

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (H): COURSE #241

Contact Information

Pamela Lynn
Regional Department Leader, Social Studies
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
36 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720
Telephone: (978) 264-4700, x3413
Fax: (978) 266-1133
E-mail: plynn@mail.ab.mec.edu

The Department's Educational Philosophy

The goal of the Social Studies Department is to provide students with the information and skills necessary to act as responsible global citizens. To achieve this goal we facilitate the process whereby students develop an understanding of American culture. Culture includes the unique characteristics of American society – its social structure, economic system and political organization. An understanding of American society must be grounded in a knowledge of the general patterns of western civilization from which American culture evolved. In an age of increasing global interconnectedness, it is vital to develop an awareness of and appreciation for other cultures.

Guiding Principles

All social studies students should:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the major factors involved in the development of civilizations from the Middle Ages to the present.
- Acquire useful and relevant information about the world in which they live.
- Develop the necessary skills to gather further information about whatever interests them.
- Think critically about sources of information, both primary and secondary, recognizing bias and viewpoint and separating fact and fiction.
- Interpret the world around them in such a way that they can make responsible decisions and act upon them effectively.
- Develop personal values and a sense of their own worth and dignity as individuals.
- Respect and appreciate one's own culture and way of life, as well as those of others.
- Be aware of the dependence of humans on their total environment and develop a personal concern for the preservation of an environment worth living in.
- Possess a sense of responsibility toward others and a willingness to work in a cooperative way for the common good.
- Develop a respect for learning and a desire to continue to learn beyond the opportunities provided by formal education.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (H): COURSE #241

Course Frequency: Full year course, five times per week

Credits Offered: Five

Prerequisites: B in all history classes is recommended and the completion of U.S. History II with recommendation of instructor

Background to the Curriculum

This is an elective, full year course designed to provide students with a general overview and understanding of the international stage today and the history of diplomacy, as well as the theories of relations among states. The course has three basic components: the historic development of diplomacy and the state as principal actor on the international stage; the various theoretical and ideological methods of understanding and studying international relations; the social, political, economic and demographic components influencing the behavior of states. In addition, various regional studies will be undertaken depending on the news of the day; such as, but not restricted to: The Middle East, Russia and the former Soviet Union, South Asia (India/Pakistan), Sub-Saharan Africa, and China. A variety of outside readings, maps, primary sources, and Internet sites supplement the textbook materials.

Major Themes/Skills

- Global interdependence
- Diplomatic history and geopolitical analyses
- Forces behind change
- Levels of analysis as an analytical tool
- Challenges to the state
- Structure and function of modern IGOs
- Organization and operation of multinational organizations
- Non-governmental organizations as international actors
- Foreign policy decision-making
- Origins of Cold War and the bipolar system
- Role of perceptions in international relations
- Different outlooks from different states
- Tools of power in international relations
- International political and economic issues
- Typologies of international conflict
- Conflict of values

Topics

- International relations in the 21st century
- Political Idealism
- Political Realism
- Sovereignty and Legitimacy
- State, Nation, and Nation-state
- Evolution of the state system
- The National interest
- International Government Organizations
- Multi0national Organizations
- Non-governmental Organizations

Topics (continued)

- The Foreign Policy Process
- Balance of Power System
- Collective Security System
- Bipolar System
- Evolution of the East-West Conflict
- Modernization and the conflict between developed and underdeveloped world
- National perceptions and the clash of civilizations
- Aspects of Power
- Economic parameters of power
- Military parameters of power
- International Law
- War, Peace, and Violence
- Defining Human Rights
- Global responses to Environmental Deterioration and International Health Issues
- Regional Studies
 - ~ Middle East
 - ~ Russia and former Soviet Union
 - ~ China
 - ~ South Asia (India and Pakistan)
 - ~ Sub-Saharan Africa

