



CIEE Global Institute – Paris

Course name:	Contemporary Controversies in International Relations
Course number:	(GI) INRE 4007 PAFR
Programs offering course:	Paris Open Campus (International Relations and Political Science Track)
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2018

Course Description

This course looks at current global controversies, using current theoretical and paradigmatic approaches among scholars and practitioners to gain greater understanding of world politics and international relations (IR) between countries. The course will analyze the role of states, and international organizations and non-governmental actors will also be addressed. A central issue that we will investigate is how governments, supranational bodies (like those of the European Union) and global institutions can address pressing global and regional problems such as terrorism, environmental destruction, and violations of human rights.

Discussion of current events will allow students to use the analytical tools provided by IR scholars and studies focusing on transnational dynamics and international public policy, particularly as they pertain to France and Europe.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the importance and limits of international governance issues in a globalized world
- Develop a deepened understanding of the theoretical and practical approaches to governance issues
- Demonstrate an appropriate use of specific vocabulary
- Develop the ability to write critically about international politics and international relations
- Critically analyze and explain policies actions and challenges in international relations.
- Understand the policy options available to states and governments in addressing global and regional issues.



Course Prerequisites

No specific prerequisites are needed for this course.

Methods of Instruction

This course will combine lectures, case studies and class debates.

Assessment and Final Grade

Case study presentation:	25 %
Response to the case study presentation/debate	10%
Mid-term Exam:	20 %
Final Exam:	25 %
Class Participation:	20 %

Course Requirements

Case study - presentation

At each session - from session 7 to session 13 - students will present research on an international crisis. They will do so in pairs.

The presentation should contain the following elements:

- o Presentation of the case: historical AND political contexts
- o Discussion of the theoretical arguments used by the opposing parties
- o Presentation of the sources - both empirical AND theoretical - used in the study

The importance of theory in the study and comprehension of an international crisis will be emphasized.

Each student in the pair will participate in preparing and delivering a portion of the presentation.

The overall presentation will not exceed 40 minutes.

Distribution of assignments will take place during the first session.

Response to the case study presentation/debate

The audience (i.e., other students) should not remain passive, however. They will be expected to read the text on which the presentation is based; their response (questions, queries, contradiction...) to the presentation and their active participation in the discussion that follows will itself be evaluated.

Midterm exam and Final exam



Each exam (short answer questions and essays) will cover all topics discussed and analyzed in class. The early exam will logically focus on the core notions in International Relations examined in class up to that point. The final exam will involve the analysis of a document, drawing on the students' familiarity with theories and issues in International Relations at that point as well as their improved methodological fluency in document analysis.

Class Participation

As part of their work in this course, students should demonstrate learning beyond the submission of written assignments or presentations. As such, all students receive grades based upon participation.

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilising the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students receive grades based upon their contributions both in the classroom and in the Canvas course.

Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed by the Instructor, in advance of each class session. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials where directed.

This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Class Attendance and Punctuality

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and *all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course.*

Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, *unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course sessions will also result in a lower final grade.*

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. *Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement.* Students who miss class for



personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

An absence in a CIEE course will only be considered excused if:

- a doctor's note is provided
- a CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
- satisfactory evidence is provided of a family emergency

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Open Campus Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1	No academic penalty
10 – 20%	2	Reduction of final grade
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 4 language classes	Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion



Weekly schedule

Week 1 – INTRODUCTION : IR AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THEORY

- Session 1.**
- A. International and Global Relations
 - B. Genesis of Political Modernity

Week 2 – THE QUESTION OF WAR AND PEACE

- Session 2.**
- A. The Foundation of Modern Theory
 - B. Theory of Sovereignty : The Modern State

- Session 3.**
- A. War is an Act of Sovereignty
 - B. The State and Foreign Policy

- Session 4.**
- A. International Law & IR.
 - B. What is Peace ?

Week 3 – STATE POWER AND REALISM

- Session 5.**
- Midterm Exam**
- A. Power and 21st Century World Order
 - B. Regional Order vs World Order : the EU



Session 6.

Co-curricular outing #1. TBA.

Week 4 – REALISM AND LIBERALISM

Session 7.

A. Classical Realism/Structural Realism

B. Case Study : China and Geopolitical Order

=> <http://www.globalissues.org>

go to « China's silk Geopolitics »

Session 8.

A. Liberalism / Neo-Liberalism

B. Case Study : Irak

=> <http://www.globalissues.org>

go to « Irak Crisis »

Session 9

A. Critical Theory

B. Case Study : the Arab Spring

=> <http://www.globalissues.org>

go to « Middle East »

Week 5 – CHALLENGES TO THE WORLD ORDER (1)

Session 10.

A. Nuclear Proliferation / Terrorism

B. Case Study : Arms Trade

=> <http://www.globalissues.org>

go to « Arms Control » « Arms Trade »

Session 11.

A. Islam and the West

B. Case Study : War on Terror



=> <http://www.globalissues.org>
go to « War on Terror »

Week 6 - CHALLENGES TO THE WORLD ORDER (2)

- Session 12.** **Co-curricular outing #2. TBA.**
A. Climate Change. Green Theory:
the Challenge of Climate Change.
- Session 13.** B. Case Study : Environmental Security
=> <http://www.envirosecurity.org>
FINAL EXAM. Conclusions to the course

Course Materials

Bibliography

- Beeson M. and N. Bisley N. (eds). *Issues in 21st century world politics*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. Print.
- Baylis, J., S. Smith and P. Owens (eds) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford University Press, 2013. Print.
- Carlnaes, W., T. Risse and B. Simmons (eds) *Handbook of International Relations*. second Edition. Sage, 2012. Print or e-book.
- Reus-Smit, C.. and D. Snidal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* , Oxford, 2010, print or e-book.