

International Relations A

Hiromi Fujishige

(Instructed by Professor Yuji Uesugi during the Spring Term of 2017)

Goals

This seminar aims at **writing up a research paper** on a selected topic in the International Relations (IR) field. Through the thesis writing process, you are expected to achieve the following goals:

1. To improve your understanding of IR theories and the practices of international issues.

You will gain both theoretical understanding and more concrete knowledge (both in historical and contemporary eras) on international affairs. Combining these elements, you will have deeper insights into international relations.

2. To Acquire Research Skills / Problem Resolution Skills

Through this seminar, you will develop various research skills, such as reading and analyzing technical materials, summarizing them, collecting and sorting materials, note-taking, presenting your ideas and writing an academic paper. All of these skills will not only be useful at university, but also in getting a job... and even after you begin working!

Areas of Research

The seminar broadly covers **the various areas of IR-related fields**, ranging from historical to contemporary issues, from the traditional inter-state relations to the more recent cross-border issue, and from the politico-military issue to the socio-economic problems. For more details, ask the instructor.

What do you do in the seminar?

1. Material readings & discussions
2. Reading of the most essential reading in the field
3. Learning the basics of research skills/academic writing
4. Thesis writing (individual research with supervision)

Thesis Writing Model Schedule

1. 3rd Year Spring Semester: Writing a research proposal
2. 3rd Year Fall Semester: Writing a theoretical chapter
3. 4th Year Spring Semester: Writing the first half of the case studies
4. 4th Year Fall Semester: Writing the second half of the case studies and completing the whole thesis

✓A part of this seminar will be allocated to assist your career design.

Duration

This seminar will be registered as a half semester class for a technical reason, but please make sure that, once you join the seminar, **you continue with it until your graduation. The "halfway withdrawal" is not allowed unless there is a good reason to do so.**

✓For students who intend to study abroad, special arrangements can be made.

Qualifications

- (1) Firm commitment to this seminar until your graduation
- (2) High level of interest in international affairs
- (3) High level of motivation and diligence

Selection Policy

Successful candidates will be selected by the following elements: (1) application essay, (2) interview, (3) GPA, (4) the class participation/contribution in the previous classes, and (5) the accommodativeness with the other seminar members.

The instructor will be flexible to determine the number of accepted students, but it is her policy to make this seminar “the few and the proud”. In other words, less-qualified students will not be accepted even if there are vacancies in the seminar. Moreover, the instructor will accept only those who wish to join this seminar as their first-choice. The seminar selection is basically open for new 3rd year students in the 2017 academic year, but a small number of new 4th students may be also accepted if the situation calls for it.

Evaluation

The students will be comprehensively evaluated by their class participation, diligence and the quality of their discussion, presentation papers and so on.

Selection Schedule

- (1) Visit the seminar (Tryout Session)

If you wish to join the seminar, please come and try the class in the 3rd and 4th periods on Fridays 7th or 21st October.

✓Attending this tryout session is mandatory to attend this seminar. To attend, please make an advanced booking by email to [REDACTED].

- (2) Submit your application essay to [REDACTED] and the GIS Administration Office by the given deadline. (For the details, see the instruction.)

- (3) Interview (via Skype): To be arranged.

See you in my seminar! :-)