-based and multidisciplinary approaches

Purpose: The purpose of this anchor is to ensure that the competencies are part of all Alliant's Programs (at an appropriate level) and thus become a hallmark of an Alliant Program.