POL 155 Contemporary Global Politics
Fall 2017
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1:20-2:30
Main 209

Instructor: Jeff Guse
Office: Enterprise 101
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:30 p.m. (or by appointment)
Telephone: (715) 303-9856
Email: jguse@carrollu.edu

Course Objective

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the concepts, themes, and challenges in the study of global politics also referred to as international relations. Emphasis will be given to examining the prevailing concepts and theoretical frameworks utilized by scholars and by contextualizing global politics by looking at the historical and contemporary development of the international system. In particular students will learn about the various actors and institutions whose interactions establish the global political context. Over the semester special attention will be paid to contemporary issues posing significant challenges for global politics such as questions of war and peace, human rights, global trade and economic development, and the global environment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the various theoretical frameworks and approaches used by international relations scholars to describe and predict events and outcomes in global politics. Assessment: Class discussion, Assignments, Exams.
2. Recognize and be able to give examples of the various actors and institutions critical to political outcomes in the contemporary global political environment. Assessment: Class Discussion, Exams.
3. Understand and explain, by providing examples of, those influential periods of history and events/issues FROM FOUR DIFFERENT CULTURES which impact and shape contemporary global politics. Assessment: Class discussion, Assignments, Exams.
4. Critically analyze and discuss the readings from the primary literature on international relations. Assessment: Class discussion, Assignments, Exam
5. Express ideas pertaining to contemporary global politics through clear and coherent writing which incorporates data and evidence to support assertions and arguments. Assessment: Assignments, Exams
6. Understand world cultures and reflectively interact with cultures other than their own. Assessment: Simulation, Term Paper
7. Critically evaluate global issues from multiple perspectives. Assessment: Simulation, Term Paper
8. Understand and analyze multiple philosophical and ethical positions held by persons within their own and other cultures. Assessment: Simulation, Term Paper

**Required Texts**

- E-Reserve Readings: There will be a few additional required readings throughout the course of the semester. These will be available via library E-reserves. If the reading is not posted onto the library e-reserve in time for that class period, I’ll make the reading available on Canvass and notify the class of this change beforehand.
- You should do the corresponding readings before each lecture. The amount of reading will vary considerably from week to week. You are welcome, and even encouraged, to take advantage of light reading weeks and read ahead. You are strongly discouraged from falling behind. It will be difficult to catch up, you will be responsible for knowing the readings for quizzes and exams, and we may discuss some of the readings during class. Also, lecture will not simply restate or summarize the information in the readings. It will complement the readings, and both are required for doing well in the course.
- Additional materials will be posted on My Courses and are noted in the syllabus.
- The required books are available at the university bookstore. All students will be expected to have the materials in a timely fashion so to be able to read, discuss, and complete course assignments.
- Students are also encouraged to keep-up with current events affecting international politics that unfold during the semester. Not only will this provide opportunity for increasing knowledge of international politics, but also an opportunity for applying what they have learned to contemporary events. Students should read at least one newspaper daily such as the New York Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), or the Christian Science Monitor (www.csmonitor.com). It would also be useful for students to read such journals and magazines as Foreign Affairs or Foreign Policy, and The Economist or U.S News and World Report. They also offer heavily discounted subscription rates for students. These periodicals are available at the TWM Library.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**

No prerequisites are necessary in order to enroll in the course.

**Grade and Course Requirements**

The final grade for this class will be determined using the following criteria:

- First Exam: 25%
Second Exam 25%
Cultural Diversity Project 20%
Quizzes 10%
Participation 10%
Attendance 10%

The grading scale for the class is as follows: A(93%-100%), AB (88%-92%), B (83%-87%), BC (78%-82%), C (70%-77%), D (60%-69%), and F (59%-below).

There will be two (2) exams. The exams will be non-comprehensive. The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice, T/F, and fill in the blank. The final exam will be take-home and comprise long essay questions. The final exam will be distributed on December 11th. I will provide you with further details regarding the format and content of the exams as they approach. In addition, I will make it possible for you to submit up to ten questions prior to the day of the final exam.

It is not always easy to predict how quickly particular topics will be covered, so flexibility is needed in case we fall behind in covering the material.

Other Grade Components

Attendance = 10%

Class attendance is mandatory. You will be able to miss six sessions of this class (a total of two weeks) during the semester. After six absences, I will lower your attendance grade by one letter grade (B to C, for example) with each additional absence. In addition, anyone ending the semester in the “gray area” between two letter grades will be bumped up or down based on their attendance and participation.

Cultural Diversity Project = 20%

Term Paper = 10%

As preparation for the simulation, students will be assigned a country on the UN Security Council. The paper should discuss the top four or five priorities for the simulation and explain why, in relation to the country’s foreign policy or other factors, the priorities are the most important. Background information about the country should be included insofar as it contributes to elucidating the priorities and the reasons for them. 5 to 10 sources are required – minimum. They will be asked to draw on primary documents of their country’s government, news analysis of their country’s foreign policy, and its position on the issues (from scholarly journal articles, books, and internet sources). The paper may additionally discuss the group’s planned strategy or tactics for the negotiation itself. This paper should be 4-5 double-spaced pages in length.

