

POE116 Introduction to International Relations

David Last, PhD

Instructors

Professor in Charge

Major H.C. Breede, PhD

Professors for sections

Dr. J. Boulden (Tuesday 0800-1000, Thursday 1530-1630)

Maj. H.C. Breede (Monday 1230-1330, Thursday 0800-1000) Summary

Dr. K. Hulme (Monday 0800-1000, Thursday, 1230-1330)

Dr. K. Hulme (Wednesday 1430-1530, Friday, 0800-1000)

Dr. D.M. Last (Tuesday 1430-1630, Thursday, 0900-1000) Summary

For Dr. Last's details, including office hours and additional resources, see links from his homepage. This printable version of the course outline defers to the online version, which will be updated as necessary.

Course description

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of international relations. It addresses theoretical approaches to international relations and the utility of these approaches for describing and analyzing international events. These are discussed in conjunction with concepts related to foreign policy-making, national interest, security and weapons technology, regional and global organizations, international political economy, and globalization.

Learning objectives

This course is part of the mandatory common core at RMC because a professional officer must be able to understand and explain the implications of international events, and to assess critically the explanations of others. Seeking to understand the significance of events and issues in international relations should engage you throughout your career. You won't learn everything you need in one course. The course should permit you to do several important things as a leader and "manager of violence":

Identify international relations as one of the major fields of political science, within broader disciplines of social science, with associated analytical tools

Describe major issues in the study of international relations

Analyze the impact of events on our understanding of relations between states

Evaluate the connection between events and theory development

Judge theories of international relations in light of historical and contemporary events

I have provided a brief overview (1600 words) of the course in terms of its learning objectives.

DLast Key Learning Objectives POE116-2017.

Where it fits in the program

International relations is a common core area of study for all cadets taking degrees at RMC. It will normally be taken early in the program for students in arts, and may be in later years for students in science and engineering.

Textbook

Shiraev, Eric B. and Vladislav Zubok (2016) International Relations. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0199746516

Other readings will be provided online to augment your understanding of concepts, events, issues, and cases.

Course requirements and evaluation

- You will complete written assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor.
- I will provide a marking guides for each assignment.
- Instructors may choose to use software to verify the provenance of your work (e.g Turnitin).
- You are expected to attend all classes unless excused by the professor, and will be objectively assessed on work completed in class.
- The final exam will be held in-hall during the college examination period. There will be a common exam for all sections.
- Academic regulation 10.2 is in effect: “The instructor may refuse a student permission to write a final examination in a course if the requirements with regard to course work have not been met.”

Marking scheme (common to all sections)

Quizzes	30 percent (two quizzes worth 15 percent each)
Written assignments	20 percent
Final exam	50 percent

Course content

Individual sections may vary the order and content of the weekly headings. Professors may assign additional reading. Engaging students in the understanding of current events as presented in mass media is an important part of the course.

Course Syllabus for Dr. Last’s section is on this site. [Printable PDF Version](#)

Academic integrity

The college policy on academic integrity governs all work submitted. Written work will be submitted through Turnitin.

Overview of Course Material

This is a summary of the content of the course, corresponding to the common course outline. Within each heading, students will make their own choices about the cases to be presented and analyzed. The cases you present may be the subject for your written assignment for the course.

Section 5

Week 1 Introduction (5,7 Sep) David Last

Week 2 Skills (12,14 Sep) David Last

Week 3 Theories and methods (19, 21 Sep) Abigail Cowbrough, Tyler Zhao

Week 4 Violent events (26, 28 Sep) Abigail Cowbrough, William Cresswell

Week 5 Economic events (3, 5 Oct) William Cresswell, Bradly Duval

Week 6 Fall break and Quiz 1 (no class 10 Oct, Quiz 12 Oct)

Week 7 Visiting Defence Fellow Panel (17, 19 Oct)

Week 8 Diplomatic events (24, 26 Oct) Bradly Duval, Avery Grouette

Week 9 Issues: system formation and fracture (31 Oct, 2 Nov) Avery Grouette, Nicholas Hughes

Week 10 Simulation and Quiz 2 (7, 9 Nov)

Week 11 Issues: state formation and fracture (14, 16 Nov) Nicholas Hughes, Brayden Macmaster

Week 12 Issues: human impacts (21,23 Nov) Brayden Macmaster, Owen Murphy

Week 13 Revisiting theory (28, 30 Nov) Owen Murphy, Jonathan Richardson

Week 14 Exam review (5 Dec) Jonathan Richardson, Tyler Zhao

These assignments do not affect the normal duties of the class senior (Tyler Zhao)