Course-End Learning Objectives

<u>Learning Objectives</u>	<u>Corresponding state standards, where applicable</u>
1] Understand the concept of the state and the challenges it faces as principal actor on the international stage.	WHI.1, WHI.35
2] Analyze the theory that capitalism is the final stage of economic development.	WHII.7, WHII.11, WHII.35A
3] Analyze the contradictory themes of state fragmentation and the growth of multi-nationalism.	WHII.40A-D, WHII.29
4] Analyze whether Western-style democracy is always the most desirable form of government.	WHII.48, WHII.42B
5] Understand the dangers and limitations of a parochial outlook in international diplomacy.	N/A
6] Become aware of the relationship between many of today’s conflicts and European imperialism.	WHI.14, WHII.28C, WHII.11, A&B
7] Understand the concept, “The Seductiveness of Moral Disgust,” and the role it plays in the foreign policies of the developed nations.	WHII.15A, C, WHII.43, B-E
8] Identify who defines a nation’s “national interest.”	WHII.48

9] Compare the effectiveness of hard power (military) to soft power (political and economic).	WHII.48, WHII.31, WHII.32 D, F, H, I
10] Analyze the effects of the demographics of world population growth.	WHII.36
11] Identify methods the world might use to deal with environmental crises such as water shortages and new diseases.	WHII.36, WHII.45, WHII.46
12] Compare a multi-national corporation's duty to its stockholders vis-à-vis the national interests of the countries where it is located.	WHII.36, WHII.46
13] Analyze how we can best protect ourselves, as a nation, from terrorism.	WHII.48
14] Analyze whether the present situation in Iraq fosters or reduces the terrorist threat to ourselves and to our allies.	WHII.48
15] Understand globalization and compare its benefits and its harms.	WHII.42, WHII.46
16] Understand that you cannot comprehend world politics without a solid understanding of world geography.	N/A
17] Analyze the effects of current foreign aid programs on the poor nations of the world.	WHII.36B
18] Identify ways to make the United Nations more effective.	WHII.29, WHII.36B
19] Evaluate unilateralism and multi-lateralism as American foreign policy options.	WHII.48
20] Evaluate the effects of world trade agreements.	WHII.36B, WHII.42A
21] Understand the many faces of Islam and its tremendous appeal to the poor of the Middle East.	WHII.47, A-F
22] Understand the delicate balance being walked by the Saud dynasty and its implications for stability in the region.	WHII.47A, E
23] Understand why Turkey and Iran are very special cases in the region.	WHII.47B
24] Analyze China's unique policies of economic liberalization and political conservatism.	WHII.34, B-E
25] Understand the "two-China" and "one-China" policies and the dilemma of Taiwan.	N/A
26] Analyze whether Russian democracy is functional or merely procedural.	WHII.40, A-D; WHII.41, A; WHII.42, B & C
27] Understand the role of the oligarchs in Russia's emerging economy.	WHII.42A
28] Analyze why genocide was allowed to take place in Sub-Saharan Africa.	WHII.43 C
29] Evaluate whether African problems should be left to "African solutions."	WHII.43, WHII.44
30] Understand the potential danger of a war between new nuclear powers India and Pakistan over Kashmir	WHII.43, D, E
31] Analyze whether a unified and expanded European Union could be America's major adversary in future years.	WHII.35, WHII.36B

Assessment

Tests
Map assignments
Class participation
Round
Table discussions

Debates
Power Point presentations
Group projects
Critical Essay on approved monograph
Oral presentation

Technology and Health Learning Objectives Addressed in This Course

(This section is for faculty and administrative reference; students and parents may disregard.)

<u>Course activity: skills &/or topics taught</u>	<u>Standard(s) addressed through this activity</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1] Use of computers and the Internet by students for research and daily work is encouraged when helpful or appropriate.2] Research and topic papers are expected to be typed.3] Power Point presentations are recommended for some group projects.4] Watching World News, both American and foreign, is encouraged, as is reading <u>The New York Times</u> Sunday edition on a regular basis.	

Materials and Resources

Text: Contemporary International Relations. Daniel S. Papp. Longman, NY

Atlas: The New Comparative World Atlas. Hammond

Supplemental materials:

Foreign Affairs magazine

“Annual Editions,” a series of compilations of articles from assorted publications. Dushkin Publications

The Ends of the Earth. Robert D. Kaplan

The Warrior’s Honor. Michael Ignatieff

Between Memory and Desire. R. Stephen Humphreys

The World and I magazine

International Debates. The Congressional Digest Corporation