SYLLABUS

International Relations (IR)
QSI Virtual School

Semester/Term: 2020/21
Meeting Days/Time/Location: Fridays 3pm (UK time)/Skype

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mar Robillard
Email: mar-robillard@qvs.qsi.org
Skype name: mar-robillard
Online Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-noon / 3pm-4pm (UK time)
Preferred Method of Communication: Teams or Skype

Course Description

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the international world they are growing up in. Students will learn about historical developments, modern institutions and the theoretical frameworks that make up the field of international relations and diplomacy.

This course is recommend for 11th or 12th grade students.
Credits earned: 5 essential units (0.5 Carnegie credit). Option to engage in one or two additional selective units geared towards Model United Nations (MUN) preparation and participation (for an additional 0.1 or 0.2 Carnegie credit).
Length of course: 1 semester for 5 essential units (this course can be taken in conjunction with a semester of Global Issues to create a full-year course and earn 1 Carnegie credit).

Course Prerequisites

None, but it is highly recommend that students have completed course in Geography and World History (or similar Social Studies courses) prior to enrolling in International Relations.

Required Materials

The primary textbook is: McGlinchey, Stephen. International Relations. Bristol: E-International Relations, 2017. Online access is provided to the full text: https://www.e-ir.info/publication/beginners-textbook-international-relations/

Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access
Microphone
QVS account & linked e-mail account
Skype

Course Grading

QSI rubrics are used to determine grades, and these can be accessed by clicking on 'QSI unit rubrics' on the QVS International Relations course page.
Each assignment is aligned with one or more unit objective(s) (=**T**he **S**tudent **W**ill) and will be graded as demonstrating **'mastery' (=B)** or **'above mastery' (=A).**
To receive a unit grade, the student must demonstrate mastery in all unit assignments. The unit rubrics specify how many assignments need 'above mastery' to receive an 'A' for the entire unit.

You can expect feedback within 24 hours from Monday-Thursday. Work submitted on Friday will receive feedback by the following Monday. QVS is open 24/7, so you can continue to work over the weekend and/or during QVS breaks, but cannot necessarily expect feedback if you submit work at these times.

Mastery learning means that students may need more time to fully master a certain TSW. This means that students will sometimes work at a slightly different pace from some of their QVS peers. However, students should avoid falling too far behind because they may only submit a maximum of 2 units in the final two weeks of the course.

Furthermore, if a student does not put forth sufficient effort he/she may receive a 'D' for a given unit, which means that a student is "**D**eficient in effort. A 'D' is not used as a putative tool, but as a means of communication to the student and their parent/guardian that the current effort is not sufficient to successfully complete the course material within the normal duration of the course.

Course content

The following 5 units are to be completed during one semester of International Relations:

E01: History of International Relations
- Flipgrid presentation: Timeline Peace of Westphalia & Explanation of Sovereign State System
- Chart: Causes & Events of World Wars
- Cornell Notes: Describing Diplomacy
- Open-book Quiz: Key Terms & Actors
- Debate: Relationship between Trade, Conflict & Diplomacy
- Essay: Successes in International Diplomacy

E02: Principles of International Relations
- Flipgrid presentation: Levels of Analysis
- Cornell Notes: Traditional IR Theories
- Quick Write: Constructivism
- Cornell Notes: Critical Theories
- Explanatory Essay: Changes in IR Theory
- Debate: Effectiveness of the UN

E03: International Law
- Chart: Levels of Law & International Legal Areas
- Open-book Quiz: Sources of International Law
- Debate: Just War Theory
- Essay: UN in the International Legal Order
- Flipgrid presentation: Challenges of International Law

E04: Modern Organizations in International Relations
- Venn Diagram: IGOs & INGOs
- Open-book Quiz: Identifying IGOs & NGOs
- Essay: Intergovernmental & Supranational Organizations
- Flipgrid presentation: Comparing Concepts in Case Studies

E05: Researching International Issues
- Research Report on assigned or chosen international issue:

- o Chapter 1: introduction to issue
- o Chapter 2: identifies actors involved in issue
- o Chapter 3: solutions tried in the (recent) past
- o Chapter 4: analyze the effectiveness of different solutions
- o Chapter 5: conclusion discussing the role played by the international community

IR students can also opt to engage in any of the following selective units:

S01: Issue Based Policy Paper
- Flipgrid: Presentation of Report from "Researching International Issues" (E05)
- Checklist: Learn more about your assigned MUN country
- Cornell Notes: Analyze Effects of Recent International Actions (related to issue)
- Policy Paper: Formulate strategic document with policies that 'your' country would suggest:
  - o Heading
  - o Topic Background
  - o Past International Action
  - o Country Policy
  - o Possible Solutions

S05: Model United Nations (MUN) Excursion
- Prepare prior to MUN Conference: Research Binder containing information on
  - o MUN Conference
  - o Assigned Committee & Topics (+ past policies/laws/treaties/conventions)
  - o Assigned Country/Organization (+ ideas for future Solutions & Policies)
- Create after Conference: Multimedia Flipgrid reflecting on MUN Conference
  - o Looking back on the research process (incl. pictures)
  - o How did I represent my country or organization at MUN? (incl. pictures or videos)
  - o What was it like to participate in my committee? (incl. pictures or videos)
  - o Assess my own application of parliamentary procedure (incl. pictures or videos)
  - o Conclusion: my overall opinion of this MUN experience

Tentative Course Schedule
Students complete IOL prior to being enrolled into their main QVS course.

Welcome QVS International Relations: Sept 7 -11
History of International Relations (E01): Sept 14 – Oct 2
Principles of International Relations (E02): Oct 5 – 23
International Law (E03): Nov 2 – 20
Modern Organizations in International Relations (E04): Nov 23 – Dec 11
Researching International Issues (E05): Jan 11 – Feb 12

Selective units: t.b.d. (depending on conference dates)

Attendance Policy
5 periods per week, (equivalent of 225 minutes per week).

Students are expected to follow planned pacing or communicate plans for adjusted pacing with instructor. When assignments are submitted in bulk feedback time increases (1 assignment graded per day).

Classroom Behavior expectations

For synchronous communication:
School appropriate attire, camera on at all times, microphone muted on login

For asynchronous communication:
Be polite and respectful when communicating with other students, bullying will not be tolerated.
All content posted needs to be considered appropriate for an academic setting.

Academic honesty

When working in groups, students are expected to collaborate fairly in a way that ensures that each student masters the material.
In any type of assignment, you are expected to avoid all forms of plagiarism, and use appropriate referencing to give credit to any and all sources that you use.
Students are responsible for being informed about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, and will be given the chance to learn about this in the Introduction to Online Learning (IOL) course when starting QVS.

Other Information

Students, parents, and monitors can see how students are doing in this course by checking the QVS grade book and QSI Unit Grades/Rubrics, which are updated regularly to provide an accurate picture of student progress.
Parents can contact the via email (mar-robillard@qvs.qsi.org) to set up a parent-teacher conference at any point in the school year.
Students are encouraged to maintain consistent and frequent communications with the instructor to help them succeed in this course.

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QSI Virtual School is a diverse international, multicultural, online learning community, offering meaningful standards-based education through mastery learning.
We prepare and develop students to have confidence to pursue their dreams and to positively impact the world.
We challenge. We question. We care.