POLS/GLOB 241: Introduction to Global Politics  
Spring 2010

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Course Objectives
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the important problems and events that affect the world today. However, this is not merely a course in current events. To understand global politics, you must see what lies beneath the actions of global leaders and people like terrorists and freedom fighters. Anarchy, ideology and sovereignty are important in understanding the actions of individuals and nation-states. In this course, we will explore how these issues structure global politics and lead to global problems.

Students will develop the following sets of skills with regard to the course material:
1. Identify and describe the key concepts, specific facts and critical issues of global politics and correctly apply this information to particular examples.
2. Develop the skills necessary to analyze cases using the conceptual models and theories of global politics;
3. Gain introductory experience in describing the intellectual arguments, factual evidence and conclusions in the readings in course, explain the assumptions, reasoning, and conclusions of such texts in written and verbal form and explain how such texts reflect the context, culture, and personal ideology of the author;
4. Apply political science methodology in making convincing arguments supported by evidence and reasoning in discussing specific global issues.

This course can serve as the foundation for a Political Science minor, an International Affairs minor, a Global Studies concentration or major, and a Politics and Law major. It also can count as either a Cultural or Social Science Mode of Thought.

Reading and Writing Assignments
The basic textbook required for the course is available at the Bryant University bookstore:


Additional Required readings are listed on the syllabus, these are available via the links posted to Blackboard.

There will be two exams, four response papers, 20 assignments/quizzes used to calculate participation and a final exam. Questions on the exams will include short answer questions and multiple-choice, most correct answer format questions. Questions will be taken in equivalent
amounts from the assigned readings and lectures and in-class discussions. Assignments will be given the following weight in order to determine grades:

Response Papers 40% *
Exam 1: 10%
Exam 2: 15%
Participation (20 in class assignments/quizzes) 15%
Final Exam: 20%
100%

*Grades on papers are weighted, paper 1 is worth 7%, paper 2 is worth 8%, Paper 3 is 10% and paper 4 is 15%. Detailed assignment guidelines for response papers will be handed out two weeks prior to the due date.

Class Preparation and Expectations
Although this is an introductory course students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to class discussions. Please be courteous to others in the class: this means observing the manners appropriate to the university setting, including arriving on time for class. You are encouraged to talk to friends, read newspapers, chat on the phone and check text messages—outside of the classroom.

Success in this course requires work and consistent preparation; you should spend at least 9 hours per week studying for the course in addition to attending class. Strategies for doing well include: 1) actively participating in class, asking questions and contributing to class discussion; 2) attending class and taking organized notes; 3) asking questions about material you find difficult—if you don’t get it the chances are that you are not alone; 4) taking notes on the reading and reviewing them before coming to class; 5) taking advantage of office hours.

It is not necessary to make an appointment during office hours; I will do my best to accommodate you if you are unable to meet with me during those times.

In order to calculate your participation and preparation there will be 20 assignments in class throughout the semester that will be used to calculate your participation grade. I will give prior notice for some but not all of these assignments, students are expected to be prepared for all class meetings, attendance is required.

Make up exams are given only for unforeseen and highly unusual circumstances that can be verified in writing. The final examination time is on the syllabus and will be held in our regular class meeting room. Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time without notifying the instructor before the exam will result in a grade of zero for the exam. There are no make-ups for in class assignments/quizzes. These assignments will be given at the beginning of class, and those who are late will not be given the opportunity to take it after class or after the allotted time is over. Under University guidelines, a grade of Incomplete will be assigned only when students are unable to complete a course due to circumstances beyond their control.
**Academic Honesty and Integrity**
Students should refer to the section on Academic Behavior (pg. 10) in the Student Handbook as well as the Bryant Pledge (pg.2).

Cases of plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in failure for the course, a report will be filed with the Department Chair and the case will pursued via the channels outlined in the Handbook.

Plagiarism is defined as:
1. To steal and use the ideas or writings of another as ones own;
2. To appropriate passages or ideas from and use them as one’s own (American Heritage Dictionary, 1985, Boston:Houghton Mifflin).

Please consult the *Chicago Manual of Style* (available in the library), and/or *Elements of Style* (Strunk and White) to ensure that you are properly citing sources and not plagiarizing. You may also e-mail me and I will spot check your references or you may also visit the Writing Center.

**Course Outline**
**Changes in dates, specific information about lectures, other assignments and activities will be communicated to you though e-mail, you should make it a point to check your university e-mail daily. As this is a current events issues class, this schedule may be altered in order to cope with events and issues that may emerge.**

**I. The Study of International Relations/Theories of I.R.**

1/27  
Reading on Nations and Nationalism (Hawaii case) via Blackboard

1/29  
Mingst, Chapter 1 (all)

2/1  
Mingst, Chapter 3 (55-68)

2/3  
Mingst, Ch. 3 (68-80)

**II. The State System: Evolution and Structure**

2/5  
Mingst, Ch. 2 (all)

2/8  
*Response Paper Due*


2/10  
Mingst, Ch. 4 (23-34)

2/12  
Film: The Day After

2/15  
No Class President’s Day
2/17 Mingst, Ch. 4 (81-98)

2/19 **Exam 1**

2/22 Mingst, Ch. 5 (99-122)

2/24 Mingst, Ch. 5 (122-129)

2/26 Mingst, Ch. 5 (129-137)

3/1 **Response Paper Due**


3/8-3/12 Spring Break - No Class

**III. War and Peace**


3/19 Mingst, Ch. 7 (187-193)

3/22 Mingst, Ch. 7 (193-205)

3/24 **Response Paper Due**

Mingst, Ch. 8 (207-218)

3/26 Mingst, Ch. 8 (218-229)


3/29 Mingst, Ch. 8 (229-232)

3/31 Mingst, Ch. 8 (232-246); NATO Organization— Read— What is Nato?, Member Countries

4/2 Mingst, Ch. 10 (309-320)


4/12 Exam 2

IV. The International Political Economy of Development and World Hunger

4/14 Mingst, Ch. 9 (247-265)

4/16 Mingst, Ch. 9 (265-272)
Film: Life and Debt

4/19 Mingst, Ch. 9 (272-285)


4/26 Response Paper Due


V. Environmental Security and Global Climate Change

4/28 Mingst, Ch. 10 (295-309)
McGraw, Jim. “Narraganset Bay is Warming Up” East Bay Newspaper, 1/12/09.

5/3 UNEP, Climate Change Guide (24-59)

5/5 UNEP, Silja Halle ed. “From Conflict to Peacebuilding: The Role of Natural Resources and the Environment” February 2009.


Final Exam Tuesday May 11th, 2:00-4:30 p.m. GLOBS/POLS 241 B (11a.m.)
Friday May 14th, 10:00- 12:30 p.m. GLOBS/POLS 241 F (9 a.m.)