

POLS 3361–001: Introduction to International Politics

Spring 2014

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Office Phone: 742.XXXX	Lecture Time: T-TH 8:00-9:20AM
Office Hours: T & TH 10:00-11:30PM or by appt.	Website: Blackboard

1 Course Overview and Objectives

1.1 Purpose of TTU Core Curriculum

The objective of a social and behavioral science component of a core curriculum is to increase the student's knowledge of how social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.

Students graduating from Texas Tech University should be able to demonstrate awareness and knowledge of distinct cultures and subcultures, including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, class, political systems, religions, languages, or human geography.

Students graduating from Texas Tech University should be able to: demonstrate the ability to assess critically claims about social issues, human behavior, and diversity of human experiences.

1.2 General Overview

The goal of this class is to discover how international politics affect our everyday lives. We investigate international relations through the framework of "interests, interactions, and institutions." We learn that global actors have various interests, unique interactions, and work under different institutions. But we also uncover broad patterns of international behavior that allow us to explain and make predictions about world events.

Throughout the course of the semester, we will identify different actors in international politics and investigate why those actors conflict at some times and cooperate at others. Our focus will then turn to international political economy, where we will discuss theories of global trade and interdependence between nations. By the end of the semester, you will understand a variety of political challenges facing the world today.

1.3 Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- Identify and critique alternative explanations for claims about social issues and human behavior. (Exams 1-4)
- Demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition. (Exams 1-4)
- Be able to describe roles the U.S. plays in the international community. (Exams 1-4)

- Demonstrate awareness for the broad theories of international politics. (Exams 1-4)
- Demonstrate knowledge of the causes and consequences of international conflict. (Exams 1-4)
- Demonstrate knowledge of the economic interconnectedness of all states through international political economy. (Exams 1-4)
- Demonstrate knowledge of transnational issues. (Exams 1-4)

1.4 Course Format

The primary method of instruction will be lecture. I do reserve the right, however, to use other methods of instruction, such as open discussion, videos, group activities, and other similar tools to facilitate the learning process. These more interactive methods of teaching/learning are extremely valuable but do require active cooperation and participation from students in order to be most effective.

2 Books

2.1 Required Text

Ray, James Lee and Juliet Kaarbo. 2010. Global Politics, 10th Ed.. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

3 Course Requirements

3.1 Readings

Daily reading assignments are listed in the syllabus. Students are required to complete all reading assignments PRIOR to attending the class for which they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading assignments will be essential for success in this class and will facilitate lecture and discussion. Although the overall theme between daily reading assignments and lecture will be the same, the exact material may not. There will be reading assignments that are not covered in class and class lectures that are not covered in the readings. Students are responsible for all information covered by readings and lectures on the exams.

3.2 Exams

Four exams will be administered during the semester, three exams during the regular semester and one exam during the university scheduled final examination period. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The final exam is not cumulative.

3.3 Attendance and Participation

Although I do not have an explicit attendance policy, missing lecture will be a detriment to students expecting to do well in the course because (1) students may not fully grasp concepts outlined in the readings and lecture provides one opportunity to gain a better understanding and (2) lecture will contain information not available in the readings. Further, I do not post or handout my lecture notes or slides; thus, attendance is critical for getting information necessary to do well on the exams.

3.4 Grade Distribution

Assignment	% of Final Grade
Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Exam III	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

3.5 Teaching Assistant

TA: Emily Naasz

Office: Holden Hall 125

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9:30-11:00AM

Email: emily.naasz@ttu.edu

3.6 Course Website

The course website is located in the Blackboard system. Students can access the course website by visiting <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/lms/> and clicking on the “Login to Blackboard” icon on the righthand side of the page. Logging into Blackboard requires use of your eraider username and password. Once logged-in, you will be taken to the Blackboard homepage. If you are properly enrolled in the course, a link for this class should be listed under “course list” in the center of the page. Clicking on the link will take you to the course website. Any student having difficulty accessing the Blackboard system or locating the course link once inside the Blackboard system should contact Blackboard student support or IT central. Contact information for both is located on the Blackboard page, at the web address provided above. Neither myself, nor the TA, can provide you with assistance regarding technical difficulties associated with the Blackboard system. Please do not contact us with these types of problems, as we will simply refer you to Blackboard support or IT central.

Relevant course information and changes to the syllabus will be: 1) announced in class (one time) and 2) posted on the course Blackboard website. Students are responsible for any information announced in class and/or posted on the course website. As such, it is necessary that you check the course website on a regular basis. Missing class or failing to check the course website on a regular basis is NOT an excuse for missing an assignment or change to the reading/exam schedule.

4 Course Policies

4.1 Communication

The best way to contact myself or the course TA is either through email or office hours. In the event that you cannot make office hours, please make an appointment. If you choose to stop by the office outside of office hours and without an appointment, I cannot guarantee that I will be available at that moment to meet with you. To avoid this situation altogether, it is always best to use office hours or make an appointment.

