

Course Outline (*please complete as appropriate*)

COURSE TITLE	Global Affairs: Understanding the World Today
NAME OF LECTURER	Bohdan Szklarski

COURSE DESCRIPTION
<p>In order to understand the world one cannot be afraid of its complexity. The course is designed to make all aspects of today's global politics comprehensible. For us the world will be a system where various actors (states and non-state actors) compete and cooperate. The conflicts arise and subside, leaders emerge and disappear and all the time competition for power fuels people's actions. We will try to understand what motivates actors in the international arena and how ideas and problems become "national interests". We shall try to understand how conflicts arise and how they are managed by all kinds of actors. We will study how foreign policy is made, how decisions are made. What role in that process is played by history and culture and how much power rests in the hands of individuals. In the end we will look at major conflicts of today (case studies) in order to explain them through the eyes of various actors and from various perspectives from America to Far East. We will make frequent uses of media and documentary films.</p>
RECOMMENDED READINGS
<p>There is no need to buy a book, all learning materials are provided by the lecturer in an electronic format. selected assigned readings, materials, and class handouts will be distributed by the instructor. We will be basing on the most current scientific publications in the area of foreign policy journals, reading current press and using selected parts from the following texts:</p> <p>Alex Mintz, Karl DeRouen, Understanding Foreign Policy Decision Making, Oxford University Press, 2010 Karen Mingst, Essentials of International Relations, W.W. Norton, 2012 Joseph Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, Pearson, 2007 Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft, America and the World, Basic Books, 2008</p>
TEACHING METHODS
<p>Lectures, group discussions, Class activities: case study and role play workshops and mini group projects Videos</p>
ASSESSMENT METHODS
<p>evaluation of classwork (case studies & role play workshops) 40 Homework assignments 2x5=10 Mid-term and Final exam (short exam, written form) 2x20=40 Attendance and participation in class discussions 10</p>
CLASS TOPICS (<i>each class is 3 hrs</i>)
<p>Why study foreign policy in comparative perspective? The world as System Actors in the international arena What is power in international context? Superpowers and regional powers How to define "national interest"?</p>

Soft power in international relations

Who shapes foreign policy: leaders, circumstances, culture, history, power?

Domestic sources of foreign policy

Major issues in the world today

Major international conflicts

Is war inevitable?

Diplomacy as a tool

Politics and international economy?

SPECIAL COMMENTS

Course Goal: In the world where more and more new graduates are highly skilled and professional at their field of specialization, employers emphasize that many of them lack "soft skills", such as communication, leadership, teamwork, or dealing with diversity. The Understanding the World Today Course aims at providing students with both knowledge and well as opportunity to discuss current event in a classroom setting and practice analytical thinking. The focus is put on both conceptualization and acquisition of skills. For this reason, we will engage in exercises designed to help students develop these skills - conceptual analyses, discussions of cases, role playing and thinking-oriented activities.

해외우수교수초빙강좌 수강 제한 및 유의사항 (Notice for KNU students)

- a. 2018년 8월 졸업예정자(조기졸업자 포함)
- b. 국내 타대학 교류학생
- c. 재이수의 경우 개강전 수강취소만 가능(7.4-7.5에 한함)
- d. 해외우수교수초빙강좌 수강과목은 2018.2학기 수강꾸러미로 신청불가