Course Title: International and Global trends

Course Description

The course is designed to equip students with the basics of international relations so that they will be exposed to global challenges and perspectives. The course is very comprehensive, broad and multidisciplinary in its nature. Perhaps you may find it as an ice-breaking course since it touches up on wide range of issues, concepts, theories, approaches and debates that are helpful in understanding the contemporary international relations. Concepts, such as national interest, foreign policy, actors, globalization, balance of power, cold war, multi-polar systems, international law and other relevant concepts are being introduced. Different debates and approaches to the study of international relations including realism, liberalism are also given due emphasis.

Course content

Due to the vastness of the course, its contents are organized into six chapters. The first chapter lays the foundation of the course by introducing major concepts, such as: the nature, scope, evolution, actors and levels of analysis, structure as well as theories of international relations. In the second chapter topics such as; national interest, foreign policy, diplomacy and Ethiopian foreign policy under successive regimes are discussed in some length. Chapter three brings out the contending issues of international political economy with emphasis on global institutions of governance. Last chapter the debates between regionalism and globalization with contemporary global issues that affect international relations.

Course Objectives

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After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand nations, nationalism and states
- Explain the nature and historical development of international relations
- Examine the extent and degree of influence of state and non-state actors in the international system
- Gain basic knowledge of the major theories of International Relations and develop the ability to critically evaluate and apply such theories
- Elucidate national interest, foreign policy and diplomacy
- Assess the overriding foreign policy guidelines of Ethiopia in the past and present

- Explicate the nature and elements of international political economy
- Examine the roles major international and regional institutions play in world politics
- Explore Ethiopia‘s role in regional, continental and global institutions and affairs
- Critically evaluate the major contemporary global issues

Method of delivery

Lecture, discussion, group and individual work and presentation, personal readings

Method of evaluation

- Class attendance and participation (10%)
- Test and Quiz (20%)
- Group assignment (15%)
- Individual assignment (15%)
- Final exam (40%)

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