

**United States International University**  
**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Department of International Relations**

**Course:**  
**IRL4850: Studies in international crises**

**Credit:**  
**3 Units**

**Course Objectives**

- To understand sequence of interactions between the governments of two or more sovereign states in severe conflicts other than actual conflict.
- Understand the changing nature of the international system and the possible or likely causes of conflicts within the system.
- Explain, analyze and understand possible causes of global conflicts, their genesis, development and effects on global security.

**Program learning outcomes**

- Explain concepts and theories in international relations
- Critically analyze the dynamics of world politics
- Identify threats and opportunities to national strategic interests and formulate policies in response.
- Apply understanding of a global, multicultural and complex interconnected world to explain and predict issues in international relations
- Collect, collate, analyze and respond critically to information

## **Link to program learning outcomes**

- Critically analyze the dynamics of world politics
- Collate, collect and respond critically to information
- Explain concepts and theories in international relations

## **Learning outcomes**

At the end of the semester students shall be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of international political hotspots and their effects on international security
- Critically analyze and discourse intelligently on the development and root causes of conflicts on the worlds political hotspots
- Explain the roots or history of the causes of the selected international crises
- Explain how various actors respond to the international crises and why

## **Course Requirements**

Article review----20%

Class test-----20%

Mid Semester Examination—20%

Class participation and attendance---10%

Final Examination----30%

## **Week one**

### **Introduction to the study of international crises**

### **Learning outcomes**

- Define what it means by international crises
- Highlight some of the international hotspots and their effects on global security

### **Assignment**

Lecture notes and journals/ assign students group assignments to deliberate and research on.

### **Week two**

## **The changing nature of the international political economy**

### **Learning outcomes**

- Understand from the global perspective how the global economy is structured and operates
- Establish the correlation between international crises and the structure of the international economy
- Explain the ongoing global economic crises and their effects on international security

### **Readings**

Lecture notes and journals to be provided in class or posted on blackboard

### **Week three**

## **Arab uprising in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, and Yemen**

Paul Collier (1991) Africa's external Economic relations-1960-90 in African Affairs  
vol 90 no 360.

Walter Rodney () How Europe underdeveloped Africa

### Learning outcomes

- Explain the genesis and development of the crises in the selected countries
- Analyze their possible effects on the international security

### Assignments

Lecture notes and journals to be accessed through jstor.

### Week four

#### Arab Israel conflict

### Learning outcomes

- Understand the genesis and development of the Arab Israel conflict
- Impact of the conflict on international security

### Assignments

Lecture notes to be provided

### Week five

#### War and crises in the DRC, Somalia, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and Kenya

### Learning outcomes

- Understand the significance of the DRC in the study of international political economy

- Explain the nature of actors and interests in the DRC conflicts from the historical perspective

## Assignments

Lecture notes and journal articles to be provided in class and blackboard

## Week six

### North Korean nuclear weapons program prospects

#### Learning outcomes

- Explain the security implications of the Weapons program
- The genesis and development of the Korean war and possible effects on global security

Assignment/ group discussion on crises in the Korean peninsula

## Week seven

Mid semester examination

## Week eight

### The Iran question and the Middle East peace process

#### Learning outcomes

- Explain the genesis of the conflict between Iran and the west
- Understand the effects of the conflict on global security

#### Assignment

Readings and discussions on the topic with reading material provided or accessed through JSTOR.

#### Week nine

### Radicalism in Iraq and Afghanistan

#### Learning outcomes

- Understand the genesis and development of the conflict
- Implications on global security
- USA intervention and response

#### Assignments

- Explain the genesis and development of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Effects of the conflict on global security

#### Week ten

### Climate Change

#### Learning outcomes

- Understand the implications of climate change on human and international security.

- Explain the response of various actors on climate change

#### Assignments

Lecture notes and discussions on the causes and impact of climate change.

#### Week eleven

#### War and chaos in Somalia

#### Learning outcomes

- Understood the root causes of the conflict in Somalia
- The implication of the Somalia conflict on global security

#### Assignment

Lecture notes and journals

#### Week twelve

United States and war on terror- AFRICOM

Second assignment and submission of group assignments/ review articles

#### Week thirteen

Review of the course and preparation for final examinations

## Grading

A-----	90-100
A-----	87-89
B+-----	84-86
B-----	80-83
B MINUS--	77-79
CPLUS----	74-76
CPLAIN----	70-73
CMINUS----	67-69
D PLUS-----	64-66
D PLAIN----	62—63
D MINUS---	60—61
F-----	0-59

## PLAGIARISM

The university does not allow or authorize plagiarism and cases of plagiarism might result in failure in the course or even expulsion from the degree program.

## Course text

This course does not have any prescribed course text and as a result will rely on diverse sources depending on the topic to be covered every week.