

## Quest 1: Politics and Culture – Global Perspectives (XS)(GC)

POLI SCI 111Q1 - 001C | Professor [Druscilla Scribner](#), Political Science

**This course meets in person (face to face)** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00AM - 9:30AM in Nursing/Ed 222

**My office hours are:** Mondays 3:00-4:00 pm and Wednesdays 10:30am -12:30pm. These are virtual drop in hours on **Microsoft Teams**. I am also available by appointment - just email: [scribned@uwosh.edu](mailto:scribned@uwosh.edu). For more information on how to use MS Teams see: [Office Hours and Email](#)

### Course Description

**Political Science 111 Politics and Culture- Global Perspective (SS)(XS)(GC):** This Quest 1, Global Citizenship course focuses on a current global issue or set of issues. Students will gain an ability to analyze, understand, evaluate, and appreciate the complex dynamics that shape our collective capacity to address global challenges in a complex and interconnected world. The course provides an introduction to governance in societies with different cultural perspectives and examines different vantage points of political actors tasked with governing (global, transnational, national, and local) in societies outside the United States.

**There are no prerequisites for this course;** it is open to all students regardless of major or disciplinary focus.

**This course is a 3-credit course,** which means that students are expected to do at least 9 hours of course-related work or activity each week during the semester. This includes scheduled class lecture / discussion / online meeting times as well as time spent completing assigned readings, preparing written assignments, studying for tests and examinations, and other course-related tasks.

### The University Studies Program

The University Studies Program is your gateway to a 21<sup>st</sup> century liberal education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Liberal Education is an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. ([AAC&U](#)).

**This is a Quest I course.** The Quest series is designed to provide a solid foundation for the rest of your education here, no matter which major you choose. Quest I supports your academic transition to the University by helping you to build relationships with peers, mentors and faculty in your first semester. You will develop a better understanding of the learning process, the resources available at UWO to support that process, and the goals and value of a liberal education. You will participate in campus and community life through co-curricular activities and will become familiar with the expectations of a college-level education, the UW Oshkosh Essential Learning Outcomes, and the University Studies Program (USP).

Quest I is the first in a series of “question” courses that in which you will examine three **signature questions** at the heart of your UWO liberal education:

1. *How do people understand and engage in community life?*
2. *How do people understand and create a more sustainable world?*
3. *How do people understand and bridge cultural differences?*

This course will focus primarily on the last of these - How do people understand and bridge cultural differences? - a question that is designed to provide a first step toward developing the *intercultural knowledge and competence* necessary to understand cultural differences and competently navigate a culturally rich, diverse, and complex world. This is an essential learning outcome (a core goal) of your liberal education at UWO and an indispensable life skill.

Being *culturally knowledgeable and competent* means understanding your own culture as well as cultures beyond your own; recognizing the cultural values and history, language, traditions, arts, and social institutions of groups of people; having the ability to negotiate and bridge cultural differences in ways that allow for broader perspectives to emerge; and possessing the skill to investigate a wide range of world views, beliefs, practices, and values.

One of the goals of the USP is to provide you with a broad understanding of the human experience through an exploration of different disciplines. Major academic divisions like social science, and their disciplines, like political science, present us with alternative approaches or “ways of knowing” about nature, culture and society. **This course is in the society category (XS)**; this means we want you to start thinking like a “social scientist” and using some of the tools of political science to confront kinds of fundamental questions posed in the course description above. For further information about the unique general education program at UW Oshkosh, visit the University Studies Program website at [usp.uwosh.edu](http://usp.uwosh.edu).

This course also satisfies your **USP Global Citizenship requirement**. *Global Citizenship* is the knowledge of nations, cultures, or societies beyond the U.S.; the recognition of how interaction, interdependence, and inequity among diverse geographical, social, political, or economic systems have shaped historical and contemporary global challenges and opportunities; and the skills to engage with the responsibilities of informed citizenship in a complex, interdependent, and changing world.

Our exploration of politics and cultural through a global perspective, and our exploration of disciplinary “ways of knowing,” including the use of social science methods, are all part of what it means to be liberally educated. A liberally educated person is prepared to deal with *complexity, diversity, and change*. Such individuals possess broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth knowledge of a specific area of interest.

