

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH
Department of Political Science

PS111 – Quest 1: Politics and Culture – Global Perspectives (3 cr)

Fall 2017: TR 9:40 – 11:10 in Sage 4212

Office Hours:
*Wednesdays 11:30-1:30pm and Thursdays
from 1:00-2:00pm*

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide students who want to know more about the world they live in with an introduction to global politics. The course focuses on a current transnational issue or set of issues that have both global and local origins and impacts. Students will gain an ability to analyze, understand, evaluate, and appreciate the complex dynamics that shape our collective ability 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.

THE UNIVERSITY STUDIES PROGRAM

The University Studies Program is your gateway to a 21st 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 classes are 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).

SIGNATURE QUESTIONS IN USP

QUEST I is the first in a series of “question” courses that in which you will examine three key 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 of 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 (SS); 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.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

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

The course has a PEER MENTOR who is a student familiar with academic life at UWO. The peer mentor will attend campus events with the class, help orient you to campus life, and can refer you to various resources on campus.

Your peer mentor’s name is: Joseph Klosowski
You may contact them at: klosoj25@uwosh.edu

Students are expected to attend a variety of CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (events on and/or off campus that you will attend together or in small groups) so that you have some awareness of and engagement with campus and community life. One of these must be a “**cultural**” event (such as fine and performing arts performance); one must be an “**academic**” event (such a speaker or

moderated film) and one must be a “**fun**” campus life event (such as attending a sports event). Your peer mentor will help you identify appropriate events.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) appreciate different cultural rules, values, and attitudes
- 2) demonstrate an awareness of how local and global political events shape and are shaped by national culture(s)
- 3) 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
- 4) recognize and understand the relationship between local and global governance challenges
- 5) demonstrate an ability to identify and apply your own values and attitudes to material associated with the course, and to recognize similarities and differences between your world view and that of others

Learning goals of the Quest I/First Year Experience:

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

COURSE POLICIES

Course materials (readings, etc.) will be available on D2L. All readings listed in the syllabus are required readings. 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*. 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.

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.
- **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 or lecture; and 3) review your notes within 24 hours of taking them.
- **Observe common sense classroom etiquette.** Treat others with respect, and 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.

MEETINGS WITH THE PROFESSOR: Each student is required to meet with the professor twice during the semester (once in weeks 2-6 and once in weeks 7-13). You may come alone or with other members of the class (however you are comfortable). *Make it a practice to seek out help from your professors and peers as questions and concerns arise.* There are numerous campus resources available to you. In the University Studies Program, we want you to be successful.

CAMPUS RESOURCES: Please visit this [resource page](#) (and our D2L course page) to read about all the campus services available to support your success.

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, communicate with me so we can work to make sure you don't fall behind.

EARLY ALERT: In the fifth week of class, IF your grade in the course is low, 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.

ASSIGNMENTS: There are multiple short writing and revising assignments associated with the course. Some of these will be completed individually before class and then discussed in class; others may be completed cooperatively in-class. For every major unit you will be responsible for finding and presenting a related current event, and you will write a short reflection after our overall class discussion. Overall, while the assignments vary in length and content, they are all designed to further your understanding of concepts and give you opportunities to apply what you are learning.

FINAL PROJECT: Your final project for this course is an op-ed on an issue we've studied this semester. Op-eds are articles that appear opposite of the editorial page of local, state, and national newspapers. They are part of the opinion pages, which are among the best-read sections of newspapers and other media sources – often on par with the front page itself. We'll go over this assignment in class.

EXAMS: There is one final exam, two geography quizzes and several "terms" quizzes (pop quizzes) across the semester. The final exam will consist primarily of short answer or essay

questions. I will distribute a review sheet to you one week in advance of each exam so you have an idea of what to expect and we will spend some time collectively preparing and reviewing for each exam.

STUDY EXPECTATIONS: It is usually expected that students will 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.

GRADING: Final Grades will be calculated using UWO’s 93/90/87 grading scale as follows:

Assignments (multiple)	50% of final grade
Map Quizzes (2)	10% of final grade
Quest I Activities	10% of final grade
Exam	15% of final grade
Final Project	15% of final grade

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY: “Academic Honesty is fundamental to the University, and academic misconduct is taken very seriously. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, *for the appropriate citation of sources*, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors” (UWS, 14.01, emphasis added).

- Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas, words, theories, evidence, findings, argument, etc. and passing them off as your own by not properly attributing or acknowledging the original source of those ideas.
- Students may inadvertently plagiarize when they fail to provide page numbers for quotations in a paper, or when they paraphrase or summarize the work of others without acknowledging the source in the text of their paper.
- Plagiarism in its many forms is wrong, unethical and dishonest. At minimum plagiarism in this course will result in a failing grade on the specific assignment and may result in other disciplinary action.
- *If you are unsure whether or not what you have written constitutes plagiarism (in this class, or in another class you are taking), or you do not understand how to cite the work of others, don’t hesitate to ask me!*

COURSE SCHEDULE

WELCOME WEEK: SEPT. 5 – SEPT. 8



Th – What are we going to do in this class? Why is it worth my time? How can I do well in this course? What are the “liberal arts”?

Read: Your syllabus - write down the due dates in your planner and bring it with you to class today (and every day).

Read: The enduring relevance of a liberal-arts education (D2L)

Explore: UARC – General Education (D2L link)

Quest event: Taste of Oshkosh

WEEK 1: SEPT. 11 – SEPT. 15 ACTING IN AND ON THE WORLD: UNDERSTANDING FOREIGN POLICY FROM MANY PERSPECTIVES – STATES, NATIONS, AND GLOBAL CITIZENS.

Tu – Our approach to the world Post WWII

Read: *Continuity and Change in American Foreign Policy* pp. 7-13

Read: The Science of Social Science (D2L)

Th – A new direction?

Explore: How Trump is changing America’s foreign policy (D2L Link)



Quest activity: Campus Tour with Joe

WEEK 2: SEPT. 18 – SEPT. 22 THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: COPING WITH CRISIS

TOP QUESTIONS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION in the UK since Brexit result officially announced

- 1 What does it mean to leave the EU?
- 2 What is the EU?
- 3 Which countries are in the EU?
- 4 What will happen now we've left the EU?
- 5 How many countries are in the EU?

Google Trends @GoogleTrends

"What is the EU?" is the second top UK question on the EU since the #EURefResults were officially announced

6:25 AM - Jun 24, 2016

611 26,289 18,122

Tu – What is the EU?

Explore: BBC News - What is the EU and how does it work? (D2L Link)

Explore: EUROPA - The EU in brief (D2L Link)

Explore: What is the European Union - EUintheUS.org (D2L Link)

In-class activity: Mapping the EU

Th –Is the EU a super power?

Read: *The future of Europe: Coping with Crisis* – pg 16-20.

Read: Sovereignty (D2L)

In-class activity: Comparing states

Quest event – choices abound!

WEEK 3: SEPT. 25 – SEPT. 29 - THE FUTURE OF EUROPE: COPING WITH CRISIS

Tu –Identifying core challenges to EU

Read: *The future of Europe: Coping with Crisis* – pg 20-28; and UPDATE (D2L)

Explore: UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) – Europe Operations (D2L Link)

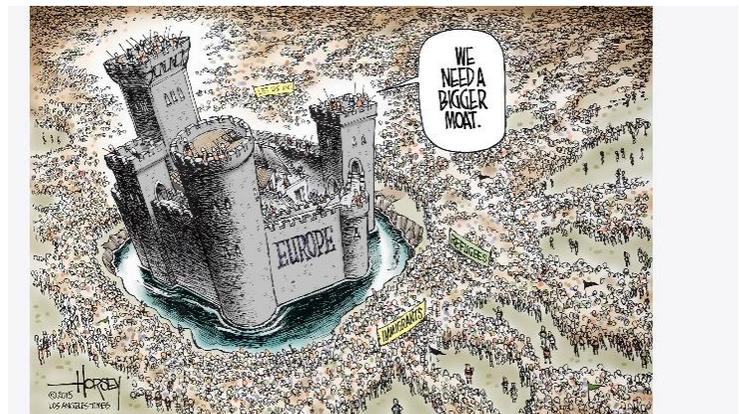
Explore: Europe in Figures (D2L Link)

Th – Group Discussions and reflection

In-class: Video recap

Presentations: Issues and Current Events

Reminder: Reflection paper due next week



WEEK 4: OCT. 2 – OCT. 6 – TRADE JOBS AND POLITICS – IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD



Tu – Political Economy: the intertwining of governance and economics

Read: Political Economy (D2L)

Map test: Europe and the Americas

Th – How do global forces shape local communities?

Read: Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics (D2L)

Explore: WDEC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation) – Exports (D2L Link)

Quest activity: Class meets at Polk Library to introduce our **mini research project:** Global Businesses in your community.

IT'S HOMECOMING WEEKEND

WEEK 5: OCT. 9 – OCT. 13 – TRADE JOBS AND POLITICS – IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Tu – The terms of the debate on trade and jobs

Read: *Trade Jobs and Politics* pp. 29-38

Read: Update on *Trade Jobs and Politics* (D2L)

In-class activity: Evaluating arguments

Th – Group Discussions and reflection

In-class: Video recap

Presentations: Issues and Current Events

Reminder: Reflection paper due next week AND mini research project assignment due.

