

POLI 180, Section 1 – Spring 2022
Introduction to Global Affairs
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 AM, SCI B328

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Student Hours: Tuesdays 12-1 PM & Fridays 2-3 PM, and by appointment

Course Description

We live in a highly interdependent and globalized world. Our actions, the way we live our lives, and the political choices we make in the United States have direct impacts on peoples around the world, and similarly we are impacted by events, actions, and choices made by people in distant lands. Many of the most significant issues facing the world today, from global warming to terrorism to the economy, cannot be addressed separate from other countries and peoples. Given the nature of the world we live in, it is imperative that we as citizens develop a curiosity about the international arena and a solid understanding of how global politics functions. That is the broad aim of this course.

This course will introduce students to the main actors in global politics, including both state and non-state actors. Students will become familiar with the major theoretical approaches used by scholars of international relations to explain the likelihood of conflict and cooperation in the international system. The roles played by international and regional institutions including the United Nations and the European Union will be analyzed. Finally, we will study several timely and important issues in global affairs, including nuclear proliferation, human rights, global trade, and the environment.

POLI 180 is an introductory course for political science and international studies majors and minors, as well as for students pursuing the International Relations certificate. It also counts for the Critical Thinking GEP requirement, and we will be doing much concentrated work on analyzing, evaluating, and making arguments. Whatever your major or minor, this course should be valuable, as it aims to equip you with knowledge and tools that will help you to make sense of our world and the global forces that shape our lives, as well as develop your critical thinking skills.

Specific Course Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course students will:

- 1) Be able to identify key global actors and institutions and explain their role in global affairs.
- 2) Be able to describe key concepts and patterns that characterize global politics.
- 3) Be able to explain major theoretical paradigms, including realism and liberalism, developed by international relations scholars, and identify which paradigm undergirds specific proposals and positions taken by politicians and other important actors.
- 4) Have developed a greater interest in and improved ability to follow coverage of international events and issues.
- 5) Have developed their capacity to see the complexity that characterizes contemporary global issues and to respect divergent positions and perspectives.

General Education Learning Outcomes

In addition to the course specific and content outcomes listed above, this course also aims to meet the learning outcomes associated with the Critical Thinking GEP.

“Critical Thinking is an essential part of a liberal education. Learning to think critically requires looking beyond the knowledge claims that characterize a subject to appreciate the justifications that are given for those knowledge claims. Critical Thinking courses taken early in a student’s college career help students develop a skill set that they will use throughout their college career, and beyond.

Upon completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize critical thinking as a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluating, and constructing reasoning in deciding what conclusions to draw (argumentation) or actions to take (decision-making and problem-solving).
2. Identify, analyze, evaluate, and construct reasoning as it is applied to general or discipline-specific questions or issues.
3. Communicate the analysis, evaluation, or construction of reasoning orally, visually, or in writing.”

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade will be based on your performance in the following areas:

Attendance & Participation	16%
Brief Homework Assignments (3)	9%
Critical Thinking Lesson and Quiz (1)	2%
Reflection Paper (1)	10%
Argumentative Paper (1)	25%
Midterm Exam	18%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

Course grades will be calculated on a straight percentage scale. An A equals 93 or above, A- 90-92.99, B+ 87-89.99, B 83-86.99, B- 80-82.99, C+ 77-79.99, C 73-76.99, C- 70-72.99, D+ 67-69.99, D 60-66.99, F 59.99 and below.

Course Format

Given that this is an introductory class, a good chunk of class time will be devoted to lecture. However, there will also be many opportunities for discussion and student participation. I welcome your questions and comments at any time during class. Likewise, most weeks there will be one class set aside to discuss and debate a specific topic or issue. It is important that you come prepared to actively participate in these discussions. Readings are detailed on the syllabus and should be completed before coming to class. I design my lectures to build on and complement the reading, so your retention and comprehension of lectures and the benefit you get from discussion will be greatly enhanced if you come to class having done the reading. Sometimes we will use the textbook for in-class exercises. Please get into the habit of bringing your textbook with you to class. **If you feel like you are having trouble in this class, please come and see me.**

Required Text and e-Reserves

- Steven L. Lamy, John S. Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. *Introduction to Global Politics, Sixth Edition*, Oxford University Press, 2021. (Available through Text Rental)
NOTE: From here on referred to as “Lamy et al.”
- Additional readings beyond the textbook are listed below in the Course Schedule. Electronic links to these materials will become available in Canvas. If you encounter problems accessing any of these materials, please let me know ASAP.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and come prepared to discuss the assigned materials. Regular attendance and participation are essential for success in this class and will count for 16% of your grade. Students will be allowed two unexcused absences without penalty, but more than 2 unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your attendance and participation grade, and **more than 9 unexcused absences (3 weeks) during the semester will result in a failing grade, possibly even forfeiture of any points for attendance and participation.** In addition to regular attendance, active participation in class discussions is important. I will keep a record of student attendance and participation and will refer to it when I calculate this portion of your grade. Excused absences will not count towards these limits, but you should provide me with documentation, such as a doctor’s note, if you request an excused absence. I will use Kahoot quizzes in class to review material, poll student opinion on a topic, and track attendance. Generally, the scores you get on these quizzes will not count as part of your grade. However, if I find that the class is not keeping up with the reading, I may start counting some of these as part of the attendance and participation grade.

