

Political Science 115
Credits: 3
Spring 2023
Class Meeting Time: MWF 9:10—10:10
Sage Hall 1232

Professor Michael Jasinski
Political Science Department
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Office Hours: Th 11-2pm
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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.

Prerequisites: None

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Explain a wide variety of theoretical perspectives on state behavior and apply them to real-life situations.
- Understand the significance of major events in world history and how they shaped (and continue to shape) the international political system.
- Describe the international system and its constituent parts, including states, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations.
- Knowledge of human cultures
- Identification and objective evaluation of theories and assumptions.
- Knowledge of sustainability and its applications.

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.

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

Office Hours: I will hold office hours in my office during the scheduled times. If you do not wish to make a personal appearance in my office due to health considerations, you may contact me via MS Teams.

Exams: There will be three exams, each with 35 multiple choice questions. Each exam will be worth 15% of the final course grade, though your best exam will be worth double that, therefore collectively the exams are worth 60% of the final course grade. Exams will focus chiefly on the material covered in class, therefore your attendance and participation are essential to understanding the material and preparing for the exams.

Assessment: Your course grade will consist of the following:

--**Weekly Responses.** 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. You should cite one reading (or more) per each of the three answers.
- Is of proper length.

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

Weekly responses should take the form of documents (.doc or .pdf formats) uploaded to their respective Canvas dropboxes, are due by the beginning of the following week (i.e., week 2 responses are due on Monday of Week 3, and so on throughout the semester), however, I will not assess any lateness penalties.

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

Collectively, they will amount to 30% of the final course grade.

Class Participation: Class participation will be worth 10% of the final course grade. This is by far the most subjective component of the grade, however, you will get the full credit for it if you make your presence felt in class on at least a semi-regular basis, in the form of answering questions, asking questions, providing commentary relevant to the current topic or current events.

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/.](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>

Grievance Procedure: 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. If you have questions about this requirement, your course schedule, possible internships, or career preparation please reach out to your faculty adviser. Students are encouraged to meet with their faculty advisers at least once per year. If you are unsure who your adviser is, you can check Titanweb or email Ms. Angelee Hammond at hammond@uwosh.edu.

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 M 1/30 W 2/1 F 2/3 "Do unto others before they do unto you."

Walt, "One World, Many Theories"

Week 2 M 2/6 W 2/8 F 2/10 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"
Sadovsky, "Ethnic Conflict"

Week 3 M 2/13 W 2/15 F 2/17 "You get the government you deserve"

"Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs"
Huntington, "The Third Wave"
Falk, "Human Rights"
Kagan, "Springtime for Strongmen"

Week 4 M 2/20 W 2/22 F 2/24 "Greedy men, competing, make the world go 'round'"
Sobel, "Economic Liberalism and Market Exchange in the Global Arena" [Chapter 5 only]

Week 5 M 2/27 W 3/1 F 3/3 "In the long run we are all dead"

Nau, "History of Globalization"
Matthews, "The Global Civil Society"
Albright, "The United Nations"

Exam 1, Monday, 3/6, Weeks 1-5

Week 6 M 3/6 W 3/8 F 3/10 "But the Spanish had gunpowder."

Goldstein and Pevehouse, "The North-South Gap"
Goldstein and Pevehouse, "International Development"

Week 7 M 3/13 W 3/15 F 3/17 "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"

SPRING BREAK

Week 8 M 3/27 W 3/29 F 3/31 "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 M 4/3 W 4/5 F 4/7 "The worse, the better"

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

Week 10 M 4/10 W 4/12 F 4/14 "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"

Exam 2 Monday, 4/17, Weeks 6-10

Week 11 M 4/17 W 4/19 F 4/21 "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 M 4/24 W 4/26 F 4/28 "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 M 5/1 W 5/3 F 5/5 "Peace behind me, war in front of me"

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 M 5/8 W 5/10 F 5/12 "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"

Exam 3 Friday, 5/12, Weeks 11-14

Research Papers due Friday of Week 13