

Grande Prairie Regional College
Political Studies 2620
Winter 2008
**Introduction to International Relations II:
Economic Globalization, People and the Planet**
UT (UC, UL, AU, CUC, KUC, UA*, AF*)

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Office hours: Wed. 4:15-5:45/Fri. 1:30-3 p.m. and by appointment

Room:

Time:

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of international relations focussing on nonmilitary matters including free trade and world trade rules, economic disparities, population movements, the environment and the political significance of the communications revolution. It introduces themes and theories that can be applied to a broad range of issues and developments. Patterns of continuity and change, and convergence and divergence or fragmentation, will be observed.

Topics may include the future of the nation-state, free trade agreements, agricultural trade policy, global economic justice, developing world debt, climate change, deforestation and depletion of other natural resources, world population challenges, the plight of refugees, the political impact of the internet and other current events and issues.

This course, along with PO2610 (Security, War and Peace), constitutes a full-year introduction to the study of international relations.

*NOTE: PO2610 and PO2620 transfer together to the University of Alberta

Prerequisite: PO1010 or PO1020 or consent of Department

Course objectives:

- to introduce you to competing theories and approaches to help you to understand international relations and global politics
- to provide a greater understanding of specific issues and challenges the world faces today by applying the concepts and theories of International Relations analysts
- to consider in an informed way what can and should be done to address global political issues
- to encourage careful, balanced, systematic critical thinking about theoretical perspectives as well as current issues
- to prepare you for further study of International Relations at the post-secondary level if you should choose to pursue such study.

Required texts:

1. Allen Sens & Peter Stoett, Global Politics: Origins, Currents, Directions, 3rd edition.

- Toronto: Nelson Thomson Learning, 2005.
2. Keith L. Shimko, International Relations: Perspectives and Controversies.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.
 3. Internet and database readings.

Course requirements:

Attendance and participation.....	10%
Midterm exam	30%
Term Paper.....	25%
Final exam	35%

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+ 90-100	B+ 76-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 55-59
A 85- 89	B 73-75	C 64-66	D 50-54
A- 80- 84	B- 70-72	C- 60-63	F 0-49

Topics

- I. Introduction. What is Globalization? Is it unstoppable? A force for good or evil? An initial look. The future of the Sovereign State.
- II. Perspectives on the World Economy. Approaches including Liberalism, Marxism, Dependency Theory. The evolution of the global economy.
- III. Free Trade and Trade Liberalization. Who benefits?
- IV. International Political Economy: International Financial Institutions. The IMF and World Bank. Structural Adjustment Policies.
- V. Debt Crisis and Relief. What form of relief is advisable?
- VI. Global Population Growth and Movement. A Crisis? Migration. Brain Drain.
- VII. Global Ecopolitics: Climate Change, Disease, Deforestation. Is Kyoto the answer to global warming? Is it economically destructive or beneficial? Is it fair? How serious are environmental problems?
- VIII. Foreign Aid. What do Rich Nations Owe Poorer Ones?
- IX. Human Rights. Are there universal human rights? Trade and Human Rights. Child Labour. Other topics.
- X. Global Politics, the Communications Revolution and the Information Age. What is the political impact of the internet and other technological advances? Is Cultural Globalization Cultural Imperialism?