

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT PLAN**

Requirements

1. *Submit with New Program Proposal*
 - a. *Programs are encouraged to consult with the Office of University Assessment.*
 - b. *Contact information assessment@uca.edu*
2. *Send copy of Assessment Plan to the Office of University Assessment, Wingo 215.*
3. *Update the Program Assessment Plan based upon EAPR or Accreditation Cycles.*

Basic Information

Program Name: International Studies (BA)

College: Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences

Department: Government, Public Service, & International Studies

Program Level (check all that apply)

- ☐ Associate's
- ☒ Bachelor's
- ☐ Undergraduate Certificate
- ☐ Master's
- ☐ Doctoral
- ☐ Graduate Certificate

Date Plan Submitted: 1/24/2024

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I. Introduction

The purpose of the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies is to provide instruction in the areas of political science, public administration, and international studies to undergraduate students at the University of Central Arkansas. The instruction will contribute the following: (1) inform students about the place of politics, policy, and law in society; (2) extend and deepen students' understanding and appreciation of the purpose, organization, and operation of domestic and international political systems; (3) develop the competencies required for informed and independent thought.

2. Unit Mission Statement

The Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies include an undergraduate degree program in International Studies. This degree program aligns with the official missions of the University of Central Arkansas and the College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences.

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program in International Studies is an interdisciplinary program located in the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies. It is intended for students who are interested in studying global topics and problems from social science and liberal arts perspectives. Students are exposed to a variety of core courses in the political science fields of international relations and comparative politics, as well as a variety of upper-level courses within the disciplines of economics, finance, geography, history, philosophy, religion, sociology, and world languages. Students who major or minor in international studies choose one of three different tracks: (1) International Affairs & Security; (2) International Development & Globalization; and (3) Regional & Cultural Studies.

The goals of the International Studies Program are (1) to increase student awareness and understanding of the relations among the citizens, organizations, and governments of the world; (2) to provide students with the fundamental background in international politics, diplomacy, and economics, as well as background in a second language; (3) to provide students with the necessary skills and intellectual tools to pursue careers in international politics, diplomacy, and international economics with inter-governmental organizations, transnational corporations, or non-governmental organizations; (4) to prepare students for graduate studies in international and related disciplines.

The values guiding the International Studies Program's service of its major and minor, its general education mission, and its interdisciplinary educational mission are to provide outstanding classroom teaching and, when possible, public service, backed by a continuing commitment to excellence in the gathering of, the analysis of, and the dissemination of scholarly research.

3. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Outcome #1: Understanding of Theories & Concepts. International Studies students will develop an understanding of the major theories and concepts in the political science fields of International Relations and Comparative Politics.

Outcome #2: Research Methodology Skills. International Studies students will develop research methodology skills, including ability to develop hypotheses, ability to test hypotheses using basic statistical techniques, and ability to assess the results of various hypothesis tests.

Outcome #3: Research, Critical Analysis, & Writing Skills. International Studies students will be able to identify a global topic or problem, conduct research on and analysis of the global topic or problem, and effectively write about the global topic or problem.

4. Assessment Cycle

The assessment cycle will be determined with assistance from the Office of Assessment.

Academic Year	SLO(s) Assessed
2023-2024	1,2
2024-2025	1,2
2025-2026	1,2,3
2026-2027	1,2
2027-2028	1,2
2028-2029	1,2,3
2029-2030	1,2

5. Curriculum Map (see attached Excel file or Appendix D)

6. Assessment Methods and Measures (Formative and Summative recommended)

Outcome #1: Students majoring in International Studies will demonstrate a proficient understanding of the major theories and concepts in the political science fields of International Relations and Comparative Politics. This outcome will be assessed through 25-question, multiple-choice examinations given at the end of each semester to all students enrolled in sections of PSCI 2300, Introduction to International Relations, and PSCI 2320, Introduction to Comparative Politics, which are core courses required of all students majoring in International Studies (See Appendices A-1 and A-2).

Outcome #2: Students majoring in International Studies will demonstrate a competency in basic research methodology, including hypothesis development, hypothesis testing, and assessment of the results of hypothesis testing. This outcome will be assessed through a research methodology

project assigned to students enrolled in PSCI 2312, Statistical Methods for Political Analysis, which is a core course required of all students majoring in International Studies. In the project, students will be required to write a paper that incorporates hypothesis development, hypothesis testing, and assessment of the results of hypotheses testing (see Appendix B).

