

POLI 180 – International Relations

Fall 2019

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 10:00-10:50 AM, CCC 321

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& 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 migration and the health of 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. How states craft foreign policy and 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, migration, 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 Social Science GEP requirement. However, 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.

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

This course fulfills the Social Sciences GEP requirement and therefore strives to meet the following learning outcomes associated with this requirement:

- Explain or apply major concepts, methods, or theories used in the social sciences to investigate, analyze, or predict human behavior.
- Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups.

Required Text and e-Reserves

- Steven L. Lamy, John S. Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. *Introduction to Global Politics, Fifth Edition*, Oxford University Press, 2019. (Available through Text Rental)
NOTE: From here on referred to as “Global Politics”.
- Additional readings beyond the textbook are listed below under “Course Schedule and Reading Assignments.” Electronic links to these materials will become available in Canvas. If you encounter problems accessing any of these materials, please let me know right away.

Course Requirements and Grading

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

Attendance & Participation	16%
Homework Assignments and/or Debate Participation (4)	24%
Midterm Exam #1	20%
Midterm Exam #2	20%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	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, much 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 for each week are detailed on the syllabus and should be completed in their entirety prior to Thursday’s class session. 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.**

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to 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 6 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.

Exams

There will be 3 exams, each of which counts for 20% of your grade. All 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.

Homework Assignments and/or Debate Participation

Students are required to complete a total of **FOUR homework assignments** over the course of the semester. Most of these assignments consist in answering questions in response to assigned readings. Links to assigned readings and the prompts for these short assignments will become available on Canvas. There are 6 homework assignments listed on the syllabus with specific due dates; this means that students have a choice about which of the assignments they want to complete. Remember, **you only need to complete 4, not all six**. Most will be due at the start of class on the day we are scheduled to discuss that topic and we will use them as jumping off points for discussion. I will not accept late homework assignments or submissions by e-mail. If you must miss class on a day one of these is due, choose a different homework assignment to complete. Please plan accordingly. These homework assignments will be graded as check (8-8.8), check/check-plus (9-9.5), check-plus (10), or check-minus (7.5 or less). You are welcome to complete more than 4 homework assignments. In that case I will use your top 4 scores to calculate your homework grade and count the other one(s) as extra credit.

For some classes I will ask for volunteers to come prepared to debate the topic for the day. In these cases, you will need to do the assigned reading but instead of handing in a written response, you will come prepared to present orally to the class on the subject and to engage with other students in a round table/debate. This in-class participation will count as a homework assignment.

Communications and Technology

This class has a Canvas page where I will make available various course materials, including the syllabus, homework assignments, links to e-Reserve readings, lecture Power Points, etc. This is also where you will upload any homework assignments that are not due in class. I will use Canvas to post announcements and reminders for the whole class.

Course Resources and Current Events

The main textbook for this course, *Introduction to Global Politics*, offers students free access to numerous ancillary study materials, including chapter outlines, flash cards, quizzes, practice tests, and links to useful websites. The link to the free and open-access Companion Website is:

www.oup.com/lamy

Make sure to take advantage of these study aids as we work through the textbook. I may use questions from some of the practice quizzes in class and on exams.

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 is available for free on Apple Podcasts and other platforms.

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. For the purposes of this class, the basic rule is to do your own work on exams and short writing assignments. I take cheating seriously and will take action 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 and Reading Assignments

Week 1 - Introductions

Reading: Global Politics, Ch. 1 (pp. 3-29)

9/3 – Introduction to the Course

9/5 – Key Concepts

9/6 – In-class discussion on Globalization – Review “Thinking about Global Politics” pp. 28-29

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

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 2 (pp. 31-53)
- Alan Cowell, “The Courage and Folly of a War That Left Indelible Scars”, *New York Times*, November 9, 2018.

Homework Assignment Week 2

- Read and respond to the Cowell article listed above.
- You will find instructions and a link to the exercise on Canvas.
- Written reflections are due in class on Friday, September 13

9/10 – The Development of the International System from Westphalia to the 19th Century

9/12 – Global Politics in the 20th Century: WWI, WWII and the Cold War

9/13 – In-class discussion of homework assignment on “The Courage and Folly of a War That Left Indelible Scars” and global politics in the 20th century.

Week 3 – Contemporary Global Politics & Introduction to Realism

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 2 (pp. 54-73)
- *Global Politics*, Ch. 3 (pp. 75-87, ending at “What is Liberalism?”)

9/17 – Global Politics Since the End of the Cold War

9/19 – Realism

9/20 – In-class discussion of Realism – Review “Thinking about Global Politics” exercise on p. 117

Week 4 – Liberalism

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 3 (pp. 87-102 – ending at “Critical Theories”)
- Joseph Nye. “Will the Liberal Order Survive? The History of an Idea.” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, Issue 1, January 1, 2017.
- Graham Allison. “The Myth of the Liberal Order: From Historical Accident to Conventional Wisdom.” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, Issue 4, July 1, 2018.