Brief Homework Assignments

There are 4 brief homework assignments listed on the Class Schedule, which consist of answering questions based on the assigned reading for that day. ***Students are required to complete 3 of the 4 assignments.*** In other words, you can skip one of them with no penalty. Students who complete all four homework assignments will earn extra credit. These assignments must be turned in by the due date, that is before class on the day we will be talking about these topics. If you are unable to meet the deadline, then skip that one and complete the other three. Generally, I will not grade these assignments, instead students will earn points for completion. However, if the assignment is clearly unacceptable, then full points may not be awarded.

Reflection Paper

There is one short reflection paper due early in the semester. Detailed instructions are posted on Canvas. This is meant to be an informal piece of writing in which you reflect on the assigned topic in an exploratory way. This paper is worth 10% of your grade.

Argumentative Paper

The second short paper will consist of a more formal piece of argumentative writing. Here you will have two topics to choose from, although both will be due on the same day. This paper will require that you develop a persuasive argument using reasoning and evidence. I will provide the background readings that you are to use as the basis for this essay. This short paper (3-4 pages) will not require any outside research and will be worth 25% of your grade.

Exams

There will be 2 exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will be in-class and primarily consisting of multiple-choice questions. Exams will cover material from the readings, lecture, and class discussions. I will provide you with study guides at least one week before each exam.

In-Class Debates: There are two scheduled in-class debates. I will ask for volunteers to come prepared to debate the topic for the day. These debates will be informal. Participation will count instead of a homework assignment. In other words, if a student participates in a debate, then they only must complete 2 of the 4 homework assignments. If a student has completed three homework assignments and participates in one of the debates, they will receive extra credit.

Course Resources and Current Events: The textbook for this course, *Introduction to Global Politics*, offers students free access to numerous ancillary study materials. You should find instructions for accessing these materials inside the front cover of your textbook. I encourage you to explore these study aids as we work through the textbook.

In addition to the assigned readings, students are expected to keep up with world news by reading a major daily newspaper or news magazine (online or in print) with excellent coverage of international events. Recommended news sources include, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *The Economist*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Speigel Online*, among others. We will refer to relevant current events in class, so being conversant with what is going on in the world will further your ability to contribute to class discussions and improve your performance on exams. I encourage you to think and talk about with your peers how current events relate to the theories, frames, and tools we are learning in class and how these tools help to make sense of developments taking place in our world.

I also recommend listening to National Public Radio (NPR); their news programs are excellent and will keep you up to date on current events and important issues, both domestic and international. You can hear NPR news on Wisconsin Public Radio, which has two local radio stations: the Ideas Network and News and Classical. You can also listen live and access podcasts of previous shows at www.wpr.org. In addition, there are a lot of terrific podcasts out there that can help you learn about and keep up with the news, both domestic and international. One that I recommend for delving deeper into top news stories is “The Daily,” which is produced by the *New York Times* and available for free on Apple Podcasts and other platforms.

Communications and Technology: This class has a Canvas page where I will make available course materials, including the syllabus, assignments, links to e-Reserve readings, lecture PowerPoints, etc. This is also where you will upload written assignments. I will also use Canvas to post announcements and reminders.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to abide by the guidelines for academic integrity contained in the UW System Administrative Code. As a student it behooves you to be well acquainted with these guidelines and to understand what constitutes plagiarism, as violations can result in severe consequences. The basic rule for this class is to do your own work on exams and written assignments. I take cheating seriously and will act if an incident comes to my attention. Please let me know if you are aware of cheating taking place during exams. When you upload written assignments to Canvas they will be run through a plagiarism detection program, Turnitin.com. **Do NOT cut and paste or copy from someone else!!!** That is plagiarism. If I discover you have plagiarized something, *at a minimum*, you will receive a zero for that assignment.

Classroom Etiquette

- Please mute your cell phone and refrain from texting or surfing the web while in class. The only time you should be using your cell phone in class is when we are using Kahoot.
- Refrain from eating in class; drinks are permissible.
- Arriving late or leaving during class is disruptive. Please make every effort to be on time. If you know in advance that you will have to step out early, please let me know before class begins.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introductions and Key Concepts in Global Politics

1/24 – Introduction to the course and each other

No assigned reading

1/26 – Key Concepts and Actors

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 1, pp. 3-14

1/28 – Globalization

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 1, pp. 23-30.

