

PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

BA Courses

Course List

Program	Courses
BA in International Relations and Diplomacy	Classic Readings of International Relations
	The Government and Politics in China
	China and International Organizations
	Chinese Foreign Policy
	International Arms Control and Nonproliferation
	Government and Politics of China
	Chinese Culture
	Chinese Philosophies and Modern China

3rd Year	Media and Politics in the U.S.
	Special Topics in International Relations: Advanced Academic Writing
	Seminar on International Relations and Cross-cultural Studies
	Comparative Political Economy

Course Description

Classic Readings of International Relations

In a period when scholars and students alike are groping for a better understanding of a newly ordered world, revisiting some classic analyses and getting acquainted with the latest development of international relations can be extremely rewarding. The selected readings of international relations in this course are intended to provide students with an understanding of the diversity of approaches to the study of international relations and an appreciation of the key concepts and frameworks as well as the information of the latest development in this field.

These readings will better enable students to understand a subject that is not only complex, exciting, full of controversy and debate but also a matter of great importance in the contemporary world, which will definitely lay a solid foundation for the further study or research in this discipline.

The selections in this course will facilitate an understanding of the changing international system and provide a solid basis from which to think about the future of the international relations.

The Government and Politics in China

The aim of this course is to explore the structure, configuration, and elements of government and politics in China. The core concepts, political history of modern China, ideology, governance, and political economy, politics and policy in action, ethnic politics in China's Tibet, Xinjiang will be thoroughly discussed.

Students will be able to:

- 1) have good understanding of government and politics in China;
- 2) use theories as tools for analysis of Chinese policy issues;
- 3) form critical thinking abilities in political analysis and elsewhere

Combination of Lecture style and seminar way, ensuring active participation of each and every single student.

China and International Organizations

The aim of this course is to explore some key questions concerning multilateralism and international organizations in theory, and the relations and interactions between China and major international organizations.

Chinese Foreign Policy

With the focus on the relationship between China and the world, this course mainly discusses China's foreign policy over a span of more than 60 years since the foundation of new China. Through class teaching, expert lectures and thematic seminars, this course aims to help students to understand the development and evolution of relationship between China and major powers, its neighboring countries as well as international and regional organizations, to grasp the latest research results on China's foreign policy, and to comprehend the causes and effect of China's foreign policy.

International Arms Control and Nonproliferation

The aim of this course is to enable students to understand basic knowledge in arms control and nonproliferation field as well as security issues, have the ability to apply international relations theories to specific arms control issues, Develop academic interests, and practice in conducting research on given topics.

A research report written in English is required on one of the given topics chosen by yourself (around 3000 words).

Government and Politics of China

This course is an introduction to contemporary politics of China, which mainly addresses current policy making issues in Chinese government. We will review briefly the pre-reform government policy and structure in a beginning class session, and then start addressing current policy making issues. We will make our focus on the last 20 years of the reform period in Chinese policy-making issues. The goal of the course is to let students familiarize themselves with the basic issues of the policy process in China today and gain a better understanding of the changing scenarios of policy-making processes in different arenas and relevant to questions such as: How do Chinese political institutions operate? How are Chinese political leaders chosen? How are policies made?

The design of the course is based on the educational philosophy that students learn best by doing, i.e. reading, researching, writing, presenting, interviewing, and discussing their findings with their classmates and the instructor. For this reason, the class will be a joint project of the instructor and the student, which requires enormous participation from students in presentation, discussion, debate, role-play, and storytelling. The success of those activities depends much on students' willingness to contribute. In the process, the instructor seeks to impart his understanding and respond to the inquiries and comments of students about the topics of focus.

The course is also based upon the assumption that one cannot develop valid insights about current Chinese government issues without tuning to the physical setting, to the culture, i.e. the ways of thinking and behaving and the values of a people and the leading political figures.

Desired learning outcomes of the course would be that students should be able to: 1) Identify major issues of government policy and structure; 2) Understand and recount the objective conditions and cultural constructs that lie at the root of Chinese policy issues and decision making processes; 3) Identify the essence of the policies now being followed; and 4) Develop analytic skills in explaining political practices in China.