I will respond to most emails within 48 hours of when you sent it, excluding weekends. I will not respond to emails that ask questions that could be answered by reading the syllabus or the course website; I will not respond to students who ask questions that were answered in class; I will not respond to emails that do not use proper salutations, sentence structure, and grammar.

4.2 Make-up Exams

Missed exams will be excused and made-up after the fact in case of illness or personal emergency *only with proper documentation*. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency arises that prevents you from taking the exam. This must be done before the exam is scheduled to take place. In other words, if you choose to wait until after the exam takes place to notify the instructor of your absence on exam day you will receive a zero; this is regardless of whether you have an excused absence.

Exams missed due to university sponsored events or religious holidays may also be excused, provided that the student informs me of the absence *at least two weeks in advance*. Vacation (e.g. leaving early for fall, spring or semester break) and social engagements will *not* be excused. Absolutely *no* excuse will be accepted for late assignments or missed exams, unless they are formally approved by the university. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Additionally, the documentation must explicitly state that the student was unable to attend class on the date in question.

Students must provide proper documentation and make-up the missed assignment (or exam) within two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Failure to do so will result in a zero. Make-up exams may differ significantly in both structure and content from the original exam.

4.3 Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism are serious crimes and will be handled in accord with Texas Tech University policy. Students caught cheating will receive a failing grade for the course. For more information on the definitions of and penalties for cheating and plagiarism, please consult the following website: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>

4.4 Classroom Civility

Activities that are disruptive to class will not be tolerated. Arriving late for class, reading newspapers, speaking while others are speaking, packing prior to the end of class, and cell phones are all highly disruptive. Cell phones, ipods, and other similar devices must be turned off during class. Laptops may be used for note-taking only and students wishing to use laptops must sit on the first two rows of the classroom; use of laptops for purposes other than note-taking will result in the banning of laptops from the classroom.

In addition, students are encouraged to discuss and express opinions on the many issues, some controversial, that are covered in class. Although differing opinions are encouraged, I will not tolerate any attacks of a personal nature or statements that single out students based on their race, sex, religion, age, ethnicity, nationality, or sexual orientation. Any student engaging in disruptive or disrespectful activities will be asked to leave the classroom. For more information, please see the student code of conduct: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/conductcode.php>

4.5 Lecture Notes

Students are responsible for all lecture notes. Under most circumstances, the instructor will not provide notes to students, nor will the instructor post lecture notes or slides on the internet. If a lecture is missed, excused or not, students are responsible for acquiring those lecture notes from another student in the class.

4.6 Grading

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 100–90

B = 89–80

C = 79–70

D = 69–60

F = 59 and below

4.7 Religious Observances

Texas House Bill 256 regarding religious observances requires that faculty and the university make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students are advised to notify the course instructor well in advance of the conflict and must make-up the missed assignment within two weeks of the original due date.

4.8 Other Policies

Any student requiring additional time or accommodations should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester (within the first week). Official university documentation regarding disabilities will be required. For more information, please consult Student Disability Services:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/sds/>

5 Course Schedule

Below, you will find the course schedule and reading assignments. All chapter numbers refer to the course textbook, Global Politics, 10th Ed. by Ray and Kaarbo.

Reading and Exam Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Jan. 16	Organizational Meeting	N/A
Jan. 21 & Jan. 23	Background	Ch. 2
Jan. 28 & Jan. 30	Theory and Evaluation	Ch. 1
Feb. 4 & Feb. 6	Power and Key Actors	Ch. 4
Feb. 11	Catchup Day	N/A
Feb. 13	Exam 1	N/A
Feb. 18 & Feb. 20	Security and War	Ch. 6
Feb. 25 & Feb. 27	Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy	Ch. 5
March 4 & March 6	Deterrence and Tools (of Deterrence)	Ch. 8
March 11	Catchup	N/A
March 13	Exam II	N/A
March 18 & March 20	Spring Break	No Class
March 25 & March 27	Civil War & Terrorism	Ch. 7
April 1 & April 3	International Organizations	Ch. 9, pp. 291-312
April 8	International Law	Ch. 9, pp. 312-340
April 10	Catchup	N/A
April 15	Exam III	N/A
April 17 & 22	International Political Economic (IPE), Part I	Ch. 10
April 24	IPE, Part II	Ch. 11
April 29	Global Challenges, Part I	Ch. 13
May 1	Global Challenges, Part II	Ch. 14
May 6	Catchup	N/A

Final Exam: Monday, May 12 [7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.]

Information regarding the University designated final exam schedule can be found at: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/ClassSchedule/FinalExams.php>. You can search the schedule by either the time of the exam or by the day/time of your class.

The University determines the time and day of all exams. Students must take the final exam at the University designated time. Any student failing to take the exam at the University designated time will receive a zero on the final exam. The final exam will take place in our regularly scheduled classroom.

NOTE: Finally, the readings and schedule of the syllabus are tentative (subject to change). Any such changes will be noted with an announcement in class or a post on the course website.