

INR 3002 International Relations

Fall 2009 / Spring 2010

Course Aims

To familiarize the students with the development, theoretical debates, and changing structural features of International Relations (or better, Global Politics) throughout the 20th Century and into the New Millenium: the evolution from a world neatly partitioned into rival states with "clear" national interests to one where, owing to the many challenges of globalization, not least the rising importance of non-state actors, old certainties regarding international society become questioned and new solutions required. Clearly, key to any understanding (as opposed to merely explanation) of the processes and dynamics prevalent within Global Politics is the concept of power. Its identification, and the analysis of the various forms it manifests itself is a central aspect of this course.

Course Material

Baylis, John & Steve Smith. The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2001.

Grading System

Mid-term:	30%
Final:	30%
Report:	20%
Participation/Readings:	20%

Class attendance is mandatory and each unjustified absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by 5%.

Course Schedule

1.- Introduction to Course –

Overview and terminology
Factors influencing Human Relations
Cultural, Religious and Ethnic factors

2.- The Evolution of International Society –

From Ancient Greece to the age of Globalization
National objectives
International objectives

3.- 20th Century History –

The Alliance Syndrome and self protection
1900 – 1920
1920 – 1945
Effects of WW11 (post-war interests, objectives and policies, Yalta, ideologies, reconstruction, Bretton Woods, UN)

4.- **Cold War** –

Conflicting theories.

The arms race, The space race, 3rd world countries.

The disintegration of the USSR. Reasons and consequences.

5.- **Post-Cold War International System** –

Competing Visions

Change or continuity? - US, Europe, Japan, Russia, & China.

6.- **Global Economy** –

Post-war world economy

US hegemony

Rise and fall of Bretton Woods system

OPEC and the power of Oil

The development of international finance.

Role of International Organizations (IMF, World Bank, WTO)

9.- **Less Developed Countries** –

Systematic exploitation of the 3rd World?

International trade, debt, MNCs

Political-Economic-Social factors

10.- **Environmental Issues**–

Global environmental change

Climate, Resources, eco-systems

Collective responses at international level

11.- **The United Nations and International Order** –

Objectives and structure of UN

Organizational/operational problems

Relevance and efficiency of UN

12.- **The Middle East** –

Historical background

Cultural/Religious/Political areas

Arab - Israel conflict

Islam - Western World conflict

13.- **European Integration** –

Development & evolution of the EU

Effects of European Union membership on member countries: Spain.

Future enlargement plans

Evaluation

14.- **World Integration** –

Regional Trading Blocs
Possibilities of further unions
Evaluation