Watch Video: [“Globalization Explained.”](#) (4 mins.) (e-Reserves)

DUE: Brief Homework Assignment - Globalization (#1 of 4)

- See instructions on Canvas.
- DUE in Canvas by 9 AM on Friday, 1/28.

Week 2 - The Evolution of Global Politics (A brief history lesson)

1/31 – The International System from Westphalia through the World Wars

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 2 (pp. 33-46)

Watch: World 101 Video (4 mins.) – “Sovereignty Explained” (e-Reserves).

2/2 – Global Politics in the 20th Century: The Cold War

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 46-54, ending at “From End of Cold War to War on Terrorism”

2/4 – The Political Science Major and Career Pathways; Critical Thinking and Theories

Readings: Lamy et al., Ch. 1, pp. 15-22; & Ch. 3, pp. 77-80, ending at “What is Realism?”.

DUE: Critical Thinking Lesson and Quiz (Required)

- Watch 14-minute video that explains what Critical Thinking is and then take a 5-question quiz.
- **DUE:** Quiz is due by 10 AM on 2/4.

Week 3 – Contemporary Global Politics

2/7 – Global Politics Since the End of the Cold War

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 54-58

2/9 – The Global War on Terrorism

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 69-74.

2/11 – Reflecting on the end of the War in Afghanistan and the 20th anniversary of 9/11

Readings:

- Adam Nossiter and Eric Schmitt. [“U.S. War in Afghanistan Ends as Final Evacuation Flights Depart.”](#) *New York Times*, August 30, 2021. (e-Reserves)
- Lindsay Maizland. “The Legacy of the U.S. War in Afghanistan in Nine Graphics.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, August 17, 2021 (e-Reserves).
- Deirdre Shesgreen. “What Went Wrong in Afghanistan? Perspectives on the ‘forever war’ from those who saw it up close.” *USA Today*, August 18, 2021 (e-Reserves).
- Laura Jeeded. “Afghanistan Meant Nothing: A Veteran Reflects on 20 Wasted Years.” *Medium*, August 14, 2021 (e-Reserves).

Listen to Podcast: [The Argument](#). “You Don’t Bring Democracy at the Point of a Gun: Two veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom reflect on where the September 11 attacks led the nation.” September 8, 2021. (e-Reserves)

DUE: Reflection Paper: The Global War on Terror and the End of the War in Afghanistan

- See instructions on Canvas.
- DUE: 10 AM Friday, 2/11.
- Bring a printed copy of your essay to class or be able to access it electronically.

Week 4 – Realism and Introduction to Argument Mapping

2/14 – Realism

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 3, pp. 77-89, ending at “What is Liberalism?”

2/16 – The Melian Dialogue and Realism

DUE: Brief Homework Assignment - The Melian Dialogue (#2 of 4)

- See instructions on Canvas.
- DUE: 9 AM Wednesday, 2/16.
- Be able to access your answers in class.

2/18 – Introduction to argument mapping – recognizing and analyzing arguments.

Week 5 – Liberalism and the Liberal World Order

2/21 – Introduction to Liberalism

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 3, pp. 89-104 – ending at “Critical Theories.”

2/23 – The Liberal World Order

Reading: Joseph Nye. “Will the Liberal Order Survive? The History of an Idea.” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, Issue 1, January 1, 2017 (e-Reserve).

2/25 – Argument mapping continued – analyzing and evaluating arguments.

Week 6 – Liberal World Order and Midterm

2/28 – Two Views of the Liberal World Order: Analyzing Nye and Allison

Reading: Graham Allison. “The Myth of the Liberal Order: From Historical Accident to Conventional Wisdom.” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, Issue 4, July 1, 2018 (e-Reserve).

Brief Homework Assignment: Nye and Allison on the Liberal World Order (#3 of 4)

- See instructions on Canvas.
- DUE: 9 AM Monday, 2/28.
- Be able to access your answers in class.

3/2 – Exam Review

3/4 - Midterm Exam

Week 7 – The United Nations

3/7 – Origins & Structure of the United Nations

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 5, pp. 167-170 and 176-183, ending at “The UN’s Principal Organs”

3/9 – UN Organs

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 5, pp. 183-193, ending at “The European Union and Other Regional Organizations.”

3/11 – Work of the United Nations and Argument Mapping Practice

Watch: [UN Video. “The United Nations: Its Your World.”](#) (e-Reserves)

Week 8 – UN Debate, Security, and Drone Warfare

3/14 – ***DEBATE:*** Should the U.S. Support the United Nations?

