

**Political Science 115**

Credits: 3

Fall 2017

Class Meeting Time: TTh 9:40-11:10

**Professor Michael Jasinski**

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-1:30

Sage Hall 4624

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**International Politics**

*or*

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

**Course Description:** The objective of the course is to provide a basic understanding of the major problems and issues facing the contemporary international system, and the efforts to create a stable and sustainable international order that is the prerequisite for dealing with these issues. Consequently, the course addresses factors that promote the stability and durability of the international system and threats to its stability.

**Essential Learning Outcomes:**

- 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 D2L. There is *no* textbook associated with this course.

**Assessment:** Your course grade will consist of the following:

--**Three exams**, each with 30 multiple choice questions and 4 (out of 5) short essay questions. Each exam will count for 15% of the final course grade. The highest exam grade will count for an additional 15%.

--**One research paper of at least 12 pages in length.** Select a disagreement or a conflict between two or more international actors and analyze it using the following criteria:

Discuss each actor's position on the issue in some detail.

Why has the actor adopted this position? What interests does the position serve?

On what is the disagreement between the two actors based? What is the incompatibility of interests?

Why is one's actor position perceived as harmful by the other actor?

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?

Try to propose a possible solution to overcome the incompatibility that does not require either side to make a fundamental realignment of interests. Is such a solution possible, in your estimate?

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

Frequent and topical participation: 100%

Occasional participation: 85%

No participation, or very rare participation: 70%

All readings summaries submitted on time and to standard: +15% (not to exceed 100%)

--**Weekly Readings Summaries:** You are required to submit, by email to the address at the top of this page, weekly reaction papers dealing with the assigned readings, in which you attempt to answer the questions for that week (these questions are listed below, in the list of readings for each course week). The summaries are to be approximately **1 page, single-spaced**. The summary is due Monday, by midnight, of the week, and should be submitted to the Weekly Summaries D2L folder. These papers will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Each week's readings have an associated question that your reaction ought to attempt to answer to the best of your ability (don't worry if the readings may seem over your head in some cases, what I'm looking for is the effort to grapple with the course material, plus they give me an idea of which concepts you are struggling with so that I may give them extra attention in class). You may fail to submit one summary during the semester. Failure to submit each additional summary will lower your course grade by 2 points.

--**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed **two** unexcused absences with no penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will reduce your final course grade by 1 point. Occasional lateness will not be penalized; however, frequent lateness may negatively affect your class participation grade.

**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.

**Academic Honesty:** All work is to be your own. No notes, books, or other study materials will be permitted during exams. Violations of the academic honesty code will be pursued in accordance with

university procedures. You may (in fact, you are encouraged to do so) work in groups on your readings summaries, however each member of the group should turn in his/her individual summary.

**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.

### **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"***

Bay, "Needs, Wants, and Political Legitimacy"

Huntington, "The Third Wave"

Falk, "Human Rights"

Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma."

#### **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"

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

Goldstein and Pevehouse, "The North-South Gap"

Stiglitz, "International Development: Is it Possible?"

"Development's Great Depression"

#### **Week 7 *"Man cannot live in the midst of plenty."***

Eberstadt, "Population Implosion"

McKibben, "Climate Change"

Rothkopf, "Is a Green World a Safer World?"

Grunwald, "Seven Myths About Alternative Energy"

Brown, "The New Geopolitics of Food"

Kahn, "The Green Economy"

Ferguson and Smith, "The Nuclear Option"

**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?"

Perkovich, "Nuclear Proliferation"

Mueller, "Nuclear Weapons"

**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."***

Clark, "American Strategic Experience"

Mead, "America's Sticky Power"

Zakaria, "The Future of American Power"

Walt, "The Myth of American Exceptionalism"

Hendrickson, "Revolution and Intervention"

Gilpin, "Hegemonic War and International Change"

**Exam 2 Monday of Week 11 (Weeks 6-10)**

**Week 11 *"Don't mention the war"***

"The Declaration of 9 May 1950"

Gonzalez and Hoffmann, "The EU and Globalization"

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"

"Goebbels on USSR"

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 *"BRICS must provide a united and clear voice in shaping a peaceful, balanced and stable world."***

Bello, "The BRICS: Challengers to Global Status Quo"

McGregor, "5 Myths About the Chinese Communist Party"

Chang, "The Coming Collapse of China"

Kaplan, "The South China Sea is the Future of Conflict"

**Week 14 *"We are not far from disaster."***

Ottaway and Carothers, "Middle East Democracy"

Burke, "Al Qaeda"

Gaddis, "Grand Strategy of Transformation"

Al-Diyali, "The Price of Victory"

Lynch, "Behind the Arab Spring"

Hanieh, "A Brief History of the Islamic State"

**Exam 3 Wednesday of Week 14**

**Papers due Friday of Week 14**