

College of Charleston

POLITICAL SCIENCE 103.002 WORLD POLITICS

Dr. Guoli Liu

Fall 2007

Maybank Hall 307, Tuesday and Thursday 1:40-2:55 pm

Office: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 103

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:00-12:00, and by appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

World politics has been in a state of extraordinary transition. Today's world of international relations is an arena that links domestic and foreign affairs around the globe, raising a host of complex issues and questions. What are the most important global issues? What relations will the U.S. have with members of international community? How can we end the terrorist attacks? How can the international community manage the earth's environment so as to prevent horrific tragedies like the tsunami and Hurricane Katrina? How serious are the nuclear threats posed by North Korea and Iran? World politics today poses a real challenge to our understanding, yet we believe there are keys that will open the doors for us. We believe that a broad and self-conscious theoretical orientation remains the best resource for comprehending and coping with change, now and in the years ahead.

As an introduction to the dynamics of international politics, this course includes in depth analysis of the actors, structures, and issues that make up the essence of international relations. We are going to study competing theoretical perspectives, state and non-state actors, the evolution of international system, cooperation and conflict, globalization and interdependence, international institutions, human rights, environmental pressures, population problem, and other important issues in world affairs.

COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

Students are expected to (1) complete and study carefully all required reading; (2) address significant questions and articulate well-informed positions on key issues, and (3) follow current events and news analysis.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance of one midterm exam (30%), class participation including two participation reports (20%), a 5-6 page analysis paper (10%), a presentation of the paper (10%), and a final exam (30%). You also have a great opportunity to write a 5-6 page paper about living in a "flat world" (10%). The lowest ten percent of your grade will be dropped from your grade for the course. Class participation is desired and highly encouraged.

Detailed guidelines for papers and exams will be provided. No late paper or exam will be accepted without prior written permission.

As the lectures and classroom discussions are an essential part of the course, attendance is mandatory. A class sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. You are allowed a maximum of **two unexcused absences** during the semester; additional absences, unless you can clearly prove personal emergencies or illnesses, will result in a loss of 2 points for each absence.

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	A	93-100	A-	90-92
	B+	88-89	B	83-87
	B-	80-82	C+	78-79
	C	73-77	C-	70-72
	D+	68-69	D	63-67
	D-	60-62	F:	Below 60

Any student with a diagnosed learning or psychological disability which impedes your carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as extended time on examinations, should advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic honesty is very important! When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed the Honor Code. I expect you to abide to the code and it is the only way to maintain the integrity and value of your degree. You will fail this course if you have found to have cheated on an exam or plagiarized any portion of your paper. I will turn the case of Honor Code violation to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. Everyone must highly value academic integrity and abide to the Honor Code.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. W. Raymond Duncan, Barbara Jancar-Webster, and Bob Switky, World Politics in the 21st Century. Third Edition. New York: Longman, 2006.
2. John Rourke, Taking Sides: Clashing Views in World Politics. Thirteenth Edition. Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw-Hill, 2008.
3. Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder. Essential Readings in World Politics. Second edition. W. W. Norton, 2004.
4. Thomas Friedman, The World Is Flat. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.
5. The New York Times. (You can read most of the paper online at www.nytimes.com. For full access to the newspaper, please go to the College of Charleston library homepage).

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. The Importance of International Relations
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Preface & Chapter 1.
Rourke, Parts 1-2.
Mingst and Snyder, Preface.
Friedman, Chapters 1-4.
(Deadline for completing the readings, August 25, 2007)
 2. Approaches to World Politics
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 2.
Mingst and Snyder, Chapters 1-3.
Rourke, Parts 2-3.
(August 30)
 3. The Levels of Analysis
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 3.
Rourke, Parts 5-6.
Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 4.
Friedman, Chapters 5-9.
(September 6)
 4. Power Factors in International Relations
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 4.
Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 5.
(September 13)
 5. Foreign Policy Formation and Execution
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 5.
(September 20)
 6. Intergovernmental Actors
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 6.
(September 27)
 7. Non-governmental Actors
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 7.
Mingst and Snyder, Chapters 6-7.
(October 4)
- Midterm Exam: Tuesday, October 9**
8. Political Geography and Nationalism

- Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapters 8 and 9.
(October 18)
9. Global Violence: Wars and Terrorism
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 10.
Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 8.
(October 25)
 10. Human Rights, Women, and Global Justice
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 11.
(November 1)
 11. International Political Economy and Developed Countries
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 12.
Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 9.
Friedman, Chapters 10-15.
(November 8)
 12. The Political Economy of Development
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 13.
(November 15)
 13. The Global Environment and the Population Problem
Duncan, Jancar-Webster & Switky, Chapter 14.
(November 22)
 14. Globalization and the Future of World Politics
Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 10.
(November 29)

Additional readings will be assigned in class.

Final Examination: Thursday, December 6, 2007, 12-3 pm.