Chinese Culture

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the Culture of China in terms of its fundamental structure, which means how the Chinese see the world (they do not have the same concept of the Universe as the people do in the West), and how they think, how the Chinese language is different from those languages of the West, and what they value, which has become what they have found as meaning of life. We will focus on these topics in the six beginning class meetings and you are supposed to learn a penetrating way which would help you understand why the Chinese think and behave as they do. Then we turn onto topics such as Laozi's Daoism, Confucius's Confucianism, Buddhism, a brief introduction to the modern history of China, which one cannot do without when trying to understand Chinese culture, Chinese medicine, Calligraphy, Chinese painting, Peking Opera, food and Kongfu – I would like to see if you will be able to understand them in terms of the Chinese view of the world (universe), thinking modality, and Chinese value system. I would also show you a couple of movies for you to comprehend the Chinese ideas seen from its cultural structure. This course will entirely be conducted in the manner of comparative study of Chinese and Western cultures. The goal of the course is to let students familiarize themselves with the basic structure of the Chinese culture and gain a quick and better understanding of the issue of China while you are physically emerged in the Chinese circumstances of China.

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The course is also based upon the assumption that one cannot develop valid insights about current issues of China without tuning to the physical setting, to the culture, i.e. the ways of thinking and behaving and the values of a people and the leading figures of the nation

Desired learning outcomes of the course would be that students should be able to: 1) Identify major issues of Chinese culture and its structure; 2) Understand and recount the cultural constructs that lie at the root of other social issues of China; and 3) Develop analytic skills in explaining cultural issues of China.

Chinese Philosophies and Modern China

This course is a comprehensively and comparative introduction to Chinese philosophy. Students become familiar with the major philosophical themes – in terms of structural differences and with respect to worldview and modality of thinking – and learn how the differences are embedded in the Chinese language and other aspects of Chinese intellectual and cultural traditions. The course traces the original formation of the Chinese modality of thinking to the conception of “tongbian” in the Yijing, and then survey Daoism, Confucianism, the Confucian development in the Song and Ming periods, the “liberal” and Legal school of thought, Buddhism, the Confucian thinkers of the Modern period, and “Dialectical Materialism,” which had been introduced from the West but became a signified form of thought as continuity of tradition. The course also examines the Chinese form of “liberalism” since the 1980s and the future of Confucian scholarship in the postmodern era. Finally the course considers how the central questions of Western philosophy pertain to the Chinese tradition, and how relevant Chinese philosophy is to the differences in approaches taken to such issues as truth, good, beauty, mind, body, spirit, Being, cosmology, ontology, and epistemology. (3 credits)

Media and Politics in the U.S.

This course examines the problems of the media and communication, including their politics and relevance as regards the conception of democracy in the United States and from a global perspective. It emphasizes an analysis of why the media act the way they do, examining the media impacts on government, policy-making, political movements and the prospects for informed political deliberation.

There will be generally five sections, which cover a general history of politics and media in the U.S., and the issues of democracy, corporate control, commercialization, the future and global market of the media. We will discuss how democratic the nature of the media has been, as interest group gradually controlled them. Is democracy coming true with the concentration of media power in the hands of a few? What does American politics drives for in the Media Age? Throughout the

course students should gain a better understanding about the relations between politics and the media, and the media's political role and the nature of globalization.

Special Topics in International Relations: Advanced Academic Writing

This course aims to provide the students with an in-depth analysis of international relations through historical, theoretical and empirical perspectives, focusing on the study of various topics of the international political environment with basic theories and history of comparative politics and global studies. The main objective of this course is to help students to improve their Academic Writing Skill while also gaining a global perspective, essential element for global leadership, to contribute to society on an international level.

Students will have one lecture per week. It will be required to participate in a seminar format discussion in the second hour of the lectures.

Students will be encouraged to apply the information learned in the lectures to issues gleaned from contemporary news sources.

Evaluation will be based upon class participation, numerous presentations and mid-term and final papers.

Seminar on International Relations and Cross-cultural Studies

This course will begin with a survey of the basic theories of comparative politics and culture. As culture can be defined as both the context of existing meanings and the dynamic that stimulates the production of new meanings, theories of comparative culture are in continual evolution. Thus, our approach to cultural studies will be dynamic in order to reflect the different social realities. The main objective of this course is to help students to gain a global perspective and to contribute to society on an international level.

Students are to complete all assigned readings before class to be able to discuss the merits of the assigned work.

It will be required to participate in a seminar format discussion in the second hour of the lectures.

Evaluation will be based upon class participation, short presentations, several quizzes and mid-term and final papers.

Comparative Political Economy

This course provides a broad overview of the comparative political economy subfield by focusing on the mechanisms by which political institutions affect economic performance and how these political institutions emerge and are sustained. Because the study of comparative political economy requires the knowledge of specific cases, we will focus on five countries: United Kingdom, United States, France, Germany, Japan and China.