Alexandria Technical and Community College

GEOG 1500: Introduction to the Geopolitical Environment: A United States Perspective

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION
   Credits: 3
   Lecture Hours/Week: 3
   Lab Hours/Week: 0
   OJT Hours/Week: *.*
   Prerequisites:
   This course requires the following prerequisite
   PHIL 1460 - Naval Ethics and Leadership
   Corequisites: None
   MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 08 - Global Perspective
   This course provides students with foundational knowledge to assist them in understanding the role of the United States in the international system, as well as the challenges it faces in the 21st Century. It seeks to address a series of critical questions: How did the modern international system develop? Who are the major actors? What are the major theories for understanding state behavior? What are the causes of war? What is the role of treaties, alliances, and international organizations? What specific challenges do our current adversaries (China, Russia, North Korea, Iran) pose to interests of the United States. What tools do the United States and its allies have in meeting these challenges? It concludes with a consideration of possible future directions and factors that will affect cooperative and competitive outcomes among states. This course is used to transcript credit for prior learning in the United State Naval Community College: Naval Core.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/24/2022 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS
   1. Understand the historical basis for international tensions
   2. Recognize current manifestations of historical opposition among great powers
   3. Examine the structure of the international system and its basic components (states, alliances, international organizations)
   4. Gain familiarity with significant international agreements, conventions, treaties, and laws
   5. Recognize and classify non-state actors
   6. Analyze activities and the influence of non-state actors on the international community
   7. Identify differences behind the core motivations of today’s major power actors and the challenges they pose to the United States
   8. Critically and creatively frame and solve scenario-based problems
   9. Apply analytical decision-making to develop solutions for complex problems and issues using diverse decision-making processes

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)
   1. Explain the nature of great power rivalries and how these are manifested (historic and current day).
   2. Investigate the structure of the international system and its basic components (states, alliances, international organizations).
   3. Analyze security implications of non-state actors in world affairs.
   4. Assess the impact of cultural factors on geopolitical approaches to planning and strategy.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective
1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
None noted