Outcome #3: Students majoring in International Studies will demonstrate research, critical analysis, and writing skills, including locating and citing external sources of information, properly organizing and structuring a research paper, demonstrating an adequate understanding of a topic, and using proper grammar and syntax in a research paper. The writing research papers will be evaluated by the faculty of the International Studies Program using a scoring rubric ranging from 0 to 16 points (see Appendix C).

7. Data Collection and Review

Outcome #1: Scores on the assessment examination will be collected from each section of PSCI 2300 and PSCI 2320 courses offered during fall and spring semesters. The course instructors will administer assessment examinations to students at the end of the semester and will forward the results of the assessment examinations to the Director of the International Studies Program and the Chair of the department after the end of the semester, including the average score for all students in the courses and the average score for all students majoring in International Studies in the courses. The target level of performance on the assessment examinations in each course will be an average score of 19 or higher out of 25 points for students majoring in International Studies.

Outcome #2: Scores will be collected from each section of PSCI 2312, Statistical Methods for Political Analysis, offered during fall and spring semesters. The course instructor will assign the research methodology project to students enrolled in each section of PSCI 2312 and report the results of the research methodology project to the Director of the International Studies Program and the Chair of the department after the end of the semester. The target level of performance on the research methodology project will be an average score of 76 percent or higher for students majoring in International Studies.

Outcome #3: This outcome will be assessed through evaluation of a research paper completed by International Studies seniors enrolled in upper-level (3000 and 4000) political science courses offered in the International Studies Program. At the end of the semester, instructors will retain original copies of the research papers submitted by International Studies seniors. The target level of performance on the research paper will be an average evaluation score of 12 or higher out of a possible 16 points for students majoring in International Studies.

8. Participation in Assessment Process

All International Studies program faculty will be involved with the assessment process, whether as administrators of the assessment instruments or evaluators of submitted papers. The department as a whole will periodically evaluate the collected results.

9. Data Analysis

Assessment scores will be tabulated and shared with the faculty. The department will meet to discuss assessment results by the end of the fall semester. Based upon the collected results, the department will consider re-aligning outcomes and benchmarks.

10. Plan for Using Assessment Results to Improve Program

Assessment results will be aggregated every fifth year, starting with the 2024-25 Academic Year and reviewed with an eye toward re-aligning outcomes and benchmarks. Cumulative results will also be shared with external reviewers every ten years and in conjunction with the required ten-year self-study. The collected results and reviews will be the basis for making improvements to the program, student learning outcomes, and/or benchmarks.

11. What are the plans to evaluate students' post-graduate success?

The department will collect post-graduate information on all three majors in conjunction with each scheduled program review. The results will be grouped by career categories (e.g., government, law, business, education, etc.) and include percentages for each category.

12. What are the plans to evaluate teaching effectiveness?

Teaching effectiveness is evaluated annually and as a part of the department chair's merit rankings. The evaluation is based on student course evaluations, peer observation reports, and course syllabi and other related class materials.

13. Submit Assessment Plan

Send completed form electronically to assessment@uca.edu.

For questions or concerns please contact:

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Appendix A-1
PSCI 2300, Introduction to International Relations
Assessment Examination

1. Which one of the following refers to a “theory based on real-world observations and explanations”?
 - a. normative theory
 - b. democratic peace theory
 - c. balance of power theory
 - d. empirical theory

2. Which one of the following refers to the structural characteristic of the international political system in which there is no central (international) government?
 - a. anarchy
 - b. diversity
 - c. complexity
 - d. norms

3. Which one of the following refers to a country’s control and exploitation of the economy, culture, and/or territory of other countries or colonies?
 - a. imperialism
 - b. communism
 - c. democracy
 - d. fascism

4. Which one of the following refers to an agreement that ended the First World War and led to the creation of the League of Nations in 1919?
 - a. Treaty of Versailles
 - b. Treaties of Westphalia
 - c. Westphalian System
 - d. Neo-Westphalian System

5. Which one of the following refers to when a state has supreme authority over its own population and territory?
 - a. feudalism
 - b. sovereignty
 - c. interdependence
 - d. security dilemma

6. Which one of the following dimensions of security involves issues such as arms control and disarmament?
 - a. national and international security
 - b. economic security
 - c. human security

d. collective security

7. Which one of the following concepts refers to “commonly held standards of acceptable and unacceptable behavior”?

- a. anarchy
- b. diversity
- c. complexity
- d. norms

8. Which one of the following refers to an armed conflict fought between competing political factions or groups within a country over control of the central government and/or the territory of the country?

- a. conventional war
- b. unconventional war
- c. civil war
- d. cyberwarfare

9. Which one of the following refers to politically-motivated violence committed by nationalist groups within a country against civilian or non-combatant targets within the country?