**Building a community of learners and scholars:** Your Quest I course is paired with your writing course to form a small learning community. Both courses take up the same signature question – though from different disciplinary perspectives.

**Our course also has a peer mentor** who is a student familiar with academic life at UWO. The peer mentor will help orient you to campus life, and can refer you to various resources on campus. Your peer mentor is **Danielle (Dani) Gratz** <[gratzd16@uwosh.edu](mailto:gratzd16@uwosh.edu)> Dani will occasionally come to class,

but will also be meeting and communicating with you outside of class. Peer mentors are a great resource to help you transition to college life!

**Learning Objectives:** This is what I want you to be able to do by the end of the course. Each week we'll talk about what we want to get out of the week's reading and activities that relate to these broader outcomes.

- differentiate major political ideologies and their impact on political action
- appreciate different cultural rules, values, and attitudes
- demonstrate an awareness of how local and global political events shape and are shaped by national culture(s)
- demonstrate an awareness of how power and privilege (based on race, gender, class, or other social differences) shape the different ways people experience those global events and/or approach common challenges
- recognize and understand the relationship between local and global governance challenges
- demonstrate an ability to identify and apply your own values and attitudes to course material, and to recognize similarities and differences between your world view and that of others

#### **Learning goals of the Quest I/First Year Experience:**

- Students will be able to describe the value of a Liberal Education.
- Students will become familiar with the expectations of a college-level education, the UW Oshkosh Essential Learning Outcomes, and the University Studies Program.
- Students will begin their acculturation to life at this university, developing familiarity with the academic resources and community engagement opportunities at UW Oshkosh.
- Students will engage in learning communities to enhance their connections to the class, the university, and one another.
- Students will participate in campus and community life through co-curricular activities.

## **Course Policies**

### **Readings**

Your text is a thin volume titled "**Great Decisions**" – it is available at the bookstore (it is NOT available online). All readings and major due dates are listed on the syllabus. Required readings are provided for you on Canvas, UWO's learning management system. Other required readings (excerpts from other books, news items, articles, etc.) are available to you electronically through our course Canvas.

You should *complete your reading before the class meeting* for which it is assigned; and bring your readings with you to class. You are expected to *complete all assigned readings, attend all class meetings, and participate actively* in person and online. Come prepared to *discuss* the material and ask questions. Take notes on your reading, *keep a list of key terms and definitions*, and write down questions you may have while reading.

It will be helpful, but not required, to have a laptop, tablet, or smart phone with you in class.

## Course delivery methods and Covid-19 accommodations

This delivery method for this class is **modified tutorial**. This means that **we expect to meet in person on a regular basis**. If we have difficulty fitting in our room, we may alternate our meetings and "get creative" so we still get to see each other and work together in person (that's called "attendance modulation"). Basically, you are expected to attend class in person. If you (or I) need to participate online at times during the semester because you, or I, are in quarantine or isolation, or for other reasons, we will work it out! Otherwise, we follow normal campus attendance policies and processes for any absences.

The course is designed for in person participation, but we may have students who wish to be accommodated online for the full semester. If this is you, let me know before **Sept. 4, 2020**. If you find you need to be accommodated online for rest of the semester (any time after Sept. 4, 2020), you must request a formal accommodation from the Dean of Students.

**Accommodating online learning:** We (as a class) will do our best to accommodate and include online learners in class activities - if you are out for any reason, we still want you be engaged in class, and we'll work with the technology we have (and you have) to make that possible. This may mean recording our class sessions, holding some class discussions online, etc., participating in peer review or small groups that have online member(s), etc.

**Canvas.** We will use Canvas extensively for class. Set up your Canvas notifications so you do not miss anything! Canvas does not play that well with Apple. So be sure you are accessing Canvas through Chrome (not firefox, and not safari). Canvas only supports some file types (again, not Apple) - so save yourself a lot of headache by using Word (.DOC or .DOCX) and .PDF and and NOT .pages; and use .MP4 for video and not .MOV. Canvas has a calendar feature that shows your *assignments* created through canvas with due dates. Some assignments may not be in the calendar because they don't have a due date (so just be aware).

