

INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL POLITICS

PSC 1010 – Fall 2021

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Thursday, 10:50am – 1:30pm

Columbine Hall 128

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00pm – 3:00pm; Thursday, 9:00am – 10:00am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to the subfield of international relations within the discipline of political science. The course emphasizes concepts and theories that help us understand and explain behavior in global politics. In this class, students will learn methods and material to answer enduring questions in global politics, such as: Why do wars occur? How do international institutions affect conflict and cooperation between states? Why do national trade policies vary over time? What are the future global challenges to states and domestic populations?

The course contains four major sections. First, students will learn foundational frameworks for analyzing events and evaluating arguments in international politics. Second, the course addresses several major topics in international security, including the causes of war and peace in the international system and other forms of political violence, such as civil wars and terrorism. Third, students will study key topics in international political economy, including trade, finance, and monetary relations. Finally, the course concludes by evaluating transnational issues and future challenges for global actors, such as nuclear proliferation and climate change.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and explain core concepts in international relations to explain current political issues and policy debates
- Communicate in written and oral form about politics in a way that demonstrates the ability to organize ideas, create and defend an argument, and use and cite sources properly
- Evaluate theoretical arguments through scientific and empirical methods
- Improve writing skills through course assignments

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

GRADING POLICY

In the case of grading disputes, students must e-mail the professor a 500-word written rationale for the dispute within 48 hours of receiving the contested grade to request clarification and reevaluation. If the instructor deems the justification for re-grading as compelling, the instructor will then re-grade the disputed work and may assign a grade that is higher, lower, or the same as the original.

The only exception to this policy is for multiple choice questions for which the student believes the professor has miscoded the answer key. In this case, the student should e-mail the professor with a specific reference from the reading material that identifies the correct response and a brief message noting the error.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Assignments that are turned in 1 minute to 24 hours late after their due date will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade. Assignments will be marked down a full letter grade for each additional 24-hour period they are late. Assignments will not be accepted more than 72 hours after the due date.

When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct file is attached and submitted on time. Failing to attach a file or attaching the wrong file will result in a penalty as identified above. Students should also adopt the practice of saving files on multiple platforms, as corrupted files, crashed computers, etc. will not be exempted from the late assignment policy.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of cell phones during class is prohibited. Students using cell phones will be asked to leave class for the day and will receive a 0 for that day's attendance.

Students may use laptops and tablets for readings or note-taking. However, if a student is using their laptop for purposes not related to class (social media, e-mail, etc.), that student will be asked to leave class for the day and will receive a 0 for that day's attendance.

For those who are interested, recent research has demonstrated that taking notes by hand significantly improves the long-term retention and understanding of concepts. For summaries of such analyses, see:

<http://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Benefits-of-No-Tech-Note/228089/>

<http://www.vox.com/2014/6/4/5776804/note-taking-by-hand-versus-laptop>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs academic honor code holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. The university policy governs several forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of the academic integrity policy. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university policy.

DISABILITY-RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to register with Disability Services and provide them with documentation of your disability. They will work with you to determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation. To avoid any delay, you should contact Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and disability accommodations cannot be provided until a Faculty Accommodation Letter has been given to the professor. Please contact Disability Services for more information at Main Hall, room 105, 719-255-3354, or dservice@uccs.edu.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY

The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs upholds the principle that a climate of respect for cultural and ideological diversity extends to the diversity of religious practices observed by members of our campus community. The religious observance policy protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Students are required to provide advance notification—preferably during the first week of classes—to the professor regarding necessary absences for religious or spiritual observances. Students are responsible for making up any work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule between the student and professor.

COVID-19 POLICIES

Students in this class are expected to adhere to university policies regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies. The University of Colorado, Colorado Springs currently requires face coverings inside all buildings and facilities. Students that refuse to wear a face covering will be dismissed from class without credit for attendance. A refusal to comply will result in additional disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct. See the university's executive order for further details.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

TEXTBOOK

The following textbook is required for all students:

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, 4th ed. (New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton, 2019).

This textbook will be used every week in the course. We will not use any online resources in conjunction with this book, so students should feel free to purchase a new or used copy as they desire, as supplemental materials will not be required.

