Miami-Dade Community College
INR 2002 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Course Description: This course explores the nature of international relations, its history, the causes of leading political and economic problems and the efforts to remedy them. It examines the foreign policies of the major countries, the causes of war and peace, as well as international organizations, and major global issues, including globalization, integration, migration, poverty, environmental concerns, and the impact of technology on global affairs.

3 credits

Prerequisites and Corequisites: None

Course Competencies:

Competency 1:	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIOUS THEORIES WHICH TRY TO EXPLAIN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BY:

    a.   describing the points of view of idealism, realism, behaviorism, and neoliberalism.

    b.   pointing out the limitations of such theoretical constructs.

    c.   defining basic political terminology such as power, balance of power, collective security, diplomacy, and nationalism.

Competency 2:	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF FOREIGN POLICY DECISION-MAKING BY:

    a.   listing the personal or psychological factors which affect policy.

    b.   describing the bureaucratic, institutional, political, economic and cultural variables which influence the leaders of states or of non-state organizations.

    c.   analyzing the external conditions such as foreign military threats or economic disasters abroad which impact on the leadership of a country.

Competency 3:	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVOLUTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM BY:

    a.   identifying the role of families, clans, tribes, empires, states and nations and other forms of group identity in the relations among people.

    b.   analyzing the nature of the rise and fall of the great empires before AD 1500.

    c.   describing the beginnings of the modern interstate system following the Peace of Westphalia of 1648 and listing the foreign policy objectives of the major world powers.

    d.   recalling such important international events as the industrial revolution, the age of imperialism, World War I, World War II, the age of decolonization, the Cold War, and the information revolution

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by keeping the learner=s needs at the center of decision making and working in partnership
with its dynamic, multi-cultural community.

Competency 4.	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY BY:

a. knowing the meaning of such economic concepts as trade, comparative advantage, protectionism, integration, money, exchange rates, capital and labor mobilization, and investments.

b. analyzing the causes of poverty and prosperity from a wide range of perspectives.

c. describing the various ways of classifying countries on the basis of their domestic institutions and levels of prosperity.

d. identifying the principal international organizations for economic development and for economic cooperation and integration.

e. illustrating experiments in integration such as the European Union, Euroland, NAFTA, and MERCOSUR.

Competency 5:	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BY:

a. describing the structure and objectives of multinational corporations, ethnonational movements, and ideological organizations.

b. demonstrating how these non-state actors can undermine national sovereignty.

Competency 6:	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAUSES OF WAR, AND THE CAUSES OF PEACE BY:

a. analyzing the personal, social, political and international factors associated with war.

b. describing the efforts which in the past have led to the end of hostilities or which have kept the peace, including international law, diplomacy, and balance of powers.

c. knowing the types of war and the technologies associated with them.

d. detailing the global struggle for human rights.

Competency 7:	THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE BY:

a. studying the principal global environmental concerns from a variety of perspectives.

b. analyzing the impact of information technology on countries, industries, national security, and human development.

c. studying the major international problems facing the world presently and their possible solutions.

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