Course Description

How has globalization changed the relationship between the local and the global? Who has the authority to make decisions in global politics, and why do we obey? What are the most significant threats to peace and security in the 21st century? How can we end poverty? Why does violence occur? What does it mean to live in a “global world?” What does it mean to be political? This course introduces student to the study of international relations by teaching students how to ask good questions about world politics. By asking good questions, it becomes possible not only to learn about the world around us, but also to learn about the assumptions we carry about the world and our place in it. The first part of the course reviews the basic concepts and features of international politics, and the second part goes on to examine specific issues, including terrorism, war, economic interdependence, social movements, religion, environmental policy, poverty, global health, internet governance, and humanitarian crises.

Learning Objectives

- Develop students' "global literacy" by introducing students to the basic concepts and features of world politics;
- Enable students to identify different perspectives and ways of understanding important debates and problems in world politics;
- Enable students to identify their own assumptions and opinions about and within various global political debates;
- To develop students' skills in communication, reading, analysis, synthesis, critical thinking, argumentation, and writing.