Quest Event: Major Connections

Quest Event: Study Abroad Fair



Major Connections is a new event this Fall sponsored by the UARC and the Career Center. It is an opportunity for undecided students to talk to upper division students in different majors to hear more about those majors. It will be *October 11, in Reeve Union, from 4:30-6PM.*

The **Study Abroad Fair** will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Alumni Welcome and Conference Center. It's a great opportunity to see what kinds of programs are available to you!

WEEK 6: OCT 16 – OCT. 20 – INTERLUDE: MODERN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES



Tu – Authoritarian Politics

Read – Modern Nondemocratic Regimes (D2L)

Th – Friends and Adversaries

Read: The Return of the Authoritarian Great Powers (D2L)

Map test: Asia and the Middle East

Quest Event: Earth Charter Key Note Speaker

Earth Charter Week events: “This is Earth Charter,” *Monday October 16 from 11:20-Noon.* Earth Charter keynote speaker will be Annie Leonard, Exec. Director of Greenpeace, and author of the [Story of Stuff](#). Her talk is *Tuesday, October 17th, AWCC: 5:00 doors open, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 Keynote address.*

WEEK 7: OCT 23 – OCT 27 CHINA

Tu – Understanding China’s interests

Read: The World According to Xi Jinping (D2L)

Th – Chinese Culture and Politics

Read: The Communist Party is redefining what it means to be Chinese (D2L)

**Quest Activity: Student Success Center
Tour with Joe**



WEEK 8: OCT 30 – NOV. 3 – CHINA - CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



Tu – Expanding territory and international law

Read: *Conflict in the South China Sea* pp. 39-50 and UPDATE (D2L)

In-class: Video recap

In-class activity: Diplomatic options and opportunities

Th – Group Discussions and reflection

In-class: Video recap and discussion

Presentations: Issues and Current Events

Reminder: Reflection paper due next week

WEEK 9: NOV. 6 – NOV. 10 U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND PETROLEUM

Tu – Petroleum and U.S. Security

Read: *U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum* pp. 65-78 and UPDATE (D2L)

In-class: Video recap and discussion

Th – The Resource Curse

Read: *Combating the Resource Curse* (D2L)

In-class activity – Costs and benefits of domestic production

WEEK 10: NOV. 13 – NOV. 17 SAUDI ARABIA IN TRANSITION



Tu – The Urgency of Reform

Read: *Saudi Arabia in Transition* pp. 51-64 and UPDATE (D2L)

In-class activity: Saudi Society from Past to Present

Th – A changing society

Read: *Understanding Saudi Arabia's new crown prince* (D2L)

Read: *Rise of Saudi Prince Shatters Decades of Royal Tradition* (D2L)

In-class documentary: *Saudi Arabia Uncovered – Frontline 2016*

Quest activity: The Long Night Against Procrastination

The Long Night Against Procrastination: *November 14, 2017 6-9PM at Polk Library.* This is a great way for students to meet with faculty, lecturers, librarians, and others and get a big boost on big final projects. There is food, lots of people, and lots of energy.

WEEK 11: NOV. 20 – NOV. 24 (THANKSGIVING WEEK)

Tu – Group Discussions and reflection

In-class: Video recap and discussion

Presentations: Issues and Current Events

Reminder: Reflection paper due next week

WEEK 12: NOV. 27 – DEC. 1 NUCLEAR SECURITY – THE ENDURING CHALLENGE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Tu – Nonproliferation in context

Read: *Nuclear Security* pp. 105-108 and UPDATES

Th – The Iran Deal and North Korea

Read: *Nuclear Security* pp. 108 – 111

In-class activity – Policy options

WEEK 13: DEC. 4 – DEC. 8

Tu – Modernization

Read: *Nuclear Security* pp. 112-114

In-class activity: Modernization Debate

In-class: Video recap and discussion

Th – Wrap up and Catch up

Presentations: Issues and Current Events

Reminder: Reflection paper due next week



WEEK 14: DEC. 11 – DEC. 15 (FINALS WEEK)

Tu – Final Exam

Th – Final Project Due



Global Citizenship courses set you on a path to distinguishing yourself as a UWO Global Scholar. To find out more visit the [Global Scholar Website](#).

If you liked this course, you might also enjoy the following courses for which this one is recommended (check the [Political Science Department website](#) for course schedules):

84:301	European Union Politics	84:326	Politics of Development
84:303	Women and Politics	84:328	Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism
84:309	West European Politics	84:336	Russian Politics
84:311	East Asian Politics	84:379	Latin American Politics
84:323	Comparative Constitutional Law	84:383	Latin America in International Relations