- a. state terrorism
- b. state-sponsored terrorism
- c. domestic terrorism
- d. global terrorism

10. Which one of the following forms of deterrence refers to “retaliatory threats to discourage attacks against allies and friends of the state making the threat”?

- a. direct deterrence
- b. extended deterrence
- c. immediate deterrence
- d. general deterrence

11. Which one of the following theories argues that interstate conflict is more likely when there are changes in the distribution of power globally or regionally?

- a. power transition theory
- b. liberal interdependence theory
- c. long-cycle theory
- d. balance of power theory

12. Which one of the following refers to armed conflict between two or more groups of very different military size or power?

- a. asymmetric war
- b. weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)
- c. terrorism
- d. improvised explosive devices (IEDs)

13. Which one of the following refers to an armed conflict fought between a state actor and a non-state actor outside the territory of the state actor?

- a. interstate war
- b. intrastate war
- c. internationalized civil war
- d. extra-state (extra-systemic) war

14. Which one of the following economic development policies refers to when the government of a country emphasizes liberal economic reforms, liberal political reforms, and the private sector?

- a. import substitution industrialization
- b. export-led growth
- c. Washington Consensus
- d. Monterrey Consensus

15. Which one of the following refers to the use of economic means to secure political ends?

- a. economic sanctions
- b. economic statecraft
- c. smart sanctions
- d. third-party sanctions

16. The U.S. has provided Israel over \$100 billion in _____ since 1948, and the two countries signed an agreement in 2016 to provide an additional \$38 billion between 2018 and 2028?

- a. democracy aid
- b. development aid
- c. military aid
- d. humanitarian aid

17. Which one of the following eras included mercantilism, protectionism, imperialism, and colonialism?

- a. National Economy Era
- b. International Economy Era
- c. Global Economy Era
- d. None of the above

18. Which one of the following was renamed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2020?

- a. Bretton Woods System
- b. General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
- c. globalization
- d. North American Free Trade Agreement

19. Which one of the following is an economic policy that blocks or restricts trade with other countries for the purpose of shielding domestic businesses from foreign competition?

- a. mercantilism
- b. protectionism
- c. colonialism
- d. Marxism

20. Which one of the following countries had the overall highest amount of deforestation between 2000 and 2005?

- a. Brazil
- b. Indonesia
- c. Vietnam
- d. Nigeria

21. Providing foreign assistance (democracy aid) to another country to encourage that country to implement political reforms and to improve human rights practices is an example of the use of which one of the following?

- a. soft power
- b. hard power
- c. direct actions
- d. incentives

22. An example of the _____ in operation is the anti-apartheid network that helped to bring an end to the discriminatory white-minority regime in South Africa about 25 years ago?

- a. policy entrepreneurs
- b. boomerang model
- c. transnational advocacy networks
- d. global jihadist networks

23. The *Kyoto Protocol* was adopted by a United Nations (UN) conference held in Japan in 1997 to address which one of the following?

- a. collective goods
- b. deforestation
- c. global climate change
- d. desertification

24. Which one of the following is a United Nations (UN) entity created in the early 1990s in order to collect and distribute financial resources needed to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions throughout the world?

- a. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- b. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c. *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)*
- d. Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

25. *Al Qaeda* established by Osama bin Laden in 1988 is an example of which one of the following types of self-oriented transnational advocacy networks (TANs)?

- a. business TANS
- b. organized crime TANS
- c. terrorist TANS
- d. none of the above

Appendix A-2
PSCI 2320, Introduction to Comparative Politics
Assessment Examination

1. Countries that appear to have many of the trappings of democracy but restrict the democratic process to a great degree are known as ____?
 - a. democratic tyrannies
 - b. crypto democracies
 - c. illiberal or hybrid regimes
 - d. subdemocracies
2. The development strategy of the Latin American NICs was called ____?
 - a. structural adjustment
 - b. export substitution industrialization
 - c. export oriented development
 - d. import substitution industrialization
3. The ability of a state to carry out its basic functions or tasks is referred to as ____?
 - a. political legitimacy
 - b. political capacity
 - c. political stability
 - d. political functionality
4. Which of the following does not generally describe a Second World country?
 - a. high levels of political rights
 - b. relatively high levels of economic equality
 - c. high literacy rates
 - d. poor rural infrastructure
5. A military seizure of the government is called a ____?
 - a. coup d'état
 - b. theocracy
 - c. militocracy
 - d. oligarchy
6. A government that is seen by its people as the rightful holder of coercive power is said to ____?
 - a. be authoritarian
 - b. have legitimacy
 - c. be stable
 - d. have capacity
7. According to the formal definition of a state in the international system, Florida is ____?
 - a. a state because it has territory, a government, and citizens
 - b. not a state because it does not have a government that makes laws for citizens of Florida

- c. a state
- d. not a state because it is not sovereign

8. A(n) _____ is a group of people who decide they want to govern themselves?

- a. ethnicity
- b. nation
- c. state
- d. country

9. In a parliamentary system (such as that in the United Kingdom), when someone says “the government has fallen” the term “government” refers to _____?