**Do you want to learn how to use Canvas like a pro?** Check out this mini course: <https://uws.instructure.com/enroll/XNGF6C> (enroll in this canvas course and it will show up like your other courses in Canvas on your dashboard and is a good resource to have at your fingertips).

### Mask Up! Classroom Mask Requirements:

- All students are required to wear an appropriate mask that covers their mouth and nose when they are in the classroom.
- They must also maintain appropriate physical distancing from their classmates and adhere to additional expectations communicated by the instructor or posted in the classroom.
- UWO procedure dictates that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, an instructor cannot begin class until all students are wearing a mask properly. If a student is non-compliant with the masking policy and refuses to leave the classroom promptly when requested, the instructor is required to cancel class.
- Students responsible for class cancellation for these reasons will be referred to the Dean of Students office, and the student will be unable to attend class until they meet with the Dean of Students. The student may be dropped from the class by the Dean of Students.

**Disinfecting Workspace in Classrooms** (since we have an 8am class, we will be entering a clean disinfected classroom; however, this applies for your other classes):

- Students will disinfect their workspace prior to the start of each class.
- Upon entering the classroom, students will go to get a disinfectant wipe from the canister in the room. They will use the wipe to clean the arms of the chair and the work surface. If the chair is not fabric, student may choose to wipe the seats and backs of the chairs as well. Wipes should be tossed into the garbage receptacle in the room.
- **Eating and drinking is prohibited in classrooms during the Fall 2020 semester.**

**What if?** What if you don't feel well, or your roommate has a positive test result, or you have a positive test result, or you are told to quarantine, or you have to go home to help your parents, etc.? You might have to miss class. I might have to miss class. That's OK. We need to keep open the lines of communication and be prepared to be flexible! As soon as you know you will miss class; let me know! We want to be sure you don't fall behind and that everyone has the best semester possible. [COVID-19 Resources for Students](#)

**Tips for doing well in this class:**

- **Do your reading before** the class meeting for which it is assigned and be prepared to discuss the material and ask questions
- **Come to class** – really! We will do a lot of work together in-class. Students with poor attendance tend to do poorly. I do keep track of your attendance; but it is not part of your grade - it is just expected.
- **Interact with your peers:** the best learning comes when you work with each other, it's not enough to just complete the content or come to class. Push yourself to engage with others.
- **Bring your readings and notes to class** with you so that you can participate fully in these in-class activities and assignments. You may bring a tablet or laptop to access your readings and course materials during group work.
- **Take notes on your reading**, keep a list of key terms and definitions (particularly from the textbook), and write down questions you may have while reading. I highly recommend taking hand written notes.
- **Listen actively and take great notes!** You can maximize what you learn in all your classes if you: 1) use active listening skills; 2) take clear, effective notes during class discussion and/or lecture; and 3) review your notes within 24 hours of taking them.
- **Observe common sense classroom etiquette.** Treat others with respect, be respectful of, and open to, differing opinions and attitudes.
- **Come see me in office hours** and/or communicate with me about issues, difficulties, absences etc. as they come up. If you are struggling or are not doing as well as you would like to be doing, come talk to me; we can discuss strategies to improve and what further assistance you might need.
- **Political Science majors** should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore or first semester of their junior year. PS245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently.

**Quest I Assignments:** We have several assignments that are related to Quest I. We will discuss these in class - all are intended to introduce you to the university and provide opportunities to gain some awareness of and engagement with campus and community life. There are also a number of bonus activities you'll see in Canvas called "Try it Tuesdays" - these are fun, easy, assignments for

extra credit that have the same purpose - to get you acculturated to university life and on a path to success. *Key assignments include:*

**Meetings with the Professor:** Each student is required to meet with me once during the semester (in weeks 2-6). We will hold this meeting virtually. You may come alone or with other members of the class (however you are comfortable) - there will be a sign up sheet. The point is get you started making it *a practice to visit your professors and to seek out help from your instructors and peers as questions and concerns arise*. Meeting with your instructors is a key to success in college! We will hold these meetings on MS Teams (in or in addition to office hours) - For information on how to contact me and **how to use MS Teams for office hours** see: [Office Hours and Email](#)

**Meeting with your Peer-Mentor:** This one-on-one meeting is set up by your peer mentor.

**UARC Presentation:** Quest I courses have a special presentation by the Undergraduate Advising Office - due to COVID this will be video. We will talk it through in class.