Reading: “Issue 14. Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?” In *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in World Politics, 16th Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2014 (e-Reserves).

3/16 – Global Security – **No class - Recorded Lecture**

Watch: Recorded lecture on Canvas

Readings:

- Lamy et al., Ch. 6, pp. 219-230, ending at “The Changing Character of War.”
- Farhad Manjoo. “How Much Military Spending is Too Much?” *New York Times*, Jan. 16, 2022 (e-Reserves).

3/18 - Changing Character of War – **No in-person meeting; class will meet via Zoom**

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 6, pp. 230-239, ending at “New Roles for NATO.”

Listen: [The Daily. “The Civilian Casualties of America’s Air Wars.”](#) Jan. 18, 2022. (e-Reserves)

DUE: Brief Homework Assignment: U.S. Air Wars and the Use of Drones (#4 of 4)

- See instructions on Canvas.
- DUE: 9 AM, Friday 3/18.
- Be able to access your answers in class.

March 19- 27 – Spring Break – Enjoy!!!

Week 9 – Iran Nuclear Deal

3/28 - Nuclear Weapons and the Non-Proliferation Regime

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 6, pp. 240-248, ending at “Terrorism and Extremism.”

3/30 – Non-proliferation Efforts Since the End of the Cold War & the Iran Nuclear Deal

Reading: Kali Robinson. [“CFR Backgrounder: What is the Iran Nuclear Deal?”](#) *Council on Foreign Relations*, updated August 21, 2021 (e-Reserves).

4/1 – **DEBATE:** Trump Administration’s decision to withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Agreement.

Reading: “Issue: Were Efforts to Withdraw the United States from the Iran Nuclear Agreement Misguided?” In *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Global Issues*, 10th Edition. McGraw Hill, 2019 (e-Reserves).

Week 10 – Debating the U.S. Decision to Withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal

4/4 – A Globalized Economy

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 8, pp. 307-316

4/6 – China’s Economic Rise

Reading: Philip Pan. “China Rules Part 1: The Land that Failed to Fail.” *New York Times*, November 18, 2018 (e-Reserves).

4/8 – U.S.-China Relations Today

Readings:

- Lamy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 64-67, “East Asia: Primed for Rivalry?”
- Edward Wong. “U.S. versus China: A New Era of Great Power Competition, But Without Boundaries.” *New York Times*, June 26, 2019 (e-Reserves).

Week 11 – Prof. Collins will be attending the National Model UN Conference in New York

4/11 – No class – work on argumentative paper

4/13 – No class - work on argumentative paper

4/15 – No class - work on argumentative paper

Week 12 –Simulation, EU, and NATO

4/18 – **SIMULATION/ROLE-PLAY:** U.S. policy makers deliberate about how U.S. should respond to imminent threat of Chinese attack on Taiwan.

Read: CFR Model Diplomacy Pop-up Case. “A Threat to Taiwan.” (e-Reserves)

DUE: ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER on *either* the UN or U.S.-China Rivalry. Turn in by midnight, Monday, April 18.

4/20 - The European Union and Economic Integration

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 5, pp. 193-197, ending at “Other Regional Actors.”

4/22 - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 59-62 (Skip: Theory in Practice, pp. 60-61); Ch. 6, pp. 239-240, “New Roles for NATO.”

Week 13 – Conflict in Ukraine; Human Rights and Human Security

4/25 – Russia and NATO Since the End of the Cold War

Readings:

- Lamy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 62-64, “Russia: From Yeltsin to Putin.”
- Jonathan Masters. [“Why NATO Has Become a Flash Point with Russia in Ukraine.”](#) *Council on Foreign Relations*, last update January 20, 2022 (e-Reserves).

4/27 – What is at Stake in the Crisis in Ukraine? – Class discussion

Reading: Jonathan Masters. [“Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia.”](#) *Council on Foreign Relations*, last update December 2, 2021 (e-Reserves).

4/29 – Human Rights and Human Security

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 7, pp. 269-282.

Week 14 – The Environment & International Politics

5/2 – Environmental Issues & International Relations Theory

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 10, pp. 373-399 ending at “Climate Change.”

5/4 – Climate Change, a Global Challenge

Reading: Lamy et al., Ch. 10, pp. 399-406.

Watch: [Global Weirding Video with Katharine Hayhoe. “What’s the Big Deal with a Few Degress?”](#) (e-Reserves).

5/6 –Climate Change and International Politics.

Watch: [UN Video. “Who is responsible for climate change and who needs to fix it?”](#) (e-Reserves).

Week 15 – Conclusion & Exam Review

No assigned readings

5/9 – Wrap up and course evaluations

5/11 – Final Discussion: Global Affairs Today

5/13 – Exam review

FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 16th, 8:00-10:00 AM, SCI B328