International Relations

ULMS070  5 credit module (equivalent to 2.5 ECTS)

1. Module Leader

Pam Chen

Biography. I have worked in China and in the U.K for SMEs and big corporations in multiple industries, including civil engineering, education and customer services. My work experiences have been in both monocultural and multicultural settings, which have been enriching experiences and have made me realise that the business world is fascinating. This has also led me to teach for the Liverpool International Summer School for several years where I have enjoyed interacting with my students from various backgrounds. I like sharing what I have seen in the business world with my students and listening to their opinions and ideas.

2. Module Description

The module will give students the opportunity to study International Relations and its impact on important recent world events. The teaching will feature a clear and systematic coverage of classic International Relations theory focusing in particular on power, national interest, foreign policy, war and trade. A central theme of the teaching will give students the ability to use theory to make sense of current world events, from the increasing impact of religion, the rise of nationalism and the changing role of America to the challenges of politics and human rights.

3. Module Aims

This module aims to:
- Develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas.
- Develop skills in research, collaborative learning and writing effective commentary on their opinions and views on a topic.
- Introduce students to the actors and influencers that shape international relations development.

4. Content

The following topics will be considered on the module:
- Introduction to International Relations and Modern Politics
- Foreign Policy and British Politics
- Conflict, Force and US political structure
- Law, international organisation and Russian Politics
- Trade and Chinese Politics

5. Module structure

The module will be delivered over a three-week period in six two hour sessions (four hours per week, total 12 hours contact time). The final block will be an assessment session.
Each session will include a formal lecture covering the topic identified. Integral to the session will be opportunities for students, in a seminar style, to discuss (in English) issues both in small groups and a whole class. Students will be actively encouraged to contribute.

In addition, it is expected that students will spend 38 study hours outside of the classroom contact hours on activities including assigned reading, optional reading of areas of personal interest, homework tasks, web research and preparation for assessment.

6. Teaching methods

The teaching approach will include the following:
- Taught sessions
- Small group working
- Group discussions
- Presentations
- Online learning
- Theory and current affairs reading

7. Assessment:

Assessment will be by:
- Multiple Choice Questions (worth 50% of the overall mark)
- Written essay/reflection of 750-850 words (worth 50% of the overall mark)

Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments. There is no re-assessment opportunity.

8. Course structure:

Session One: Introduction to International Relations and Modern Politics (IR):
- Housekeeping issues like course work, objectives of the course etc
- Definitions.
- Student's objective for the course.
- Actors and influencers on IR.
- Three world views of IR.
- Four levels of IR analysis.

Session Two: Foreign Policy and British Politics:
- Why IR students study Foreign Policy development.
- Models of decision making.
- Crisis management.
- Non state actors in Foreign Policy development.
- Overview of the British political system including political party and the two Westminster house structures.

Session Three: Conflict, Force and US political structure:
- Why do IR students study conflict
- Levels of conflict – global, domestic, individual etc
- Types of conflict – i.e. territorial, control of Govt etc
- Types of war
- Terrorism
- Use and types of force.
- Overview of the US political system.

**Session Four:**
*Law, international organisation and Russian Politics:*
- Development of law in IR.
- Evolution of world order.
- The role of international organisations like the UN.
- Overview of the UN and its role in IR management.
- Development of the world court.
- Human Rights.
- Overview of the Russian political system.

**Session Five:**
*Trade and Chinese Politics:*
- Importance of trade in IR
- Trade theory.
- Globalisation.
- Competitive advantage.
- The World Trade Organisation and its role.
- Currency and the World Bank.
- Overview of the Chinese political system.

**Session Six:**
*Group Presentation*
In this final session the students will give a short presentation about their topic of interest on the subject.

9. **Learning outcomes**

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Assessment component which assesses this learning outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas in written</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>and spoken language.</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflect and effectively link the multiple factors that shape the reality of</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>states international relations policy.</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate an introductory understanding of why international events take</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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<td>place and how those events are shaped and determined by international relations</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
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<td>and human behaviour theory.</td>
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10. **Skills**

Key skills that will be developed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>How this skill is developed</th>
<th>Mode of assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Group discussions, activities</td>
<td>Group presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Orally in group discussions, activities and tasks in class, in writing by production of assessed assignment</td>
<td>Written essay/reflection</td>
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11. **Recommended reading list:**

- Current broadsheet UK and International press