

This will be a seminar course. In eight sessions, we will analyze international relations in the current decade. We will briefly consider major theories of international relations and then move quickly to describe and understand international situations and issues in the modern world. The emphasis is on clearly comprehending the relationship between international conflicts and cooperation. The effects of globalization will pop up frequently. Sources include internet information, articles from professional journals and newspapers in order to have updated information about imminent international issues today and to think about them critically.

**Objectives:**

Here's what undergraduate students strive for in their international relations studies. Perhaps you will, too!

1. Demonstrate comprehension of theories of international relations including realism, idealism, liberalism, neorealism, integrationism, interdependence, dependency, world system and regime;
2. Tell exact locations of major countries on a world map and explain what problems those countries are facing;
3. Demonstrate understanding of the causes and processes of modern international issues;
4. Differentiate the concept of internationalization from that of globalization;
5. Skillfully use extensive sources of information including internet, government publications, professional journals, and newspaper;
6. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through research paper writing and discussion.

**Topics:**

What is international relations?

Balance of power

International security

Principal causes of war

International political economy

International trade and monetary system

International law

International organization

Regional reviews: North America, Western Europe, Russia, Middle East, Africa, China, and Other East Asia

**References:** There is no required reading. But if you are interested, have a look at these:

Textbook: Joseph Nye, Princeton. Updated in its 9<sup>th</sup> edition, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation* is a concise and penetrating introduction to world politics in an era of complex interdependence. This text employs lessons from theory and history to examine conflict and cooperating among global actors and thus to provide readers with a durable analytical framework. From twentieth and twenty-first century wars to global finance and global governance, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*, expands substantially on a classic work and continues to deliver a thought-provoking survey of international relations today.

Journals: *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*. Available online at the Loudoun County Public Library Databases Page.

Web:

[www.foreignaffairs.com](http://www.foreignaffairs.com)

[www.foreignpolicy.com](http://www.foreignpolicy.com)

[www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

[www.stratfor.com](http://www.stratfor.com)