**Events (2) participation:** Quest I students need to attend two events on campus - these may be virtual this year. You will find these as assignments due at the end of week 13, but I encourage you to do them earlier. Your Peer Mentor will help you find events to attend.

**Campus Resources:** In the University Studies Program (and at UW Oshkosh generally!), we want you to be successful and there are many resources on campus dedicated to your academic and personal success. [Click for a full list of resources available to you on campus.](#)

**Students with Disabilities:** UW Oshkosh strives to create inclusive learning environments. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. For more information, visit the Services for Students with Disabilities website at <http://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/disability-services>.

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement:** Diversity drives innovation, creativity, and progress. At the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, the culture, identities, life experiences, unique abilities, and talents of every individual contribute to the foundation of our success. Creating and maintaining an inclusive and equitable environment is of paramount importance to us. This pursuit prepares all of us to be global citizens who will contribute to the betterment of the world. We are committed to a university culture that provides everyone with the opportunity to thrive.

**Disclosure statement:** "Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>."

**Excused absences, make-ups and late work:** My goal is for you to learn the material, stretch your academic abilities, and gain an appreciation of cultural and political diversity. **If you need to miss class, just communicate with me ahead of time so we can work to make sure you do not fall behind.** If you oversleep I won't have much sympathy (the rest of us didn't get to sleep in!). For an extended absence, the Dean of Students can help you with an "out of class letter." If you seek an out of class letter, you should also contact me so we can make plans to accommodate your absence.

I always accept late work, but 3% is taken off the grade for each day late automatically by Canvas - so keep that in mind. Assignments are due at the beginning of class (at 7:59 in Canvas). Remember that partial credit is better than no credit - zeros seriously impact your grade. So always do your work, even if it is late!

## Assignments and Grading

**Assignments:** There are multiple short writing and revising assignments associated with the course content. Some of these will be completed individually before class and then discussed in class; others may be completed cooperatively in-class. Discussion and other assignments, reading quizzes, etc. occur throughout the semester and are linked into our weekly course [schedule](#). You will also see that your assignments appear in your Canvas calendar by due date. And, the [Syllabus](#) navigation tab (on the left bar) also automatically generates a list of assignments by due date - when I post an assignment with a due date it will show up there.

**Study Expectations:** It is expected that students spend about 2 hours of study time outside of class for each hour we spend together inside of class - that's 3 hours a week of class time, and about 6 hours a week on preparing for class. Some students will need more study time, and some less.

**Early Alert:** In the fifth week of class, IF your grade in the course is below a C-, you will receive an email from the Registrar's Office letting you know. Pay attention to this email, it has lots of information about support services. You should seek out additional help (from me or others) if you are getting below a C and/or if you are not doing as well as you would like to be doing. We can discuss strategies to improve and what further assistance you might need.

**Grading:** I will typically grade and return assignments within seven (7) days of the due date. If this changes due to unusual circumstances, I'll let you know via announcements.

Reading quizzes, assignments and discussion activities	40% of final grade
Current Event Connections (5)	20% of final grade
Midterm and Final Papers (2)	20% of final grade
Quest I activities and assignments	20% of final grade

### The UWO Grading Scale is as follows:

Name:		Range:
A	100 %	to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Range:</b>
B	< 87.0 %	to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 63.0%
D-	< 63.0 %	to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

**Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:** Academic Honesty is fundamental to the University, and academic misconduct is taken very seriously. As a UW Oshkosh student, it is your responsibility to be informed about what constitutes academic misconduct, how to avoid it and what happens if you decide to engage in it. [Check out these resources on the Dean of Students website.](#)