- a. the executive and legislative branches
- b. all branches of government involved in making and carrying out laws
- c. the prime minister and the cabinet
- d. the executive, legislative, and judicial branches

10. A fused political system is also referred to as a _____?

- a. presidential
- b. authoritarian
- c. totalitarian
- d. parliamentary

11. In a _____ system the central government has no power to tax, the central government cannot raise an army, and the central government cannot force the local political units to do anything?

- a. unitary
- b. confederal
- c. federal
- d. none of the above

12. The ability to allow multiple diverse populations to govern themselves is a strength of the _____ system or structure of government?

- a. confederal
- b. federal
- c. unitary
- d. consociational

13. The legislature in a presidential system is most often referred to as which one of the following?

- a. assembly
- b. parliament
- c. separation of powers system
- d. Congress

14. A vote of investiture is a vote in a _____?

- a. presidential system that clears a president of impeachment charges

- b. presidential system that officially invests power in the president
- c. parliamentary system to seat the new government after an election
- d. parliamentary system that allows the majority party to propose the personnel for a new government

15. The electoral system that tends to produce two major parties is which one of the following?

- a. proportional representation
- b. the single-member district system
- c. the single transferable vote
- d. the single non-transferable vote

16. Which of the following is NOT a feature of a parliamentary system?

- a. the executive is responsible to the legislature
- b. the executive is elected in a legislative district and not in a national vote for the office
- c. the executive has a fixed term of office
- d. the executive can be removed for losing a vote on important legislation

17. The Basques in Spain are an example of a(n) _____ movement?

- a. autonomy
- b. guerrilla
- c. separatist
- d. nihilist

18. To win in a plurality electoral system, a candidate must win _____?

- a. 51 percent of the total votes cast in the election
- b. 50 percent + 1 vote of the total votes cast in the election
- c. 50 percent of the number of registered voters eligible to vote in the election
- d. more votes than any other candidate in the election

19. In a presidential system, the president serves as which one of the following?

- a. head of state.
- b. both head of state and head of government.
- c. neither head of state nor head of government
- d. head of government

20. When the two largest parties in a parliamentary system form a coalition government, it is called which one of the following?

- a. grand coalition
- b. majority coalition
- c. grand majority coalition
- d. minority coalition

21. Vladimir Lenin was the revolutionary leader who tried to amend the ideas of Marx in which of the following ways?

- a. Lenin argued that elections did not have to be held
- b. Lenin hoped that communist revolutions could take place in less advanced countries

- c. Lenin argued that revolutions did not have to be communist
- d. Lenin hoped that capitalist economies could be created even if the feudal stage was skipped

22. A legislative act that legislates one of the normal features of a constitution is which one of the following?

- a. organic law
- b. redundant
- c. judicial activism
- d. constitutional amendment

23. In a parliamentary system, prime ministers serve as which one of the following?

- a. head of state
- b. both head of state and head of government
- c. none of these is accurate
- d. head of government

24. When a group of people decide that they want to form a government and govern themselves within the current state without seeking a new separate state, the group is referred to as which one of the following?

- a. autonomy movement
- b. separatist movement
- c. independence movement
- d. minimalist movement

25. Which one of the following types of electoral systems tends to produce multiple party systems and party fragmentation?

- a. proportional representation (PR)
- b. single-member district plurality (SMDP)
- c. alternative vote (AV)
- d. mix-member proportional (MMP)

Appendix B: PSCI 2312, Statistical Methods for Political Analysis Research Methodology Project

I. Introduction

- Introduce your research question.
- Introduce your hypothesis.
- Provide an overview of your findings.

II. Literature Review

- What scholars and policy analysts say or write about your dependent variable.
- What scholars and policy analysts say about how your independent variable influences your dependent variable.

III. Model Specification

- Provide precise definitions of the independent and dependent variables.
- Describe how you are measuring your independent and dependent variables.
- Provide three control variables and state briefly (in a sentence or two) why you think that each of your control variables would affect your dependent variable.
- Provide the sample size (N) of your data.
- Explain where (and how) you get the data for your variables.

