

Political Science 115 Fall 2021 Sage 1232 MWF 10:20—11:20 Credits: 3	Professor Michael Jasinski Email: jasinskm@uwosh.edu Sage Hall 4624 Office Hours: Thursdays 11-2
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International Politics

or

“You are on Earth; there is no cure for that” --Samuel Beckett, *Endgame*

Course Description: Development of the nation-state system; role of the great powers; the struggle for power; settlement of disputes; diplomacy, the quest for law, nationalism, contemporary problems.

The University Studies Program: “The purpose of the University Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is to inspire intellectual curiosity in our students, encourage them to understand their responsibilities as educated people, and lay the foundation for the skills and knowledge that will enable them to succeed not only as university students, but also as engaged local and global citizens. The program is structured around three interconnected areas:

QUESTION / EXPLORATION / CONNECTION

These terms build upon the successful Odyssey program for incoming UW Oshkosh students. They also reinforce the goal of assisting students in developing responsibility for their own learning while underscoring the fact that knowledge is driven by inquiry.” (Adopted from University Studies Program booklet, <http://www.uwosh.edu/usp/pdfs/university-studies-program-booklet>)

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of human cultures
- Identification and objective evaluation of theories and assumptions
- Historical perspective on the state of the international system

Skills developed in this course:

- Improve the level of understanding of the main issues in contemporary international politics.
- Develop a concept of individual and national responsibility.
- Develop critical and creative thinking through utilization of social science theories.
- Practice written communication through short essays and a research project.

Global Citizenship: This course is designated a “Global Citizen” course and may count toward the achievement of a Global Scholar Designation on your transcript. Global citizenship is the knowledge of nations, cultures, or societies beyond the US; the recognition of how interaction, interdependence, and inequity among diverse geographical, social, political, or economic systems have shaped historical or contemporary global challenges and opportunities, and the skills to engage with the responsibilities of informed citizenship in a complex, interdependent, and changing world.

The Global Citizenship criteria are as follows:

- a) examine nations, cultures, and societies beyond the U.S. historically or in the present
- b) appreciate diverse human ideas and traditions
- c) understand forms of and sources of interaction, interdependence and inequity at the local and global levels

On the basis of those, the course has the following Student Learning Objectives:

--Students will gain knowledge of global systems, institutions, and theories of international behavior.

--Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives on international politics which are conditioned by the individual countries’ or regions’ circumstances, interests, and historical experiences.

Office hours - Office Hours (MS Teams)

The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor’s icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot means they are busy.

Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during office hours, and will mark my availability as “busy” (a red dot).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help. Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

Attendance: Highly encouraged! I will take attendance regularly, and while there is no attendance grade, there is a class participation grade (explained below) which will suffer if you have significant attendance gaps.

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>

Note: If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.

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/>."

Statement of reasonable accommodation for student with disabilities

<https://www.uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/Accessibility-Center/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabus-statement>

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. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

Note to Political Science Majors: Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

Readings: all course readings are on Canvas. There is *no* textbook associated with this course.

Grading: Your course grade will consist of the following:

--**Weekly Responses.** Starting with week 7, each week's slides will contain a number of discussion questions that would have ordinarily been part of the class discussion, and which will now be moved to Canvas.

The requirement here is to write 250-word responses for **three** of the discussion questions **for each week**. Submit them to the relevant dropbox under Assignments on Canvas.

Each response is graded on a three-point scale (1-3). These points will be earned as follows:

- Actually provides an answer to the question relying on the course's theoretical framework and using the terminology we used in the initial six weeks. It means discussing things like international relations theories, the role of sovereignty or lack thereof, provision of public goods or lack thereof, or any theoretical concepts introduced in that week's readings.
- Cites relevant readings, both for the week in question and/or from the initial four weeks which laid out the course's theoretical framework.
- Is of proper length.

Meeting each of the three above gets you 1 point, for a total of three per 250-word essay.

I will provide written feedback on Canvas to each of your answers.

Collectively, they will amount to 60% of the final course grade.

--**One research paper of at least 12 pages (double-spaced) in length.** Select a disagreement or a conflict between two or more international actors. Your grade will depend on how effectively you address each of the following criteria:

- Discuss each actor's position on the issue, describing the source of the clash of interests.
- Assess each actor's "hard", "soft", and "sticky" power, and how they are using it to achieve their objective.
- What is each actor's perception of "the other"? In other words, when discussed by the political leaders or the mass media of the actor in question, how is the adversary described?
 - Is that an accurate or fair depiction?
- What is the position on the conflict taken by other major international actors, including relevant state actors and major international organizations such as the UN?
- Try to propose a "win-win" solution to the conflict that would not look and feel like a defeat for either party to the conflict. Is such a solution possible, in your estimate?

