

## Course Outline

### Part I

<b>Programme Title</b>	: Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Global and Environmental Studies
<b>Programme QF Level</b>	: 5
<b>Course Title</b>	: International Politics and Law
<b>Course Code</b>	: SSC3103
<b>Department</b>	: Social Sciences
<b>Credit Points</b>	: 3
<b>Contact Hours</b>	: 39
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	: Nil
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	: EMI
<b>Course Level</b>	: 3

### Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

#### 1. Course Synopsis

This course discusses a wide range of theoretical and applied issues on the interface between international political and legal affairs. Various key concepts of international

politics and international law including theories of international relations, war and peace, conflict resolution and prevention, global political economy, international institutions, among others, will be introduced to students in detail in order to help students develop skill to critically evaluate real-world events through the use of academic concepts. Interaction of the above concepts with global environmental issues will be featured as case studies throughout the whole course.

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- CILO<sub>1</sub> examine critically features of and debates on international politics and law.
- CILO<sub>2</sub> develop critical thinking skills using multiple perspectives.
- CILO<sub>3</sub> analyze reports and statements of governments and international organizations related to international politics and law.
- CILO<sub>4</sub> appreciate the merit and applicability of various theories in international politics and law in the area of global environmental issues in particular.

## 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Introduction of international relations: theoretical overview, with a focus on the academic debate between realism, liberalism and constructivism.	CILO <sub>1,2,4</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> <li>• Debate</li> </ul>
Theories of war, including discussions on reasons leading to global insecurity, and emerging security challenges beyond inter-state conflicts	CILO <sub>1,2,4</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Debate</li> <li>• Case studies</li> </ul>
Conflict and crisis prevention mechanism that is applicable to the arena of international politics and law.	CILO <sub>1,2,4</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> </ul>
Global institutions relating to international politics and law, especially the United Nations, WTO, IMF and the World Bank.	CILO <sub>1,2,3</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> <li>• Debate</li> </ul>
Actors beyond states, including NGOs, transnational networks and business actors in international politics	CILO <sub>1,2,3</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> </ul>
Major principles and rationales behind international laws and their interaction with global environmental issues.	CILO <sub>1,2,4</sub>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual inquiry</li> <li>• Group discussion</li> <li>• Debate</li> </ul>

## 4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Group Research Paper (a group work of 2,500-3,000 words) on selected topical international issues with students' research and analyses	35%	CILO <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>
Individual Paper (of about 1000 words discussing the applicability and limits of different IR theories)	25%	CILO <sub>1,2,3,4</sub>
Examination (2 hours)	40%	CILO <sub>1,2,4</sub>

## 5. Required Text(s)

Anieri, P. D. (2012). *International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs*. Belmont, C.A.: Cengage Learning.

Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P. (Eds). (2011). *The Globalization of World Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## 6. Recommended Readings

Barkin, J. S. (2006). *International Organization: Theories and Institutions*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Brownlie, I. (2008). *Principles of Public International Law* (7th ed.). Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

Chasek, P. S., Downie, D. L. & Brown, J. W. (2014). *Global Environmental Politics* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

Mitchell, R. B. (2010). *International Politics and the Environment*. London: SAGE.

Nye, J. S. & Welch, D. A. (2013). *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*. (9th ed.). Boston, M.A. Pearson Longman.

O'Connell, M. E. (2008). *The Power and Purpose of International Law*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.

O' Neill, K. (2009). *The Environment and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Pease, K.-K. S. (2007). *International Organizations: Perspectives on Governance in the Twenty-First Century* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, New York: Prentice Hall.

Reus-Smit, C. ed. (2004). *The Politics of International Law*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Rochester, J. M. (2012). *Between Peril and Promise: the Politics of International Law*. Thousand Oaks, C.A.: SAGE/CQ Press.

Wallensteen, P. (2007). *Understanding Conflict Resolution: War, Peace and the Global System*. New York: Sage Publication.

## 7. Related Journals

*Foreign Affairs*. Council on Foreign Relations.

*Foreign Policy*. Foreign Policy Group.

*Global Environmental Politics*. The MIT Press.

*Global Governance*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

*International Affairs*. Royal Institute of International Affairs.

*International Organization*. The MIT Press.

*International Security*. Harvard University Press.

*Journal of International Affairs*. Columbia University Press.

*Journal of Peace Research*. International Peace Research Institute, Oslo.

*Security Studies*. Taylor and Francis.

*Survival*. Taylor and Francis.

*The Washington Quarterly*. CSIS.

*World Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

## 8. Related Web Resources

Center for International and Strategic Studies:

<http://www.csis.org>

Colombia International Affairs Online:  
<https://www.ciaonet.org/>.

Council on Foreign Relations:  
<http://www.cfr.org/>

Foreign Affairs:  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/>

Foreign Policy:  
<http://foreignpolicy.com>

Foreign Policy in Focus:  
<http://www.fpif.org/>

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace:  
<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/>

Global Asia:  
[www.globalasia.org](http://www.globalasia.org)

International Monetary Fund:  
[www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

International Relations and Security Network:  
<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/>

The Globalist:  
<http://www.theglobalist.com/>

United Nations:  
<http://www.un.org>

United Nations Global Issues:  
<https://www.un.org/en/globalissues>

World Bank:  
<http://www.worldbank.org>

World Trade Organization:  
<http://www.wto.org>

## 9. Academic Honesty

The University adopts a zero tolerance policy to plagiarism. For the University's policy on plagiarism, please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity with Specific Reference to the Avoidance of Plagiarism by Students* (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/modules/downloads/visit.php?cid=9&lid=89>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

## 10. Others

Nil

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