**Political Science Department Expectations for Academic Honesty:** A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone’s words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

**What to do if things aren’t going well (in this or any other class):** Always talk to your professor first about any issues you have with their class. If this conversation does not solve the issue, or you are not comfortable talking with your instructor, reach out to the chair of the department. **The Department of Political Science** is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at [kruegerj@uwosh.edu](mailto:kruegerj@uwosh.edu). Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

## Course Schedule

The course is scheduled by week. You can access the interactive schedule on Canvas on the [Course Syllabus - Weekly Schedule](#) page to get a sense of the whole semester plan AND by individual week under the [Weekly Schedule with Readings and Assignments](#) module where there is a dedicated page for each week that lays out our plans for that week with links to all the readings and assignments. View your Syllabus tab in Canvas for list of due dates; major ones are listed here as a reminder. All readings listed are required – they are either in your text or provided for you (embedded in our course site) on Canvas.

If (when) anything changes to our schedule or plans during the semester, it will be communicated to you via our Canvas course announcements (so be sure to sign up for notifications of announcements!); AND the module(s), assignments, etc. will be updated to reflect the changes.

**2020 Week 0 - Welcome and Introductions: September 8 (Tuesday) AND September 10 (Thursday)**

- Course embedded reading and reading quiz

**2020 Week 1 - Introduction - Artificial Intelligence as a Foreign Policy Challenge: September 15 (Tuesday) AND September 17 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 8
- Course embedded reading and reading quiz

**2020 Week 2 - Political Ideologies - The Liberal Tradition: September 22 (Tuesday) AND September 24 (Thursday)**

- Course embedded reading and reading quiz

**2020 Week 3 - Political Ideologies - Alternatives to the Liberal Tradition: September 29 (Tuesday) AND October 1 (Thursday)**

- Course embedded reading and reading quiz
- 2020 Connections #1 is due Oct. 1 (plus peer review by the next week)

**2020 Week 4 - Foreign policy challenge: Global Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels: October 6 (Tuesday) AND October 8 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 1 and discussion entry ticket

**2020 Week 5 - Culture, Ideology and Collective Action: October 13 (Tuesday) AND October 15 (Thursday)**

- Course embedded reading and reading quiz

**2020 Week 6 - Foreign policy challenge: The Northern Triangle: October 20 (Tuesday) AND October 22 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 5 and discussion entry ticket
- 2020 Connections #2 is due Oct. 22 (plus peer review by the next week)

**2020 Week 7 - Power and Populism: October 27 (Tuesday) AND October 29 (Thursday)**

- Course embedded reading and reading quiz

**2020 Week 8 - Foreign policy challenge: India and Pakistan: November 3 (Tuesday) AND November 5 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 2 and discussion entry ticket

**2020 Week 9 - Democracy (and its discontents): November 10 (Tuesday) AND November 12 (Thursday)**

- Course embedded reading and reading quiz
- 2020 Connections #3 is due Nov. 12 (plus peer review by the next week)

**2020 Week 10 - Foreign policy challenge: The Philippines: November 17 (Tuesday) AND November 19 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 7 and discussion entry ticket

**2020 Week 11 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: November 24 (Tuesday) AND November 26 (Thursday = NO CLASS)**

- Text Ch. 4 and discussion entry ticket

**2020 Week 12 - Foreign policy challenge: China in Latin America: December 1 (Tuesday) AND December 3 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 6 and discussion entry ticket

**2020 Week 13 - Foreign policy challenge: The Red Sea Region: December 8 (Tuesday) AND December 10 (Thursday)**

- Text Ch. 3 and discussion entry ticket
- 2020 Connections #4 is due Dec 10 (plus peer review by the next week)
- Friday Dec. 11 is the last day to submit Quest I event reflections (remember there are two): Quest ACADEMIC Event and a Quest CULTURAL Event

**2020 Week 14 - Finals: December 15 (Tuesday) AND December 17 (Thursday)**

- Liberal Arts Reflection paper is due Dec. 15th
- Final Take Home Essay is due by the end of Friday Dec. 18th (we'll start earlier on drafts and revisions)