
World Politics PS 235-009 Fall 2012

Primary Instructor: Dr. Clayton Thyne
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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide a survey of the central questions of international politics and to provide an introduction to contemporary international problems. The goals of this course are threefold: 1) to introduce students to the background and characteristics of world politics, 2) to explore the multitude of tools and explanations used by scholars in order to understand world politics, and 3) to encourage students to begin to try their own hand at making sense out of a complex and interesting subject.

This course has two main foci, which happen concurrently. The first focus, which will be the primary topic of the lectures sessions, is to introduce you to the subject of International Relations. The readings for this focus will come from the Goldstein and Pevehouse book. Your primary assessment for the first focus will be in the form of 4 exams during the semester.

The second focus is the generation of an original research paper. Your primary assessment for the second focus will be in the form of a culminating assignment, which will be due in 4 phases throughout the semester.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how international relations influence society.
2. Demonstrate an ability to identify a well-formulated question pertinent to a international relations and to employ the discipline's conceptual and methodological approaches in identifying reasonable research strategies that could speak to the question.
3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and use appropriate information resources to substantiate evidence-based claims.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the theories associated with international relations.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of methods and ethics of inquiry that lead to social scientific knowledge.

Required Readings

You are required to purchase the following book. You will also be required to listen to podcasts and videos available on Blackboard.

Goldstein, Joshua S., and Jon C. Pevehouse (2011). *International Relations*, 10th edition. Longman. ISBN-10: 0205059570 | ISBN-13: 978-0205059577

Earning Grades

You will be graded in two ways. The first is a set of exams over the assigned readings and lecture notes, which come primarily from the Goldstein & Pevehouse book. The purpose of these exams is to make sure that you are keeping up with the readings and learning the material. They are meant to be easy for those who are putting in the required time and effort. The second set of assessments comes from the various stages of your culminating assignment. This assignment will be due in various stages. I will calculate your final grade based on the following:

Exam 1: 10% of total grade
Exam 2: 10% of total grade
Exam 3: 10% of total grade
Exam 4: 20% of total grade (cumulative final)
Research Paper, Part 1: 10% of total grade
Research Paper, Part 2: 10% of total grade
Research Paper, Part 3: 10% of total grade
Research Paper, Part 4: 10% of total grade

The final 10% of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation. You will lose 20% of this grade for each unexcused absence (i.e., if you miss 5 sessions, the best you can do in the course is a B). To be clear, your grade will suffer from a single unexcused absence.

Final course grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
E = below 60

Midterm grades will be posted by the Midterm deadline established by the registrar and will be based on the grading criteria in the syllabus.

Please note that your final grades are weighted according to the percentages above. Thus, dividing the total points earned by the total available points will not give you your correct course grade because these values are not weighted.

Absences

An absence will be considered unexcused unless you give me documentation of the absence as defined by the University. For more information, please see Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part II, Section 5.2.4.2 (<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) for UK's policy on excused absences.

Missed Exams

Make-up exams (for missed examinations) will only be given for documented excused absences as defined by the University (Senate Rule V.2.4.2) and are scheduled as needed. A missed exam will result in a score of zero for that exam, unless an acceptable written excuse is presented within 48 hours of the missed examination.

Late Assignments

The due dates/times for each phase of your culminating assignment are listed in the course schedule. You will immediately lose 20% off the assignment's grade if it is not turned by the due date/time. You will lose an additional 20% off the assignment's grade for each 24 hour period that the assignment is late.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the entire course. All assignments, projects, and exercises completed by students for this class should be the product of the personal efforts of the individual(s) whose name(s) appear on the corresponding assignment. Misrepresenting others' work as one's own in the form of cheating or plagiarism is unethical and will lead to those penalties outlined in the University Senate Rules (6.3.1 & 6.3.2). The Ombud site also has information on plagiarism.

For more information, please see the home page for the Office of Academic Ombud Services (<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>) for a definition of plagiarism, how to avoid plagiarism and UK's new academic offense policy.

You may also check out the Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part II, Section 6.3 (<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) for UK's policy on academic integrity.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, to regularly log in to the course, and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities.

Disabilities/ Medical Conditions

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, jkarnes@uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities. We can then collaborate on the best solution.

Classroom Expectations

I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. If you miss a class you are still responsible for the information covered, the teaching assistant and the instructor will not provide you with their notes. I expect all students who attend class to arrive on time and ready to start class. It is disrespectful to the instructor and your classmates to show up late or leave early. During class please refrain from all disruptive behavior, including (but not limited to) reading newspapers, sleeping, talking during lecture, cell phone and pager use, and insulting classmate or instructors.

Please be aware that the instructor's pet peeve is students packing up their stuff before class ends. I will never keep you late for class because it is rude to assume that my lecture is more important than your time. Likewise, I will consider it rude if you assume that packing up your items is more important than my lecture. In regards to cell phones, it is absolutely rude to text or talk on the phone during class. That being said, I understand that you have lives and issues that may require immediate attention (as do I). If something important arises, please simply remove yourself from class momentarily and take care of the issue.

Blackboard

This course utilizes Blackboard for both the lecture sessions and for information for the Research Assignment. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly for all information pertaining to this course. At the end of the syllabus you'll find minimum technology requirements that you will need to access and use Blackboard. It is your responsibility to obtain these requirements.

