

**Hagerstown Community College**  
**OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS DOCUMENT**

**COURSE:** POL 204 - International Relations, 3 Credits

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Eric Schwartz

**SEMESTER/YEAR:**

**Room:**

**Office Hours:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course examines the major approaches to international relations, stressing interstate relations and the contemporary international political system. Special emphasis is placed on the methods and goals of diplomacy and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Other topics include an examination of the history of diplomacy; international institutions and organizations; transnationalism, decision making, and the increasing interdependence of the modern world; the methods of conducting foreign relations, the foreign policies of the major powers, and the means of avoiding and alleviating international conflicts. A strictly non-partisan approach is followed that aims to be inclusive of all political orientations. Prerequisite: GEO 105 or POL 101; or the consent of the instructor. Semester offered: variable.

**TEXTBOOK:** Nau, Henry R., *Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, and Ideas*, 4th ed., 2012. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of the course, students will make analytical/synthesizing presentations that will be judged as competent by practitioners of international relations.

**COURSE CONTENT OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. define the historical dimensions of international relations;
2. describe the economic, social, political and psychological determinants of international relations;
3. formulate a theoretical framework to analyze the unfolding panorama of contemporary international relations;
4. assess the structure and functions of basic international and regional organizations;
5. analyze, using a particular theory or combination of theories regarding international relations, a selected international issue or problem.

**ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES:** The procedures used in International Relations are a form of performance contracting. There will be no curve; the point system for the course will be: A = 100 – 90; B = 89 – 80; C = 79 – 70; D = 69 – 60; and F = 59 – 0.

Students will complete two papers. The first paper, due Oct. 20, will be worth 100 points. The second paper, due Dec. 1, will be worth 200 points.

Students will also take two exams. The first exam is worth 100 points. The second is worth 200 points.

Quizzes will be administered too. These will be worth 200 points total. (Note: 12 quizzes will be administered, but the lowest two will be dropped.)

Students will also prepare one class presentation focused on a relevant scholarly article that pertains to the material covered in the class. This presentation will be worth 100 points.

Participation will be worth 100 points. Part of the participation grade will be determined by students' involvement in class discussion. For each class, each student is expected to bring in and be prepared to discuss one news article pertaining to international politics. The students should prepare three questions for discussion for each article, and submit them with a copy of the article. The articles and questions should be serious and ideally should pertain to the framework of the class.

A total of 1000 points will be earned for a perfect grade in the class. The percentages for grading can be figured out with some simple arithmetic. An "A" grade, for example, will range from 1000 to 900 points.

The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and evaluation procedures as needed. Students enrolled in this course are expected to use literate and effective English in their speech and in their writing. All papers submitted must be well written; grades on written work (including examinations) will be based on expression as well as content. The papers should follow the style guide of the American Political Science Association. The style guide for this style is posted on Moodle.

**MINIMUM CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE:**

	DIRECT Faculty Instruction In-class <b>37.5 h required</b>	Student Work Out of Classroom <b>75 h required</b>
In-class "lecture"	37.5 h	
Reading chapters		15 h
Quiz/activity for each chapter	Included in lecture time	10 h prep
Research project		30 h
2 lecture exams		10 h exam prep
Cumulative final exam	Included in lecture time	10 h exam prep
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>37.5 h</b>	<b>75 h</b>

**COURSE POLICIES:** The student will be expected to use any resources needed to achieve the objectives of the course. There will be two class meetings per week. The student should plan to spend an amount of time preparing for class that equals the time spent in class. The instructor will be available for student conferences outside of class, within reason.

Students are expected to read all assigned materials and to complete all assignments prior to class. Any student who is unprepared should alert the instructor prior to the start of class.

Students are expected to attend all classes. This is a small class, so your absence will be noticed and felt. If you are not present, you are not participating, and participation is part of the final grade. It is the student's responsibility to confer with the instructor about the absence and missed course work. If a student knows he/she will miss a class, the student should email the instructor prior to the start of class informing the instructor that he/she will miss the class for a reason specified in the email. A student is responsible for making up all missed course work.

A student should make prior arrangements to turn in homework and make up exams. There is no "make-up time" for quizzes. If a student knows he/she will miss a class in which an exam is scheduled, the student should arrange a make up with the instructor. The instructor is not required to accept late work or make arrangements for a make up exam and the instructor will not do so unless the student has an acceptable excuse.

Students may consume beverages in class, but they should not be distracting.

All cell phones must be turned off during class.

Students are expected to abide by the College's policy on academic integrity, as outlined in the HCC catalog and the HCC Student Handbook. Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this university. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating during exams, using the work of others as yours, fabrication of information or citations, having unauthorized possession of exams, submitting the work of others under your name, or tampering with academic work of others. Plagiarism is the presentation of the words or ideas of another person or source as if they were one's own. Any incident of academic dishonesty will be reported.

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus, the course content and/or the evaluation (testing) procedures as deemed necessary.

Do not rely on reading scores on Moodle to determine your grade. Use the formula listed in the syllabus to figure your grade. Moodle works as a repository for grades, not a calculator.

Further, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from any class that he or she ceases to attend. Failure to do so will result in the recording of an "F" grade. For 15-week classes, HCC will retain the registration fee and refund 100 percent of the balance until the end of the first week of classes, if a student completes the official procedure to withdraw.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Instructor: Dr. Eric Schwartz

Division of Behavioral Sciences & Business

Telephone: 240-500-2409,

Email: [eschwartz@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:eschwartz@hagerstowncc.edu),

Office: BSH 135. Monday 1:30-2:30; Tuesday 1:30-3:30; Wednesday 1:30-3:30 p.m.

#### **Service to Students with Special Needs:**

Reasonable accommodations are provided to qualified students based on current documentation. Contact the Coordinator of Disability Support Services at 301-790-2800, x273, to request accommodations.