

Faculty of Economics and Political Science
Evolution of International Political Relations

Information :

Course Code : PSC 304

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Science

Area Of Study :

This course treats the history of international relations, especially the European diplomatic history from 1618 to the Second World War (1945) until which European countries were dominating the international system, as well as vast areas of the world they had colonized. It also presents the Cold War between the two powers; the US and the USSR from 1920 until 1991. It focuses on decolonization of the colonial order which is one of the radical transformations of the international system since the 19th century at first to unipolar system and finally to multipolar system. The course emphasizes the distinctive conflicts such as the Thirty Years' War which ended with the Treaty of Westphalia (1648), Wars of Louis XIV (1667-1714), the French Revolution (1787- 1799), the two World Wars of the 20th century and, finally, the Cold War (1947- 1991).

Course Goals:

☐ Become aware of the role of Great Power competition over the centuries and the rise of different alliance systems in different epochs.

☐ Comprehend and analyze crucial issues raised of the change in international relations over the centuries, and the rise and fall of great powers.

Description :

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Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

1 -	Define the changes which led to the rise of different great powers, such as global power competition and world wars.
2 -	Recognize different historical events and their effect on the current international system.
3 -	Identify the importance and frameworks of the issues or factors which led to great power competition, world wars, and the rise and fall of great powers.

b. Intellectual Skills: :

1 -	Outline the changes in international regimes over the centuries.
2 -	Emphasize on understanding the future forecasts concerning the changes in the international system.

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

1 -	Relate and connect between historical events and political theories with contemporary political issues such as the Arab-Israeli Conflict, or the "New Middle East".
2 -	Employ gained knowledge in the analysis of a variety of case studies.
3 -	Illustrate the art of research and use of methodologies with respect to the desired case study and sub-field of specialization.

d. General and Transferable Skills: :

1 -	Construct logical arguments on the reasons for the rise and fall of great powers.
2 -	Evaluate different sources of historical information and their credibility and arguments.

Course Topic And Contents :

Topic	No. of hours	Lecture	Tutorial / Practical
Introductory Lecture and Course Outline	3	1	
World War I	3	1	
The Peace of Paris	3	1	
The Road to September 1939	6	2	
World War II	3	1	
Midterm Exam		1	
The Cold War: The Beginning of the Cold War	6	2	
The Cold War: The Origins of the European Union	3	1	
The Cold War: The Berlin Wall + The Cuban Missile Crisis	3	1	
The Cold War: 1979: Iran and Afghanistan	6	2	
The Cold War: The Fall of the Soviet Union	3	1	
Final Exam		1	

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

Demonstration videos
Presentation
Simulations
Debates
Group discussion
Research Paper

Course Assessment :

Methods of assessment	Relative weight %	Week No	Assess What
Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper)	30.00		To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills.
Final Exam	40.00	15	To assess knowledge and intellectual skills.
Midterm Exam(s)	30.00	7	To assess professional skills.

Periodicals :

William C. Wohlforth, Unipolarity, Status Competition and Great Power War, World Politics, Vol. 61, No. 1, January 2009 (28-57).