Class Preparations

You are expected to come prepared to class. For lecture sessions, this usually means that you have (1) read the chapter being discussed, (2) listened to the podcast for the chapter, and (3) printed out the 'student version' of the powerpoint lectures to help you take notes more efficiently. On the Blackboard page you will see many links for each chapter under "Lecture info." These links will take you to youtube pages. I want to be explicit about how these links are to be used. First, you will not be tested on anything from these links. The information required for your exams will come from the book, lectures, and podcasts. Second, these links are meant to either (1) reinforce the topics covered in class, (2) spur you to think more deeply about the concepts from class, or (3) do both 1 and 2. Third, most of these links are not intended to provide you with objective information. You'll frequently see people explaining only one side of very

complex issues (e.g., Ron Paul discussing the gold standard). I have zero interest in indoctrinating you to one point of view or another. These clips are simply meant to make you think.

Technology

In order to participate in this course, you will need access to a computer with the minimum hardware, software and internet configuration described at this site:

<http://wiki.uky.edu/blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Bb9%20Hardware%20and%20Software%20Requirements.aspx>

Note: the use of Internet Explorer is NOT recommended for use with Blackboard. Firefox is the recommended Internet browser for the course. You can download Mozilla Firefox (free) at this site: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/upgrade.html>

You will need to install a number of plugins on your computer. The links to the specific plugins required for this course can be also be found your course. If you are using a UK computer these plugins should be already installed.

To check if your browser has Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader and QuickTime movie player, click this link: <http://wiki.uky.edu/blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Browser%20Check.aspx>. If you do not have these, you can download them from this site.

To download Windows Media Player, click this link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/10/default.aspx>

Students and faculty can download Microsoft Office Suite (including Word and PowerPoint) from this site: <https://download.uky.edu/>

If you experience technical difficulties with accessing course materials, the Customer Service Center may be able to assist you. You may reach them at 859-218-HELP (4357) or by e-mail at helpdesk@uky.edu. Please also inform the course instructor when you are having technical difficulties.

The Teaching and Academic Support Center (TASC) website (<http://www.uky.edu/TASC/>) offers additional information and resources that can promote a successful “online course” learning experience. They may also be reached at 859-257-8272.

Course Schedule

| Week | Monday | Wednesday | Friday | Research Asmt |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 (08/22-08/24) | No class | Course introduction | G&P Ch1 | Complete “PROJECT OVERVIEW” |
| 2 (08/27-08/31) | G&P Ch1 | G&P Ch2 | No class—APSA conference | Complete “PART 1: INTRODUCTION, Step 1” |
| 3 (09/03-09/07) | No class—Labor Day | G&P Ch2 | G&P Ch2; RA1 workshop paper 1 | Complete “PART 1: INTRODUCTION, Step 2” |
| 4 (09/10-09/14) | G&P Ch3 | G&P Ch3 | G&P Ch3; RA1 workshop paper 2 | Complete “PART 1: INTRODUCTION, Step 3” |
| 5 (09/17-09/21) | G&P Ch4 | G&P Ch4 | G&P Ch4 | RA1 due at 5pm on Friday, 09/21/12 |
| 6 (09/24-09/28) | Flex day; review G&P Ch1-4 | Exam 1 covers G&P Ch1-4 | Exam 1 review; RA2 introduction | Complete “PART 2: LIT REVIEW, Step 1” |
| 7 (10/01-10/05) | G&P Ch5 | G&P Ch5 | G&P Ch5; RA2 workshop paper 1 | Complete “PART 2: LIT REVIEW, Step 2” |
| 8 (10/08-10/12) | G&P Ch6 | G&P Ch6 | G&P Ch6; RA2 workshop paper 2 | Complete “PART 2: LIT REVIEW, Step 3” |
| 9 (10/15-10/19) | G&P Ch7 | G&P Ch7 | G&P Ch7 | RA2 due at 5pm on Friday, 10/19/12 |
| 10 (10/22-10/26) | Flex day; review G&P Ch5-7 | Exam 2 covers G&P Ch5-7 | Exam 2 review; RA3 introduction | Complete “PART 3: THEORY, Step 1” |
| 11 (10/29-11/02) | G&P Ch8 | G&P Ch8 | G&P Ch8; RA3 workshop paper 1 | Complete “PART 3: THEORY, Step 2” |
| 12 (11/05-11/09) | G&P Ch9 | G&P Ch9 | G&P Ch9; RA3 workshop paper 2 | Complete “PART 3: THEORY, Step 3” |
| 13 (11/12-11/16) | G&P Ch10 | G&P Ch10 | G&P Ch10 | RA3 due at 5pm on Friday, 11/16/12 |
| 14 (11/19-11/23) | Flex day; review G&P Ch8-10; RA4 introduction | No class—Thanksgiving Break | No class—Thanksgiving Break | Complete “PART 4: RES. DESIGN, Step 1” |

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| 15 (11/26-11/30) | Exam 3 covers G&P Ch8-10 | Exam 3 review; RA4 workshop paper 1 | G&P Ch12 | Complete “PART 4: RES. DESIGN, Step 2-3” |
| 16 (12/03-12/07) | G&P Ch12 | G&P Ch12; RA4 workshop paper 2 | Flex day; review G&P Ch1-10, 12 | RA4 due at 5pm on Friday, 12/07/12 |
| 17 (12/09-12/14) | No class—Finals week | No class—Finals week | Cumulative final at 1pm, Friday, 12/14 | |

*Note: G&P refers to the textbook (Goldstein & Pevehouse); RA# refers to the phases of your Research Assignment.