

Universidad del Norte - Instituto de Idiomas
International Relations English

Level: IRE8

Code: IGL 4978

Duration: 64 Hours

Period: 2024-20

Textbook: Specialized Material

CEF Level: B2.4

Modality: Virtual

Description of the International Relations English Program

The Instituto de Idiomas at Universidad del Norte offers an International Relations English Program which consists of eight 64-hour courses. This program aims to develop the four basic language skills – reading, writing, listening, and speaking – and the necessary competencies for a professional in International Relations. These competencies include negotiation, diplomacy, conflict resolution, intercultural understanding, international law, professional writing, and critical thinking. The goal of the program is for students to achieve a high-intermediate level of English, equivalent to B2 (Common European Framework of References).

IRE8 Course Goals (exit)

This course is the capstone course of the 8-semester program of International Relations English. It uses academic texts, film, and literature related to contemporary International Relations topics to continue to develop students' language skills.

Students during the course should be completing the B2 level of English which means that they will be able to do the following: understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in the IR field; interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party; produce clear, detailed texts on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages.

Students in this level will complete the ITEP English proficiency test, as well as working on a core project throughout the semester.

Project Description for IRE 8: A Research Report

Throughout the course, students will work towards the creation of a research report on a topic of interest. During the first five weeks of the semester, the class as a whole, will research information on Iran. This will be done via analysis of media reports on the country, the reading of academic articles related to the country and the reading of Persepolis to get a perspective from the world of literature. Relevant information will be synthesized from these sources, and a research report will be constructed by the group as a whole. This joint construction of a research report will serve as a model for the class as they embark on their own research focus. The next step involves the students in pairs choosing a research focus. This may be similar to the model in that they may choose to select a particular country to focus on, or they may choose to select a more specific focus. Students will repeat the steps from the Iran model in that they will analyze media, academic, and cultural reports on their focus, with the difference being that on this occasion, the onus is on the students to generate their own materials. During the research process, students will be completing an annotated bibliography to help with the research report. Students (individually) will then write an 8-10 sentence text summarizing the main points of their research. Students will then begin work on their research report which they will submit at a date agreed with their teacher. In addition to the research aspect, students will also gain experience in applications for intern positions; students will apply by submitting a formal email with attached CV and professional portfolio, and later will complete an interview, where they will be expected to talk about their experience, expertise and research interests.

Guiding Questions: How can you interpret an issue by analyzing it from various perspectives? How can you best divulge relevant information in the 21st century?

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Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Reading

- Identify main ideas and specific details, make inferences, and draw conclusions from academic texts, films, and literature.
- Identify themes in literature and film and relate them to relevant issues in International Relations.

Listening

- Analyze oral communication to identify specific information, make inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Identify themes in literature and film and relate them to relevant issues in International Relations.

Writing

- Produce spontaneous 8-10 sentence texts which incorporate accurate sentence structures and demonstrate understanding of a given topic.
- Synthesize information from various academic texts, films, and literature and write a response.
- Write a research report, citing sources.
- Write formal emails and complete CV and portfolio related to the professional field.

Speaking

- Participate in class discussions.
- Respond to questions as part of a job interview.
- Discuss themes, supporting ideas with observations and specific examples.

Content

- Identify and analyze the interrelatedness of historical, cultural, economic, environmental, technical and/or current events on local, national, and international issues through research.

Grammar: Reporting Verbs, Past Tenses (comprehensive), Phrasal Verbs.

Grading Framework and Assessment

Content and Language Assessment 1	15%	Written reflection on Persepolis including examples of language and academic skills covered.
Content and Language Assessment 2	10%	Categorized Annotated Bibliography & Outline for Student Research Reports
Writing 1	10%	8-10 sentence spontaneous text summarizing main details of research (no technological assistance)
Writing 2	10%	Full formal research report (with technological assistance)
Content and Language Assessment 3	15%	Students submit application email, CV & Portfolio for Intern position

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Group Discussion	10%	Students conduct group discussion exploring research findings and Book Club themes
Mock Interview	10%	Complete a mock interview for an intern position.
Exit exam	20%	English proficiency exam covering four key skills.

All assessment is on a scale from 0.0 to 5.0, and the minimum cumulative grade needed to pass this course is 3.0/5.0 (= 60%).

Classroom Guidelines

- Plagiarism is defined as the using of another person's ideas or words without explicitly crediting that person. All sources for your work must be documented carefully with appropriate quotation marks and/or citations. Consequences of plagiarism include failure of the assignment, failure of the class, and/or disciplinary action by the university, including possible expulsion. Please make sure that you do your own work.
- Students may be asked to demonstrate their command of content and skills of their own work.
- During the interactive synchronous sessions, all students must turn on their cameras and microphones to participate actively in the sessions.
- The professor has established office hours, and the official means of communication is the class email within Blackboard. Students should email the teacher to express any concerns or questions, to set up an individual meeting with the teacher, or to reach the teacher for any reason.
- Computers and other PDA devices (smartphones, tablets, etc.) are expected for successful completion and participation in this course. Utilities used for personal reasons should remain off and unused during class.
- The teacher will return grades within a reasonable time and allow students ample opportunity to review their graded materials. Students are responsible for keeping track of their own grades, and for timely contesting of any graded event with which they are dissatisfied for any reason.
- For students to make up any graded event, a valid excuse must be presented to the professor before the graded activity takes place, so a new date is agreed with the teacher.

Suggestion and Complaint Procedure

If students have a suggestion, query, or complaint about any issue related to the normal development of the course, they should follow the guidelines below:

1. In the first instance, students should raise and discuss concerns with the course professor, _____ and every effort will be made to resolve them.
2. If the issues are not resolved, students should write the program coordinator at ckeogh@uninorte.edu.co
3. The suggestions, queries, or complaints will receive an answer within a maximum of 30 days.

Contact Information

Professor: Sam Casemiro

**Universidad del Norte - Instituto de Idiomas
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Email: ckeogh@uninorte.edu.co

Vision of the Instituto de Idiomas

By 2028, we will have strengthened our position as an innovative academic and outreach unit through the implementation of initiatives that articulate research and education in languages and culture in order to respond appropriately to the needs of the region, the country, and the global community.

Mission of the Instituto de Idiomas

Educate citizens who can think critically and are capable of contributing to the region, nation, and the global community through the development of communicative competence, intercultural competence, and the construction of knowledge regarding language, language teaching, and culture.