

The College of Charleston
Department of Political Science

POLS 103: World Politics

Fall Semester, 2007

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Office Hours:
M,W,F 1 - 2 p.m.
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Syllabus

Introduction

World Politics introduces the systematic study of politics and political science in a global context. It seeks to develop a conceptual framework useful for analyzing current global politics. World Politics is therefore more than a course in current events and the exchange of opinions thereon. The objective is to analyze those events through the introduction of a conceptual analytical framework. We will pay close attention to current events but we will do so in order to explore the variables, relationships, and contexts that explain them.

We will use two main resources in order to achieve the objective of the course. One is The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics by Charles Kegley and Gregory Raymond available in the bookstore. The second resource is the New York Times available by subscription for the semester at the bookstore and/or on-line. The textbook will help us conceptualize global politics and provide a contextualized analysis of many different cases and examples. The New York Times will provide cases and examples for the practice of original analysis based upon current events in the context of our developing framework. The combination of the two will provide the resources we need to accomplish our goal.

The syllabus will outline the topics to be covered, the reading required under each topic, and the assessment instruments used in calculating your grade. The appendix to the syllabus is a daily plan that includes the reading required, and dates for tests and the submission of your journal entries. Like all plans, this appendix is subject to revision as the semester proceeds.

In addition, it is important to remember three things. One is that a daily reading of the New York Times is a standard required reading assignment. You should be familiar with the daily current events of world politics. Secondly, you should be prepared to follow and contribute to the discussion of those events in class. This discussion of current events, however, will be directly related to the development of a wider analytic framework based upon the textbook. Third, the New York Times is not the only or

always best source for day-to-day news. I encourage you to read widely from news sources around the world. www.kidon.com allows you to access newspapers by country everywhere in the world. I encourage you to read alternative perspectives on world events by accessing a wide range of sources. With prior permission, you may use an international newspaper source for some of your journal entries. However, you should clear this with me well in advance of submitting the entry.

The reading material, conduct of the class, and assessment techniques are designed to accomplish several objectives in the study of political science. These objectives are to be able to write effectively, comprehend the views of others and defend a point of view, verbally articulate a point of view, conduct original research and apply theory to practical situations. The essay tests, class participation and the journal entries provide the means to demonstrate the accomplishment of these objectives.

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate the achievement of these objectives through four - mainly essay - tests and a New York Times based journal to be submitted four times during the course of the semester. The first two submissions will contain five one-page entries and each submission will be worth 5% of your grade. The last two submissions will each contain ten one-page entries and each will be worth 10% of your grade. The guideline for journal entries and the weighting of each assessment is indicated at the end of this syllabus.

If you follow the requirements of this syllabus and actively participate in the class you should leave better informed about current world events and feel that you have begun developing a means to understand both why those events occur and their trajectory. Developing this understanding will require that you take additional courses in international relations theory and international and comparative politics. World Politics may whet your appetite for that quest. At least it should facilitate a more questioning approach to your daily consumption of current events.

Course Outline, Required Reading and Assessment

I. A Developing Framework for Understanding Global Politics

In Part I we will begin to develop a perspective on a framework of understanding as well as build an agenda for discussing the most important current issues of world politics. This will include a discussion of why we should pay attention to world politics, the role of perceptions and images, the importance of levels of analysis and time sequences, the actors and processes of world politics, and the role of alternative theories of world politics.

Our discussion will be structured in relation to three major trends or tendencies in current events. One is the changes in world politics over the past twenty years or so and how that impacts current world politics. A second tendency is the persistence of armed conflict in the world however much it changes. The third

trend is a concern with global welfare expressed in current events around globalization, social justice and the global environment.

We will read and discuss these trends in relation to the news in the New York Times and the following chapters of the Kegley/Raymond book:

Chapter 1: Exploring Twenty-First Century World Politics, pp. 4-22;
Chapter 7: Armed Conflict in the Twenty-First Century, pp. 150-174;
Chapter 11: The Globalization of World Politics, pp. 254-276.

This part of the course will be assessed through an in-class essay test on September 11, 2006. The first set of journal entries are due on September 8.

II. Actors and Interactions in World Politics

In Part II we will use our development of world political issues and factors to explore more systematically the elements of world politics. We will identify state and non-state actors and the basis for their interaction. The elements of the state system and foreign policy decision-making will be explored. Alternative theories of international relations will be discussed. The development of non-state actors challenging the traditional system will also be addressed.

