

Department: History

Course Name: International Relations

Course Description:

Students taking International Relations will study how nations relate to one another in the international arena, with a focus on the foreign policies of the U.S. We will discuss the basic principles of international diplomacy, examine institutions that promote internationalism and explore several problems that challenge the international community today. Simulations, online activities, Socratic seminars, and projects will be utilized to enhance the learning experience and introduce the students to many complex international relations topics. The course will be taught seminar style with a strong focus on current world events and challenges. As such, areas of emphasis will change from year to year as conditions and events dictate.

Content:

Basic concepts in the study of International Relations

The nature of conflict within and among nations

Historical and current relations between nations

The nature and protection of human rights

Current political climate and crises in different world regions

Skills:

Compare and contrast states, regimes, and governments through their structure, economy, standards of living, and educational systems

Recognize themes throughout the field and connect them to specific topics discussed in the course

Identify global patterns and processes over time and space while connecting local developments to global ones

Draw conclusions from the information presented in case studies, journals, and scenarios

Utilize the textbook, articles, and the internet to present a clearly formed and persuasive argument

Text and Materials:

International Relations, McGlinchey, E-International Relations Publishing

Various papers and journals, including the New York Times, The Economist, The Atlantic, and the Washington Post.

Methods of Instruction:

Group/partner activities

Individual presentations

Interactive, web-based learning activities (Formative, Google Slides, Padlet, Flip Grid)

Lecture, discussion

Methods of Evaluation:

Group presentations

Individual presentations

Debate and class discussions

Homework

Tests/quizzes

Major culminating paper