

Study Abroad Course Syllabus

Course dates: January 16th-May 12th, 2026

Travel dates: January 1st through January 9th, 2026

COURSE PREFIX: INR 2002 H

COURSE NAME: International Relations, 3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Earl Fratus

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ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory study of the factors that affect relations among nations, including the development of nationalism; the elements that determine national power; the formulation of foreign policy; the art of diplomacy; the history and application of international law; international economics; international organizations; militarism and war; case studies involving the above; and contemporary events in international relations.

The Canada experience component of the course will offer the students firsthand knowledge of how international relations are not only defined by diplomatic policy but also by global economics, cultural exchange, religious diversity, and shared history.

This course satisfies the writing requirements and minimum required 47 contact hours outlined in the General Education Requirements.

REQUIRED TEXT

International Relations; Goldstein, 10th edition

STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant
- being in good academic standing at the time of application (cannot be on academic warning, probation or suspension)
- being enrolled for credit in an approved study abroad program course
- interviewing with program's lead faculty member
- being approved by the Center for International Programs-paying all deposits and fees according to the fee schedule

In addition, participants are strongly encouraged to get all immunizations and preventative treatments recommended for the particular country and regions through which they will be traveling.

MEETING INFORMATION/ATTENDANCE POLICY

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the International Political System. Through active learning and critical thinking students will become familiar with the factors that affect relations among nations. This will include an introduction to International Security, the development of nationalism, the elements that determine national power and the formulation of a nation's foreign policy. Through our coursework, we will examine the art of diplomacy, the evolution of international law, the history of militarism and the modern dilemma of peacekeeping.

We will also explore the various factors that drive the International Political Economy and the numerous international organizations that work within the interwoven global environment. Historical, contemporary and current events will be included in our case studies.

A large amount of material is covered in this course and students are expected to BE PREPARED each day to discuss the scheduled topic and/or familiar with our visits, tours or events of the day. This includes completing the assigned reading, web assignments, and essay topics in addition to staying up on current events.

This class is being conducted as an online course, with in-class time (for students traveling) and combined with out of class online activity. The travel component is also an intricate part of this course.

Students are expected to complete a large portion of the course on their own time, and independent of the traditional classroom setting. That is where the online portion of the course factors in to assist and guide students in a blended learning environment. The online portion of this course is a vital source for interaction with the material covered in this course. Students are required to maintain frequent online course activity throughout the session.

Online activities will include but not be limited to: retrieving and completing scheduled assignments, accessing instructor notes, visiting specific web sites, as well as viewing customized media segments online. All assignments will be submitted online. Please refer to the course schedule for the on campus/online class and travel dates.

Weekly attendance online is essential to success in this course. Students are expected to attend class and complete all assignments & exams by their due dates in order to demonstrate continuous active participation in this course. In order to maintain active participation in the course, students must complete web assignments, essay project & journal assigned. Students are expected to attend two classes before and one class after our travel. You should plan to arrive on time and leave only when the class has ended. Excessive tardiness or leaving the classroom early on a regular basis disturbs others & is not considered good academic conduct.

During our on-campus weeks, if you are absent it is necessary to call or email your instructor and find out what you have missed. Again, you must contact your instructor immediately if you miss class in order to keep current on assignments and maintain active participation in the course.

Since this course touches on various political subjects and the sometimes controversial dynamics of American and International Governments, it is essential for us to maintain a civil classroom environment. Students are expected to show the utmost respect and courtesy for their peers and those with differing viewpoints.

As part of the class, each student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple writing assignments. This will be fulfilled via the following assignments:

1. By completing the Essay Project. The essay project is a series of in-depth college-level essays, incorporating APA writing format. This assignment must include critical analysis and thoughtful academic elaboration of the subject matter that it covers. The essay project consists of 8 directed essays with specific multi-part questions covering the areas of: Power Politics & Alternatives to Power Politics; Foreign Policy; International Conflict & Military Force; International Organization and Law; International Trade; Money and Business; Integration; The Environment; The North-South Gap and International Development. Questions and specific requirements for the project will be given the students the first day of class.

2. A series of web exploration assignments. These are out of class assignments in which students are asked to visit certain web sites that accompany certain subjects in the course, and then either answer a series of analytical questions or write a short essay reporting what they found on their web site expedition.

3. Keeping a Daily Journal while in Austria and Germany. The journal entries will be in the form of an internet blog and will be completed nightly when students return to their rooms. This is a reflection exercise to not only record what you did for the day but to reflect and analyze what you experienced and learned as part of the visits. Even though this is a journal and can be considered less formal than the essay project, students are expected to meet college-level grammatical standards and expectations of college-level writers. Each blog post should also include pictures and at least one video taken while in Austria and Germany. Details will be shared during the first day of classroom instruction.

4. Participation. We will role-play a Model UN. Students will pick a country and we will look at some current events and the students will interact with each other representing their country's interest. This will include presenting positions to the rest of the class.

This course is designed to meet the college's writing requirement. Therefore, you are expected to write at least 2,000 words to fulfill the expectations set forth by the college. A passing grade CANNOT be awarded to those students who do not fulfill the writing requirement for this course.

**25% Essay Project / 25% Web Assignments / 25% Daily Journal / 25% Participation =
100%**

Grading: (100 – 90 =A) (89 – 80 = B) (79 – 70 = C) (69 – 60= D) (59 and below = F)

Please note that in order for this class to count towards satisfying the Gordon Rule requirement, you must earn a grade of C or higher.