The research paper is worth 30% of the final course grade.

--**Participation in class discussion:** This accounts for the 10% of your course grade. Class participation grade will be assessed as follows:

Frequent and topical participation (you are weekly participant in the discussion, in the form of providing insights, or even simply asking questions): 100%

Occasional participation (once every few weeks you make a contribution): 75%

No participation, or very rare participation (you may have said something once or twice during the entire semester): 50%

You will naturally not be penalized if your participation is negatively affected by quarantines, illness, other pandemic-related issues, personal or family. However, please do keep me informed if these issues arise.

Grade Scale: Final course grades will be assigned as follows: A: 92 and higher. A-: 90-91; B+: 88-89; B: 82-87; B-: 80-81; C+: 78-79; C: 72-77; C-: 70-71; D: 60-69; F: 0-59.

Course Schedule

Week 1 *"Do unto others before they do unto you."*

Walt, "One World, Many Theories"

Week 2 *The state is a relationship of domination of men over men, one that rests on the use of legitimate violence."*

Krasner, "Sovereignty" ---

Renan, "What is a Nation?"

Weber, "What is a State?"

Ottaway, "Nation Building"

Sadowsky, "Ethnic Conflict"

Week 3 *"You get the government you deserve"*

"Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs"

Huntington, "The Third Wave"

Falk, "Human Rights"

Kagan, "Springtime for Strongmen"

Week 4 *" Greedy men, competing, make the world go 'round"*

Sobel, "Economic Liberalism and Market Exchange in the Global Arena" [Chapter 5 only]

Week 5 *"In the long run we are all dead"*

Nau, "History of Globalization"

Matthews, "The Global Civil Society"

Albright, "The United Nations"

Exam 1 Monday of Week 6 (Weeks 1-5)

Week 6 *"But the Spanish had gunpowder."*

Goldstein and Pevehouse, "The North-South Gap"

Goldstein and Pevehouse, "International Development"

Week 7 M 3/16, W 3/18, F 3/20 “Man cannot live in the midst of plenty.”

Eberstadt, “Population Implosion”
Rothkopf, “Is a Green World a Safer World?”
Grunwald, “Seven Myths About Alternative Energy”
Kahn, “The Green Economy”
Ghosh, “The Coming Climate Crisis”

Week 8 “What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold War, or the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the end of history as such.”

Jervis, “The Era of Leading Power Peace”
Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”
Wolf, “Can Globalization Survive?”
Mueller, “Nuclear Weapons”
Allison, “Thucydides Trap”

Week 9 “The worse, the better”

Carothers, “Civil Society”
Appleby and Marty, “Fundamentalism”
Crenshaw, “Causes of Terrorism”
Lawrence, “The Science of Guerrilla Warfare”

Week 10 “We have before us the opportunity to forge for ourselves and for future generations a new world order.”

Mead, “America's Sticky Power”
Zakaria, “The Future of American Power”
Walt, “The Myth of American Exceptionalism”
Hendrickson, “Revolution and Intervention”
Irwin, “Understanding Trump’s Trade War”

Week 11 “Don’t mention the war”

“The Declaration of 9 May 1950”
Harding, “The Myth of Europe”
Frieden, “The Euro”
Ghosh, “What next for the EU”
O’Rourke, “Brexit”

Week 12 “Whoever does not miss the Soviet Union has no heart. Whoever wants it back has no brain.”

Brown, “Deconstructing Russophobia”
Orlov, “The Peculiarities of Russian National Character”
Bullough, “Vladimir Putin: The Rebuilding of Soviet Russia”
Ames, “Sorry America, Ukraine isn’t all about you”
Klaus, “Let’s Start a Real Ukrainian Debate”

Week 13 "Prepapre for War"

Harding, "China"

McGregor, "5 Myths About the Chinese Communist Party"

Chang, "The Coming Collapse of China"

Kaplan, "How We Would Fight China"

"China-Russia Partnership Threatens US Hegemony"

Harding, "China's Imperial President"

Week 14 "We are not far from disaster."

Burke, "Al Qaeda"

Gaddis, "Grand Strategy of Transformation"

Lynch, "Behind the Arab Spring"

Hanieh, "A Brief History of the Islamic State"

Research Papers due Friday of Week 13