Welcome to the Second Semester Course!

Global Connect
University of California, Irvine
I. Who are the global actors?
II. What is power?
III. Are all states equal politically and/or economically?
IV. [Some of] what is to come
Who are the global actors?

- **Nation**: A group of people who believe themselves to be united by some set of characteristics and want their own government.
  - What characteristics would unite people?
Who are the global actors?

- State [used interchangeably with government]: Where a set of political institutions exercises authority over a given territory
Who are the global actors?

- **Nation-state**: When nation and state overlap
In international relations, governments are considered **sovereign**: they can do whatever they want in their own territory.

- What problems can you see with this characteristic?

- Usually, states [or governments] are considered the key players in international relations.
Who are the global actors?

Governments and States:
Diplomats, politicians
Who are the global actors?

International Organizations:
Intergovernmental Organizations [IGOs]: United Nations, NATO, World Bank, the International Criminal Court
Who are the global actors?

Nongovernmental Organizations [NGOs]: The Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, Refugees International
Who are the global actors?

Individuals [7 Billion people!]
You!
More examples of global actors

Multinational Corporations: How many can you identify?
McDonald’s in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Foxconn Factory in China
“Power” in international relations has been a fairly troublesome concept to define.

Some define power as “the ability to influence the behavior of others” (Goldstein 45).
What is power?

- What gives power to government?
- What gives a government the ability to influence other governments?
Is it military size?
Is it economic strength?
Is it population size?
Nations are not equal

- **Developed nations**
  - Usually the wealthiest [as per GDP per capita]

- **Developing nations**
  - Their economic capacity has exceeded that of a developing country but has not yet reached the level of a developed country

- **Least Developed nations**
  - Usually the poorest [as per GDP per capita]
Are all states equal politically?

- Do all states have the same level of influence?
- Let’s take a look at a few examples from contemporary international relations.
By the end of the semester, you will be able to answer the following questions...
What is infrastructure?
[Some of] What is to come...

What is foreign policy?
[Some of] What is to come...

Will the member nations of the European Union stay unified?
What is to come...

What is a human right?
What is a “fragile” state?
What is to come...

What is happening in Syria?
[Some of] What is to come...

What are 21st century global threats?
[Some of] What is to come...

Who are millennials?
The Introduction to International Relations will require you to act as an International Reporter. On a weekly basis you will be assigned a specific topic to investigate online. You will be asked to locate and print out two quality articles on the topic and complete an International Notebook Entry form for each article.
Instructions:

- Review the topic of the week.
- Locate and review two articles related to the topic using a recommended source.
- Print out the articles.
- Create a **typed** Notebook Entry Form for each article (refer to the sample entry).
- Write a strong summary statement.
- Attach articles to the forms and submit to your teacher on or before the due date.
Recommended Sources

Online News Resources

- BBC News
- CNN
- The Washington Post
- The Guardian
- The Economist
- New York Times
- Al Jazeera (English)

- GPS: Fareed Zakaria
- ABC News
- Foreign Policy Magazine
- TIME Magazine
- PBS News
- Frontline PBS
- NPR
- Los Angeles Times
- Reuters
Recommended Sources

Think Tanks

- RAND News and Events
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Council on Foreign Relations
- Brookings Institute
- Center for New American Security
- Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Institute for International Economics
Thanks for your attention!

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