

**Course Profile - Department of International Relations**

Course Number: <b>IR 531</b>	Course Title: <b>Current Issues in International Relations</b>
Required / Elective: Elective	Pre / Co-requisites: -
<p>Catalog Description: Major issues in international politics such as terrorism, development, human rights, climate change, ethnic conflict, and weapons proliferation. Contemporary debates surrounding these issues within the context of globalization.</p>	<p>Textbook / Required Material:</p> <p>Paul A. Cox. 1997. <i>Nafanua: Saving the Samoan Rain Forest</i>. W H Freeman &amp; Co.</p> <p>C. W. Kegley, Jr. 2009. <i>World Politics: Trends and Transformations</i>. California: Wadsworth.</p> <p>J. Clapp and P. Dauvergne. 2011. <i>Paths to a Green World: The Political Economy of the Global Environment</i>. Massachusetts: MIT Press.</p> <p>T. Ali. 2004. <i>Bush in Babylon: The Recolonisation of Iraq</i>. Verso Books.</p> <p>H. Dabashi. 2012. <i>The Arab Spring: The End of Postcolonialism</i>. London and New York: Zed Books.</p> <p>R. C. Taras and R. Ganguly. 2008. <i>Understanding Ethnic Conflict: The International Dimension</i>. New York: Longman.</p> <p>K. Waltz. 1979. <i>Theory of International Politics</i>. New York: McGraw Hill.</p> <p>Martin S. Indyk, K. G. Lieberthal, M. E. O’Hanlon. 2012. <i>Bending History: Barack Obama’s Foreign Policy</i>. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.</p> <p>N. Chomsky. 1999. <i>The Culture of Terrorism</i>. London: Pluto Press.</p> <p>J. Fox. 1997. <i>Chomsky and Globalization (Postmodern Encounters)</i>. London: Icon Books.</p>
Course Structure / Schedule: <b>( 3+0+0) 3 / 7 ECTS</b>	
<p>Extended Description:</p> <p>This course encourages graduate students to writing, speaking, discussing on floor and presenting in public about the major contemporary issues in international politics, including but not limited to conflict and cooperation, globalization, conflict resolution, nationalism, power politics, systemic analysis, terrorism, international law and globalization. Another major purpose is to endorse the application of grand theoretical frameworks (i.e., realism, liberalism, constructivism, rational choice) to current issues in world politics, and the contextualization of these issues within these frameworks.</p>	
Design content: None	Computer usage: Required

Course Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Develop a broad understanding of international politics.
- Be able to develop efficient ways of comprehending and analyzing old and new issues in world politics.
- Analyze real world events in light of the major paradigms and theoretical frameworks of international politics.
- Think, write, and speak more clearly and cogently about current issues in international politics.

Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, video clips, slides

Course Outline

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	Introduction
2	History of International Politics: Connecting the Past to the Present
3	Globalization: Economic
4	Globalization: Political and Cultural
5	The World System after the Cold War
6	Nationalism and Ethnicity
7	Environmental/Green Issues in World Politics
8	US, Russia and China
9	Unrest in the Middle East (Egypt, Libya and Syria)
10	9/11 and Bush Doctrine
11	Iran-West Problems
12	The Arab Spring and Turkey's Foreign Policy in the Middle East
13	Obama foreign policy in the Middle East
14	Turkey-Israel Relations
15	Conclusion and Wrap-up

Assessment methods:

Class participation: 40%

Writing assignments: 60%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
MIR1	Possess in-depth knowledge about the fundamental concepts and theories of the discipline of International Relations					X
MIR2	Be aware of the theoretical approaches related to the issues of the system, nation-state, institutions, culture, and power in world politics					X
MIR3	Follow closely the contemporary world conjuncture					X
MIR4	Be able to question the well-established knowledge and causal relationships in the field of International Relations				X	
MIR5	Be aware of the shortcomings and gaps in the International Relations literature and be able to carry out research that addresses these gaps and shortcomings				X	
MIR6	Comprehend various scientific research methods and be able to use these methods effectively			X		
MIR7	Be able to produce an original, scientific study in the field of International Relations					
MIR8	Be able to think independently, creatively, and critically				X	
MIR9	Embrace work ethics and behave accordingly					X
MIR10	Be open-minded towards new phenomena that emerge in world politics and the politics of states					X
MIR11	Have self confidence and acquire the ability to deliver presentations in public					X
MIR12	Be able to work together with individuals from different cultures, beliefs, and opinions					

\*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading	75 hrs
Lectures	15 hrs
Class discussion	35 hrs
Written assignments	50 hrs

**TOTAL ..... 175 hrs (25x7) 7 ECTS**

Prepared by : Ödül Celep

Revision Date : 30.10.2013