Homework Assignment Week 4

- Read the assigned articles by Nye and Allison.
- Compare and contrast the positions taken by these two political scientists on the liberal world order. Questions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas.
- Written response is due in class on Friday, September 27.

9/24 - Liberalism

9/26 – Liberalism

9/27 – In-class debate/discussion: The Liberal World Order.

Week 5 – Critical Theories & Midterm Exam #1

Reading: Global Politics, Ch. 3 (pp. 102-116)

10/1 - Critical Theories: Marxism, Feminism & Constructivism

10/3 – Review Session

10/4 – Midterm Exam #1

Week 6 – International Institutions – The United Nations

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 5 (pp. 162-188, ending at “The European Union and Other Regional Organizations)
- “Issue 14. Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?” In *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in World Politics, 16th Edition*. McGraw Hill, 2014.

Homework Assignment Week 6

- Read and respond to the *Taking Sides* reading (listed above).
- You will find instructions and a link to the reading on Canvas.
- Written response is due in class on Friday, October 11

10/8 – Origins & Structure of the United Nations

10/10 – The Work of the UN

10/11 – In-class discussion/debate: Is the United Nations worthwhile and should the U.S. continue to support it?

Week 7 – Regional Organizations and Other Non-State Actors

Reading: Global Politics, Ch. 5 (pp. 188-211)

Homework Assignment Week 7

- Do some research on Brexit by exploring the BBC page devoted to Brexit and prepare a written reflection on the possible consequences of Brexit for Britain & the EU.
- You will find instructions for this assignment and a link to the BBC page on Canvas.
- Written response is due in class on Friday, October 18.

10/15 – The European Union and Regional Integration

10/17 – Global Civil Society and other non-state actors

10/18 – In-class discussion/debate: Brexit and the Future of the EU

Week 8 – Foreign Policy

Reading: Global Politics, Ch. 4 (pp. 119-159)

10/22 – Introduction to Foreign Policy

10/24 – Guest Lecture by Dr. Ed Miller on American Foreign Policy

10/25 – Guest Lecture by Dr. Ed Miller on American Foreign Policy

Week 9 – Global Security & Nuclear Proliferation

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 6 (pp. 213-240, ending at “Terrorism and Extremism”)
- John F. Harris and Brian Bender. “Bill Perry is Terrified, Why Aren’t You?” *Politico Magazine*, January 6, 2017.
- “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.

Homework Assignment Week 9

- Read and respond to the *Taking Sides* reading in U.S. Efforts to Withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal (listed above).
- You will find instructions and a link to the reading on Canvas.
- Written response is due in class on Friday, November 1.

10/29 – Global Security

10/31 – Nuclear Weapons and Proliferation

11/1 – In-class debate on the Trump Administration’s decision to withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Agreement.

Week 10 – Midterm Exam #2

11/5 – Wrap up

11/7 – Review session

11/8 – Midterm Exam #2

Week 11 – Global Trade & U.S.-China Rivalry

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 8 (pp. 298-331)
- Philip Pan. “China Rules Part 1: The Land that Failed to Fail.” *New York Times*, November 18, 2018.
- Edward Wong. “U.S. versus China: A New Era of Great Power Competition, But Without Boundaries.” *New York Times*, June 26, 2019.

Homework Assignment Week 11

- Read up on the U.S. trade war with China, including assigned articles above, and prepare a written reflection on current U.S.-China relations.
- Instructions for this assignment will be found on Canvas.
- Written response is due in class on Friday, November 22.

11/19 – A Globalized Economy

11/21 – Trade and Finance

11/22 – In-class debate/discussion - Is the trade war with China a good idea?

Week 12 – Human Rights and Human Security

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 7 (pp. 261-295)
- TBA – readings on the migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexican border

11/12 – Human Rights & Human Security

11/14 – Humanitarian Intervention

11/15 – Migration as a global humanitarian crisis

Week 13 – Wrap-up & Thanksgiving Break

11/26 – Wrap-up and in-class discussion – How should we respond to migrants at our border?

11/28 – 12/1 – *Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy!*

Week 14 – The Environment & International Politics

Readings:

- *Global Politics*, Ch. 10 (pp. 364-394)
- Joshua Busby. “Why Climate Change Matters More Than Anything Else.” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, Issue 4, July 1, 2018.
- Somini Sengupta. “Becoming Greta: ‘Invisible Girl’ to Global Climate Activist.” *New York Times*, February 18, 2019.
- Ann Barnard. “Greta Thunberg, Climate Activist, Arrives in NY with a Message for Trump.” *New York Times*, August 28, 2019.

12/3 – Environmental Issues & International Relations Theory

12/5 – Climate Change a Global Challenge

12/6 – In-class discussion on Climate Change and environmental activism.

Week 15 – Conclusion & Exam Review

No assigned readings

12/10 – Wrap up

12/12 – Conclusions & Course Evaluations

12/13 – Exam Review

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 18th, 12:30-2:30pm, CCC 321