Simulation = 10%
Students will be asked to represent a specific country on the UN Security Council with another partner for the course. There are 15 countries on the Council – so given the number of students, we may expand and or abridge the number of countries depending on the circumstances. The goal is to work with other countries to help pass resolutions that represent what your country believes is appropriate in encouraging UN reform. Your grade will be based on your willingness to take the simulation seriously, your ability to properly format and type up resolutions, mingle with other countries during the causing process, and volunteer to be put on the speaker’s list.

Quizzes – 10%

On the beginning of each Monday, I will post a quiz associated with the reading assignment onto Canvass that I will give you until midnight Saturday of that week to take and complete. The quiz will comprise ten questions and will be a mixture of true and false, multiple choice, and fill in the blank. You will have 50 minutes to complete these quizzes and will have full access to your books. You are required to complete four of these quizzes. Each quiz is worth 2.5% of the grade. However, you can complete as many quizzes as you wish. I will take into account your four highest quiz scores when compiling the grade. You will have two opportunities to complete each quiz. You will have 50 minutes for each opportunity. These quizzes will start on the second week of class.

Participation = 10%

In the old days, students were seen to be an empty vessel into which the professor poured his or her knowledge. However, this old-model of education has come under severe challenge in recent years. Rote memorization is now seen to offer little to students. How often have you “crammed” for a test and then forgotten everything you learned within a few weeks? The philosophy behind this course is that students learn better when that learning is active. Students are expected to attend class. They are also expected to participate in class discussions, considering, manipulating, testing, and questioning the topics presented in class in order to develop their familiarity with the tools and concepts associated with the material. Hence, the format in this class is geared towards this philosophy. Active class participation by all students has the advantage of helping to foster tolerance for divergent viewpoints and developing students’ abilities to formulate arguments in a well-reasoned manner.

Extra Credit Opportunities

First Extra Credit Opportunity: For the midterm and final exams, I will permit each student to submit up to ten questions they feel should be on the final exam. All questions should be stated in the form of a question and can be in multiple choice or T/F format. If
you do submit multiple choice questions, you will be required to submit four answers to each question, three of which are clearly false and one clearly true. I’ll collect these questions. If I use your question on the final exam, you will receive a bonus point that will be applied to the final exam. So for example, if I use two questions on the final from one student, that student will receive two bonus points. Again, submitting midterm and final exam questions is an option; it does not constitute a requirement for the course. The final date I will accept questions for the midterm is October 6th and final is December 4th.

Second Extra Credit Opportunity: I will give two quizzes throughout the course of the semester on events discussed in the *New York Times* dealing with international relations. The points you accrue on these quizzes will be applied to your next exam grade. These quizzes will be given on two Fridays of the semester, once before the first exam and once before the final. So it pays to read the newspaper daily. Information from current events dealing with international relations in the *New York Times* for that week, beginning on Monday, is fair game. The website for the online version is: [http://www.nytimes.com/](http://www.nytimes.com/)

COURSE POLICIES AND IMPORTANT ISSUES:

1. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism. The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in your student handbook ([https://my.carroll.edu/ICS/Departments/Student_Affairs](https://my.carroll.edu/ICS/Departments/Student_Affairs)). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, I reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment and/or failure in the course. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense and will not be tolerated. If you have any questions or concerns please ask.

   Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating. If you have any questions about what might constitute plagiarism, you should consult with any writing reference source, such as Kate Turabian’s Manual for Writers, the Everyday Writer, the MLA Style Manual, etc. If these guides do not make sense to you, please come and speak with me and we can hopefully clarify any confusion. You can also ask for assistance from writing tutors in the Learning Commons. Asserted ignorance of those rules will not excuse any student who subsequently violates them, so read the rules and review them prior to writing assignments as necessary. The penalty for plagiarism can include Failure in the course and a report placed in your permanent file with the University.

2. Averting Trouble. If you find yourself having trouble in the class, come see me as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the less likely that the situation can be resolved in a positive way before the end of the semester.

3. Announcements. Students are responsible for announcements made in class and decisions made by the class, even if they are not present the day the announcement or decision is made.
4. Disabilities/Academic Accommodation. Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Martha Bledsoe, Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 262-524-7335 or contacting her via email at mbledsoe@carrollu.edu.

6. Classroom Decorum. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave class immediately. Disruptive behavior consists of, among other things, frequent talking with other students during lectures and presentations, eating, doing homework for other classes or reading for other classes while in class, and electronic noises. Please turn off all pagers, phones and other electronic devices prior to entering the classroom. The use of computers in the classroom is permitted, subject to the decision of the instructor, so long as they are being used consistent with the course objective and are not disruptive to the classroom environment.