COURSE CONTENT

Major Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will understand the development of the nation-state system and the elements of power that determine a nation's international effectiveness.
2. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the theories and practicalities that shape foreign policy and the application of foreign policy through diplomatic conduct.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of international law and the agencies of its application today.
4. The student will learn the basics of the operation of international economics.
5. The student will learn the objectives and organization of the major international bodies.
6. The student will understand the causes and effects of war.
7. The student will understand contemporary international problems based on methods developed in the course.

Course Objectives Stated in Performance Terms:

1. The student will understand the development of the nation-state system and the elements of power that determine a nation's international effectiveness by:

- a. explaining the origin of the nation-state.
 - b. distinguishing between "liberal" and "integral" nationalism.
 - c. recognizing the elements of national power and identify the relationships among them.
 - d. interpreting the symbols of nationalism.
2. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the theories and practicalities that shape foreign policy and the application of foreign policy through diplomatic conduct by:
 - a. distinguishing between "primary" and "secondary" interests in foreign policy.
 - b. recognizing the role of public opinion in formulation of foreign policy.
 - c. defining the meaning of "power politics."
 - d. identifying the origin and development of diplomacy as method of action.
 - e. recognizing the operation of protocol.
 - f. identifying art of negotiation.
 - g. recalling the functions of a diplomat.
 - h. recognizing the limits of negotiation and diplomacy.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of international law and the agencies of its application today by:
 - a. identifying the origins of international law.
 - b. listing the sources of international law.
 - c. outlining the differences between courts of adjudication and arbitration.
 - d. relating the organization of international courts.
 - e. identifying the problems of enforcing international law.
4. The student will learn the basics of the operation of international economics by:
 - a. outlining currency and trade policies.
 - b. recognizing international organizations that are economic in nature.
 - c. recognizing the role of "economic imperialism."
 - d. identifying the economic problems and the attempts to solve them.
 - e. relating the inequities of world economics.
 - f. recognizing the realities within underdeveloped countries.
 - g. memorizing the meaning of the terms:

- (1) Third World
- (2) Less Developed Countries (LDC)
- (3) East-West Dialogue
- (4) North-South Dialogue
- (5) New Economic Order

5. The student will learn the objective and organization of the major international bodies by summarizing the history, organization and objective of:
 - a. United Nations
 - b. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
 - c. Warsaw Pact
 - d. European Union (EU)
 - e. Comecon
6. The student will understand the causes and effects of war by:
 - a. explaining the historic causes of war.
 - b. describing the relationships between war and national interests.
 - c. discussing the development of weaponry.
 - d. outlining the differences between strategy and tactics.
7. The student will understand contemporary international problems based on methods developed in the course by classifying contemporary international situations based upon:
 - a. causes
 - b. present conditions
 - c. options

PREREQUISITES

POS 2041/POS 2050 or equivalent. With permission of the instructor, students can take POS 2041 and INR 2002 within the same term.

DUAL ENROLLMENT, EARLY ADMISSIONS, & EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

A Dual Enrollment, Early Admissions, or Early College student may not withdraw from any college level course. Withdrawal from a course will jeopardize the student's graduation from high school. Please contact Larry Webster; Dual Enrollment (341-3181), Jeff Cesta; Early College (791-5970), or your campus Early Admissions coordinator for additional information.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at:

<http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>.

There is NO tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly, the ideas are someone else's, so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule 6Hx23-4.461,

Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, RELATED DEVICES

All electronic devices such as cell phones, beepers, pagers, and related devices are to be turned off prior to entering the classroom, library and laboratories to avoid disruption. Use of any device in these areas is a violation of College Policy and subject to disciplinary action.

ITEMS TO PACK

In these days of constantly changing airline regulations, checked baggage weight allowances, etc; be sure to check with your airline for maximum weight allowance several weeks before departure.

PASSPORT and a couple of photo-copies of the photo page. Keep one in your luggage

and carry one with you. Leave your passport in the hotel safe.

Photo-copy of plane ticket (keep separate from plane ticket)

Clothing (shorts, pants, shirts, socks, etc.) for 8 full days in Britain

Long pants and jeans are needed since some exhibits require them

1 pair of sneakers for walking – since we will be doing a lot of it

1 raincoat (or poncho)

sunglasses

sun-tan oil/lotion

soap, shampoo

travel alarm clock

enough money for personal use – souvenirs, snacks, etc.

water bottle

camera

notebook

pencils, pens

day pack

plastic garbage bags for laundry

Toiletries in zip-lock bag

any personal medication in zip-lock bag and copies of the script

chap stick (w/sunscreen)

Extra pair prescription glasses

STUDENT CONDUCT / ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

Please refer to important information about student conduct and related policies in your study abroad application package.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you anticipate requesting of the Learning Specialist an accommodation for a documented disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC).

LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISORY FOR STUDY ABROAD

DESTINATION(S)

www.state.gov - This information is subject to change; please check this source again as departure time nears.

Suggested safety precautions and arrangements.

Although it is not required by the CDC, students may want to consult with their personal physical on any recommended inoculations.

In addition, specifics regarding safety in an unfamiliar environment are covered in participant orientation, including the Study Abroad Emergency Checklist. This checklist covers knowing where to go in

emergencies (how to get there, transportation options), emergency contact information (home and local) and contact numbers (local 911 equivalent, embassy, police, hospital, etc.), back-up plans, special conditions, emergency kits, and cash reserves and alternatives. Closer to the time of travel, current safety conditions can be obtained from the State Department via the Internet. All participants are required to carry international health insurance that covers \$100,000