In addition to material in the New York Times, required reading for this Part will be the following chapters in the Kegley and Raymond book:

Chapter 2: Theories of World Politics, pp. 22-42;
Chapter 3: Foreign Policy Decision Making, pp. 44-64;
Chapter 4: Great-Power Rivalry and the Lure of Hegemony, pp. 64-89;
Chapter 5: Rich and Poor in World Politics, pp. 89-117;
Chapter 6: Nonstate Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance, pp. 117-148.

The assessment of this Part will be in the forms of an in-class test on October 13, 2006. The second set of journal entries are due on October 11.

III. The Politics of Global Security

Part III will develop perspectives on issues of conflict, war, and peace, and alternative theoretical perspectives on how to achieve a measure not of national but global security in the context of current world politics.

In addition to the New York Times, required reading for this Part will be the following chapters in the Kegley and Raymond book:

Chapter 8: Military Power and National Security in a Turbulent World, pp. 174-202;
Chapter 9: Realists Paths to Peace, pp. 202-225;

Chapter 10: Liberal Paths to Peace, pp. 225-252.

An in-class test on November 1, 2006 and the third set of journal entries due on October 30 will be the means to assess this part of the course.

IV. The Politics of Global Welfare

The final part of the course will focus on the current era in the context of the meaning of "globalization." The economic, environmental and political meanings of globalization will be discussed and developed. We will then discuss issues of human rights, global equity, and environmental security and sustainability.

In addition to the New York Times, required reading for this Part will be the following chapters in the Kegley and Raymond book:

Chapter 12: Markets and Money in a Global Political Economy, pp. 276-306;

Chapter 13: Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice, pp. 306-327;

Chapter 14: Population Growth, Resource Scarcity, and the Preservation of the Global Environment, pp. 327-356.

The final journal submission due on December 4 and final test (during the final examination period) will be used to assess this part of the course.

Miscellaneous Course Information

Attendance. Students are advised that failure to attend and participate in class is very likely to lead to a poor performance on graded work.

Required Reading. Students will be held responsible for the content of all readings listed in the syllabus and appendix and daily in the New York Times. Evidence of this responsibility will be in the form of written work on tests and in your journal.

Conduct of Class. The course is basically in a lecture/discussion format. Questions and contributions during meetings of the class are welcome, will be solicited and are expected.

Outside Consultation. I am available during posted office hours, by appointment, via email and on a drop-in basis. I try to maintain an open door policy whenever possible to answer questions and discuss issues arising in the course.

Course Assessment.

1. Test on Part I	= 15%
2. Journal submission 1	= 5%
3. Test on Part II	= 15%
4. Journal submission 2	= 5%
5. Test on Part III	= 20%
6. Journal submission 3	= 10%
7. Journal submission 4	= 10%
8. Test on Part IV	= 20%
Total	= 100%

The grade standard used is the following:

94 - 100 = A

90 - 93 = A-

87 - 89 = B+

83 - 86 = B

80 - 82 = B-

77 - 79 = C+

73 - 76 = C

70 - 72 = C-

67 - 69 = D+

63 - 66 = D

60 - 62 = D-

0 - 59 = F

Special Circumstances. If you have any kind of special circumstances that I should be aware of, please let me know at your earliest opportunity. If you have SNAP accommodations of any kind, please make appropriate arrangements with the Center for Students with Disabilities. Alternatively, if you have any sort of physical impairment that will require special arrangements for exams or papers, if you are an athlete or member of any club that will travel, let me know. I will keep the information you share confidential, but to create the best environment for your academic success, I need to know if there are circumstances that may interfere with your performance in the course.

Academic Dishonesty. When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed an Honor Code. I expect you to abide by that code. If you are found to have cheated on an exam or plagiarized any portion of any paper, you will fail my course and I will turn over the case to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. If you have any questions or are unsure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism – ask. Ignorance is not a valid defense.

Journal Guideline:

1. The journal will ultimately include summary analyses of 30 articles from the New York Times.
2. You will submit your journal in four parts on dates according to the daily schedule.
3. Your summary and analysis of each article will relate each article to a specific element in the chapters of the text in the relevant Part of the course in the syllabus. The summary of the story must not be more than one-quarter of the entry in length.
4. Each journal entry will be one (1) double-spaced typed page in length.
5. Each entry will use a standard explicit identifiable format. Each entry will have three parts. The first part will be a description of the "news" or article. The second part will identify an element in the framework for understanding world politics and why it is important. The third part will analyze the "news" or article in the context of the element and framework.
6. The first two journal submissions will each be worth 5% of your grade. The last two submissions will each be worth 10% of your grade. The journal as a whole therefore will be worth 30% of the grade.

This course outline, reading list, requirements, schedule and course contents are subject to change, within reason, at the discretion of the professor.