



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

### **COURSE NAME:**

International Relations

### **CREDITS:**

The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits and a Certificate of Completion for passing with a minimum grade of a D.

### **MEETING TIMES:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday (days may vary based on activity schedule)

Periods: 1 – 4 (periods and times may vary based on activity schedule)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces important issues and major topics in modern international relations and with discussion on Japan and it's relation to course content. Current events will be discussed and how states interact with each other. Subjects covered will be international cooperation, trade, international law, security, conflict and human rights issues.

### **COURSE LEVELS:**

Classes are taught and conducted in English. No Japanese language level is required.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the session, students should be able to:

- 1) Understand the important issues in modern international relations.
- 2) Understand basic concepts and challenges of contemporary debates and international politics.
- 3) Understand political, economic and social issues and how they affect global systems.
- 4) Critically analyze the common arguments of contemporary international affairs.
- 5) Understand Japan's position in major important issues and topics of modern international relations.

### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture, participatory (dialogical, reciprocal learning), inquiry (research & inquiry, cooperative group, engage by generating questions), critical thinking and constructive thinking (analyzing and examining media, multiple alternative culture), creative future thinking (action agenda, root cause, exchange ideas).

### **TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR CLASS MATERIALS:**

The instructor will provide class materials.

### **GRADING, CERTIFICATE, GRADING PLAN & EVALUATION:**

All students will get a grade for this academic course. You will also get a Certificate of Completion at the end of the course. Students who do not pass with a letter grade of D or above will not be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A    80-89 = B    79-70 = C    60-69 = D    50 and below = F

Breakdown:

- Class Participation: 25%
- Attendance: 25%
- Assignments: 20%
- Final Project: 30%

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

It is required for students to attend all classes and come to class on time. Students should refrain from using cell phones while in class and eating during class times.



## STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to conduct themselves well in the class. Disciplinary action may be taken for but not limited to dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism.

## Course Schedule (General – Subject to Change)

Class Day	Topic	Class Day	Topic
1	Course Orientation, Introduction to International Relations, Key Concepts and Theories	6	Japan's post-war diplomatic policy. Japan's Overseas Development Assistance
2	Field Trip: Bank of Japan Museum (afternoon) Theories of International Relations: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Critical Theories	7	Field Trip and workshop: JICA Global Plaza (afternoon) Regional Cooperation in East Asia Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy
3	Class Tour: Tokyo Imperial Palace Yasukuni Shrine Peace and Security: IR Theories, Issues and Challenges International Relations of East Asia Japan's interaction with global powers: US and China	8	Group discussions: Reflections on the field visits of Japanese institutions and article analysis (Japan's current foreign policy)  Individual report on contemporary political and economic issues in Japan and the Asia and the Pacific
4	Japan's interaction with regional powers: ASEAN  Video Watching: The strategic significance of ASEAN relations	9	Individual report on contemporary political and economic Issues in Japan the Asia and the Pacific  Wrap-up Lecture and Discussion
5	Theories of International Political Economy Global Economic Governance  Discussion on individual and group presentations		