

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith 5210 Grand Avenue  
P. O. Box 3649  
Fort Smith, AR 72913–3649  
479–788–7000

## General Syllabus

### POLS 3153 International Relations

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite: POLS 2753 American National Government

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

## I. Course Information

### A. Catalog Description

An introduction to the institutions, policies and history that have shaped the relations between nations in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Examines the topic from various theoretical and historical perspectives.

## II. Student Learning Outcomes

### A. Subject Matter

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

1. Identify and use various theories that explain international events.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of global institutions.
3. Analyze the cause and repercussions of global conflicts.
4. Explain the ongoing development of globalization.
5. Discuss the forces that are shaping global politics now and in the future.

### B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

#### Analytical Skills

**Critical Thinking Skills** – Students will research, evaluate, and compare information from varying sources in order to evaluate authority, accuracy, recency, and bias relevant to the theoretical and applications of international relations. Students will generate solutions to/analysis of various issues that influence the outcome of international relations. They will assess and justify the solutions to and/or analysis of issues associated with the application of international relations.

**Quantitative Reasoning Skills** - Students will apply appropriate statistical models to understand the preferences of state actors on the international scene. They will represent statistical information symbolically, visually, numerically and verbally and will interpret models and data in order to draw inferences on the various and competing interests of state actors on the international scene. Students will recognize the limitations of quantitative analysis.

**Communication Skills (Written and Oral)**

Students will use a formal documentation style for written presentation of research projects. Students will acquire the conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to successfully communicate the nature and institutions of global politics to a wide audience. Students will compose coherent documents appropriate to get their points across to the class and to the instructor. Students will effectively communicate orally in a public setting.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will identify ethical dilemmas that nation-states often face on the world stage. Students will apply ethical frameworks to resolve a variety of ethical dilemmas of world politics.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will demonstrate how the international relations impact or is impacted by different political cultures.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Analytical and ethical tools for studying international relations
- B. Various theoretical perspectives on international relations
- C. International conflict and war in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century
- D. Globalization and the world economy
- E. Development and foreign aid
- F. Global forces of change