IV. Research Design

- Provide the procedure that you will be using to test the impact of your independent variable on the dependent variable and discuss why you are using such a procedure.

V. Model Estimation and Analysis

- Provide the equation of the procedure that you use to test your hypothesis.
- Test your hypothesis by using the SPSS software.
- Relying on the values of t or p, determine whether or not your model is statistically significant.
- Interpret parameters: a, b, (t or p), and R^2
- Print from the SPSS software your dataset (or survey instrument, if any) and the SPSS output including a scatterplot and attach them at the end of your paper. Your dataset should include the countries'/states' names, which should be entered in the first column of the SPSS software.

VI. Conclusions

- Restate your research question and hypothesis.
- Summarize your findings.

VII. Bibliography

- Provide the sources you use in alphabetical order sorted by the authors' last names.

Appendix C: Research Paper Rubric

	1 Does not meet expectations	2 Partially meets expectations	3 Meets expectations	4 Exceeds expectations
Sources and Citations	The paper does not include citations of external sources of information. If external sources of information are cited in the paper, the sources are mostly non-scholarly or are not properly cited (1 point).	The paper includes some citations of external sources of information, but the sources are not properly cited or are insufficient in terms of number and variety. Most of the external sources of information are not scholarly sources (2 points).	The paper includes an adequate number and variety of properly-cited external sources of information, including primary and secondary sources of information (such as books and journal articles). Several of the external sources of information are scholarly sources (3 points).	The paper includes a relatively large number and variety of properly-cited external sources of information, including primary and secondary sources of information (such as books and journal articles). Most of the external sources of information are scholarly sources (4 points).
Organization and Structure	There are serious problems with the organization and/or structure of most or all of the paper. The student largely did not follow the instructions that were provided (1 point).	There are some problems with the organization and/or structure of the paper, although some parts of the paper are adequately organized and/or structured as instructed (2 points).	The paper is reasonably well-organized and well-structured based on the instructions provided by the instructor, but there may be some minor problems (3 points).	The paper is very well-organized and well-structured based on the instructions provided by the instructor (4 points).
Content and Substance	The content of the paper is very inadequate, and the student fails to demonstrate a basic understanding of the topic of the paper (1 point).	The content of the paper is not adequate, and the student demonstrates only a minimal understanding of the topic of the paper (2 points).	The content of the paper is adequate, and the student demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic of the paper (3 points).	The content of the paper is more than adequate, and the student demonstrates a substantive understanding of the topic of the paper (4 points).
Grammar and Syntax	There are numerous grammatical errors and/or sentence structure problems in the paper, and it is very difficult to understand most of what is written in the paper (1 point).	There are many grammatical errors and/or sentence structure problems in the paper, although it is still possible to understand some of what is written in the paper (2 points).	There are some grammatical errors and/or sentence structure problems in the paper, but the grammatical errors and/or sentence structure problems do not interfere with an understanding of what is written in the paper (3 points).	There are no major grammatical errors and/or sentence structure problems in the paper (4 points).

Appendix D: Curriculum Map

International Studies	SLO 1	SLO2	SLO 3
	International Students will develop an understanding of the major theories and concepts in the political science fields of International Relations and Comparative Politics	International Studies students will develop basic research methodology skills, including ability to develop hypotheses, ability to test hypotheses using basic statistical techniques, and ability to assess the results of various hypothesis tests.	International Studies students will be able to identify a global topic or problem, conduct research on and analysis of the global topic or problem, and effectively write about the global topic or problem.
Program Requirements: International Studies (BA)			
PSCI 2300	I	I	I
PSCI 2312	I	I	I
PSCI 2320	I	I	I
PSCI 2322	I	I	I
PSCI 3305	R	R	R
PSCI 3315	R	R	R
PSCI 3316	R	R	R
PSCI 3340	R	R	R
PSCI 3382	R	R	R
PSCI 4305	A	A	A
PSCI 4310	A	A	A
PSCI 4312	A	A	A
PSCI 4320	A	A	A
PSCI 4325	A	A	A
PSCI 4328	A	A	A
PSCI 4345	A	A	A
PSCI 4348	A	A	A
PSCI 4388	A	A	A
PSCI 4389	A	A	A
PSCI 4392	A	A	A
PSCI 4393	A	A	A
PSCI 4394	A	A	A
PSCI 4395	A	A	A
Level of Engagement: I = INTRODUCED ; R = REINFORCED ; A = APPLIED			