

Political Science 115 Spring 2024 Class Meeting Time: T Th 9:40—11:10 Sage Hall 3235 Credits: 3	Professor Michael Jasinski Office Hours: Thu 11:30—2:30 Office: Sage 4624 Email: jasinskm@uwosh.edu
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International Politics

or

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

Catalogue 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.

Spring 2024 Course Description: The world has not been this close to a nuclear war since the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. While the end of the Cold War was hailed as the dawn of a new era of lasting cooperation among nations, the end of history, even, it is now clear that we have entered into a new era of conflict that is showing more signs of continued escalation than abatement. This semester we will look at what’s happening in the world, the origins of conflict in the international system, as well as sources of cooperation among the major players.

Prerequisites: None

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- 1.) Explain a wide variety of theoretical perspectives on state behavior and apply them to real-life situations.
- 2.) Understand the significance of major events in world history and how they shaped (and continue to shape) the international political system.
- 3.) Describe the international system and its constituent parts, including states, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations.

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.

Assignments and Assessment

Your course grade will consist three exams (60%), weekly responses (30%) and class participation (10%).

Exams: There will be three exams, each with 30 multiple choice questions and four short essay 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.

You will be able to use your notes (handwritten or typed and printed out) during the exams, but not any of the assigned readings or lecture slides.

--**Weekly Responses.** The requirement here is to write 150-word responses for **two** of the discussion questions **for each week**, and **prepare a verbal response** for the question associated with the reading marked with an asterisk, so that you are able to discuss it in class on Monday (Wednesday, on exam weeks). Where there is only one or two readings assigned for the week, more than one verbal and/or written response will be associated with an individual reading.

Submit the written responses to the relevant dropbox on Canvas.

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

- Answers or attempts to answer the question.
- Cites the reading indicated in the question.
- Is of proper length (150 words or more).

Weekly responses should take the form of documents (.doc or .pdf formats) uploaded to their respective Canvas dropboxes, are due on the Tuesday of each week (i.e., week 2 responses are due on Tuesday evening of Week 2, and so on throughout the semester).

Late submissions will result in a four-point penalty.

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. Having prepared responses to the asterisked readings will go a long way toward maxing out class participation grade as well.

--Attendance: I will take attendance regularly. You will lose one point off the final course grade for each unexcused absence in excess of three, for a maximum of 10 points.

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 2/6, 2/8 Major Theories of International Relations

Walt, "One World, Many Theories"

Week 2 2/13, 2/15 States and Nations

*Krasner, "Sovereignty" ---

Renan, "What is a Nation?"

Ottaway, "Nation Building"

Sadowsky, "Ethnic Conflict"

Week 3 2/20, 2/22 Human Needs and Rights

*Bay, "Needs, Wants, and Political Legitimacy"

Diamond, "Universal Democracy?"

Falk, "Human Rights"

Kagan, "Springtime for Strongmen"

Week 4 2/27, 2/29 International Trade

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

Exam 1, Tuesday 3/5, Weeks 1-4

Week 5 3/5, 3/7 Globalization

*Nau, "History of Globalization"

Matthews, "The Global Civil Society"
Albright, "The United Nations"

Week 6 3/12, 3/14, Problems of Developing Countries

*Goldstein and Pevehouse, "The North-South Gap"
Goldstein and Pevehouse, "International Development"
"Five Reasons why Global South Isn't Automatically Supporting the West on Ukraine"
"The China Debt Trap Lie That Won't Die"

Week 7 3/19, 3/21, Problems of Sustainability

*Grunwald, "Seven Myths About Alternative Energy"
Rothkopf, "Is a Green World a Safer World?"
Kahn, "The Green Economy"
"What if the World Cannot Save the World from Climate Change"

Spring Break

Week 8 4/2, 4/4 Sources of International Conflict

*Jervis, "The Era of Leading Power Peace"
Krepinevich, "Protracted Great Power War"
Mueller, "Nuclear Weapons"
Allison, "Thucydides Trap"

Week 9 4/9, 4/11 Terrorism and Insurgency

*Crenshaw, "Causes of Terrorism"
Appleby and Marty, "Fundamentalism"
Lawrence, "The Science of Guerrilla Warfare"
Beaufre, "Light Khaki"

Week 10 4/16, 4/18 United States as a Hegemonic Power

*Sullivan, "The Sources of US Power"
Gilpin, "Hegemonic War and International Change"
Walt, "The Myth of American Exceptionalism"
Mead, "America's Sticky Power"

Exam 2 Tuesday 4/16, Weeks 5-9

Week 11 4/23, 4/25 EU, the Test of Liberal Institutionalism

*Gonzalez and Hoffmann, "The EU and Globalization"
Moravcsik, "Why Europe Wins"
Frieden, "The Euro"
"Brexit: Why the Backlash Has Been Long in Coming"

Week 12 4/30, 5/2 Russia as a Great Power

*Orlov, "The Peculiarities of Russian National Character"

Karaganov, "The Putin Doctrine"

Klaus, "Let's Start a Real Ukrainian Debate"

Mearsheimer, "John Mearsheimer on why the West is primarily to blame for the Ukrainian crisis"

Week 13 5/7, 5/9 China, the Rising Power

*Brands and Sullivan, "China's Two Paths to World Domination"

Schell, "The Ugly End of Chimerica"

Kaplan, "How We Would Fight China"

"China-Russia Partnership Threatens US Hegemony"

Week 14 5/14, 5/16 The Middle East

*Gaddis, "Grand Strategy of Transformation"

Burke, "Al Qaeda"

Lynch, "Behind the Arab Spring"

Hanieh, "A Brief History of the Islamic State"

Exam 3 Thursday 5/16, Weeks 10-14

Additional Course Information

Incomplete Grades: Students are responsible for meeting the criteria for Incomplete grades, as established by College of Letters and Science. See the enclosed form on Canvas for further details.

Early Alert: A few weeks into the semester your instructors will send you an early alert message if they think that you are struggling with class. This message will let you know whether your instructors have noticed any academic problems, attendance problems, or both. When you get such a message it is a chance to address a problem and improve on your work. We suggest meeting with your instructor.

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>

Syllabus Changes: 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: STUDENT RIGHT TO KNOW ACT (1990) Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Student Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>

Disabilities Policy: It is university policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Please contact your instructor as soon as possible to discuss any accommodations you might need and provide appropriate documentation.

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. Tracy Slagter. She can be reached at slagtert@uwosh.edu. Should she be unable to resolve your concerns, she 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.