GRADING

Grades are comprised of five components:

Attendance	10%
Reading quizzes	15%
Subfield paper	15%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%

ATTENDANCE (10%)

Attendance for this course is mandatory and the professor will take full-roster attendance every class. As an introductory course, this class seeks to develop knowledge through a combination of advance reading, lecture, and in-class discussion. Some material on the midterm and final exams will only be covered during lectures. By extension, students that miss lectures will not be fully prepared for these examinations, while students that attend class will engage with all content that may appear on an examination.

If a student experiences a circumstance that should be reasonably considered an excused absence (e.g., medical emergency, attending a funeral, etc.), the student must notify the professor to ensure that the student's grade is not negatively impacted. When possible, students should provide advance notice to the professor of their absence.

READING QUIZZES (15%)

Before each class with assigned reading, students are required to complete a quiz on the week's reading material. Quizzes will be short, multiple-choice evaluations of core material in the assigned reading. These quizzes will be available on the course Canvas page at least one week in advance. Quizzes will no longer be accessible once the class for

the topic begins, so students should plan to complete the quiz in advance of class. Once a student begins the quiz online, they will have 10 minutes to complete the quiz.

Because these quizzes are designed to encourage and reward continued reading throughout the semester, students are permitted to use their textbook and notes while taking the quiz. Students are not, however, allowed to collaborate on quizzes. Collaboration on reading quizzes constitutes a violation of the academic honesty policy and will be disciplined as described earlier in the syllabus.

SUBFIELD PAPER (15%)

Students will write a short paper during the semester on a topic related to one of the two major subfields discussed in this course: international security and international political economy (IPE). Students completing the international security paper must submit their paper via Canvas by 11:59pm MT on Sunday, October 10. Students completing the IPE paper must submit their paper via Canvas by 11:59pm MT on Sunday, November 14.

Students will choose which subfield paper they wish to complete. Please note, however, that students who do not complete the international security subfield paper must plan to complete the IPE subfield paper by default, as the deadline for the international security paper will have already passed.

The professor will upload an essay prompt with detailed instructions to Canvas at least two weeks before the paper deadlines. Student papers should be 1,000-1,200 words in length, produced in Microsoft Word, and written in Times New Roman, 12-point font with 1-inch margins. There is no required citation format; however, students should clearly source any quotations or references that appear in the paper with a consistent citation format (e.g., MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.).

MIDTERM EXAM (30%)

Students will take an in-person midterm exam on Thursday, October 14. This exam will cover material from the first half of the course and consists of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions.

FINAL EXAM (30%)

Students will take an in-person final exam on Thursday, December. This exam will emphasize material from the second half of the course, but it will also build upon lessons from the first half of the course. The exam consists of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: FOUNDATIONS

WEEK 1 (AUGUST 26) – THE WHAT, WHY, AND HOW OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz (hereafter FLS): introduction, chapter 1

WEEK 2 (SEPTEMBER 2) – CORE CONCEPTS

- FLS: chapter 2

PART II: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

WEEK 3 (SEPTEMBER 9) – CAUSES OF WAR: THE BARGAINING MODEL

- FLS: chapter 3

WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 16) – CAUSES OF WAR: DOMESTIC POLITICS

- FLS: chapter 4

WEEK 5 (SEPTEMBER 23) – INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, WAR, AND PEACE

- FLS: chapter 5

WEEK 6 (SEPTEMBER 30) – NO CLASS: PROF. ARCENEUX AT CONFERENCE

WEEK 7 (OCTOBER 7) – CIVIL WARS AND TERRORISM

- FLS: chapter 6

WEEK 8 (OCTOBER 14) – MIDTERM EXAM

PART III: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

WEEK 9 (OCTOBER 21) – INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- FLS: chapter 7

WEEK 10 (OCTOBER 28) – INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL RELATIONS

- FLS: chapter 8

WEEK 11 (NOVEMBER 4) – INTERNATIONAL MONETARY RELATIONS

- FLS: chapter 9

WEEK 12 (NOVEMBER 11) – INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- FLS: chapter 10

PART IV: TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

WEEK 13 (NOVEMBER 18) – INTERNATIONAL LAW AND NORMS

- FLS: chapter 11

WEEK 14 (NOVEMBER 25) – NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK 15 (DECEMBER 2) – THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

- FLS: chapter 13

WEEK 16 (DECEMBER 9) – CHALLENGES TO THE GLOBAL ORDER

- FLS: chapter 14

WEEK 17 (DECEMBER 16) – FINAL EXAM