Discussion is an important component of this course and students are to be courteous and respectful to others. This means listening and not interrupting, even if you disagree with the ideas or opinions being expressed. While the exchange of ideas and perspectives is important to the overall goals of the course no hateful speech, offensive language, or inappropriate comments will be tolerated.

7. Make-up Exams and Late Assignments: Absolutely no make-up exams will be given without either (1) an excuse pre-approved by the instructor or (2) an extraordinary circumstance such as serious illness requiring hospitalization or family emergencies. Students are required to contact the instructor before scheduled exam date and will be required to provide documentation as required by the instructor.

Late assignments will be accepted but will be penalized a letter grade (i.e. 4.0 to 3.75) for each day they are late and are deemed one day late immediately after the class period they were due. Extensions for course assignments may be granted by the instructor in cases of severe illness and family emergencies, subject to documentation, with advance notification provided before the due date.

8. Right to Modify Course. The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).

Tentative Course Outline

I. SECTION 1: THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
   a. Class Introduction (September 8th)
      Icebreaker
      Go over syllabus and course expectations
3x5 note cards: What do you want to learn?

b. Introduction: Political Science and International Politics
   Week 1 (September 11th, 13th, and 15th)
   Readings
   *Johnson and Joslyn, *Political Science Research Methods*, ch 2
   Class Activity September 11th: Discuss Cultural Diversity Project
   Class Activity September 13th: Spend time selecting countries for simulation

c. Week 2 (Sep 18th, 20th, 22nd): Realism v. Idealism in International Politics.
   Readings:
   *Spiegel, *World Politics in a New Era*, Chapter 2 Theory and World Politics (“Realism”, “Liberalism” and “Prisoner’s Dilemma Game”)
   *H. Morgenthau, “Six Principles of Political Realism.” Classic Readings of International Relations*, [pp.34-38] [E-RESERVE]
   Class Activity September 18th: Prisoner’s Dilemma Game

d. Week 3 (Sep 25th 27th, 29th): The International Level of Analysis: A System of States or Global Community?
   Readings:
   Class Activity September 29th: Meet in Library to go over resources available in relationship to class project

e. Week 4 (Oct 2nd, 4th, 6th): The State Level of Analysis
   Readings:
   *Spiegel, *World Politics in a New Era*, Chapter 2 Theory and World Politics (“Domestic Level of Analysis”)
   Class Activity October 6th: MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW and FIRST NEW YORK TIMES QUIZ

f. Week 5 (Oct 9th, 11th, and 13th): The Individual Level of Analysis: Nature of Humans, Humans in Organizations, Humans as Individuals
   Readings:

MIDTERM EXAM OCTOBER 13th

FALL BREAK OCTOBER 13th (6:00 PM) – OCTOBER 17th

SECTION 2: GLOBAL DIVISIONS AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS.

g. Week 7 (Oct 18, Oct 20): “Security Concerns and US Foreign Policy: Integration or Isolation?”

*Readings:*
*Spiegel, World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 7 Security Theory and Practice and 8 Contemporary Security Issues*
*“Donald Trump Outlines His Plan for Foreign Policy” The Economist (April 27, 2016). [E-RESERVE]*

h. Week 8 (Oct 23, 25th, and 27th): “The UN: What is the UN Security Council? Who are the major players?”

*Readings:*
*Spiegel, World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 13 Global Governance: International Law and Organizations (“International Governmental Organizations”, “Security IGOS: The United Nations”, “The United Nations is Born”, “The United Nations: Structure, Functions, and Politics”, “General Assembly”, and “Security Council”) During the course of this week we will be discussing the United Nations, major players, and simulation requirements. I would like to meet with individuals during the course of the week to discuss progress in relationship to the cultural diversity project.

i. Week 9 (Oct 30, Nov 1st, Nov 3rd): “Political/Security Integration: the EU, and NATO”

*Readings:*

NOVEMBER 3rd: FIRST ROUGH DRAFT PAPER DUE

j. Week 11 (Nov 6th, 8th, and 10th) “International Political Economy”

*Spiegel, World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 9 Global Issues, “Restoring Ties with Cuba”, pp. 213-257 [E-RESERVE]*
SECTION 3: DEALING WITH GLOBAL PROBLEMS

k. Week 12 (Nov 13th, 15th, and 17th): “Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction”
   Readings:
   Class Activity November 17th: SECOND NEW YORK TIMES QUIZ

l. Week 13 (Nov 20 and Nov 22): Population Growth and the Environment
   Readings:
   *Spiegel, World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 11
   November 23-26: Thanksgiving Break

m. Week 14 (Nov 27, 29, Dec 1st and Dec 4th: Resource Issues
   *Spiegel, World Politics in a New Era, Chapter 12

   Week 15: In-Class Simulation

   December 6th: Review Simulation

   December 8th, 11th, and 13th: SIMULATION!!!!

   DECEMBER 13th: SIMULATION PAPER DUE AND FINAL EXAM ASSIGNED

   FINAL EXAM DUE: MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 19th