

# **POLI 103 World Politics**

## **Fall 2015**

Maybank Hall 217  
MWF 11:00-11:50 and 1:00-1:50

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### **Course Syllabus**

*"I was the fool because I thought  
I thought the world  
Turns out the world thought me."*

*-Eddie Vedder*

#### **Course Description**

World Politics matters. As global citizens, it is almost impossible to avoid being drawn together by virtue of the ever-changing volume and the speed of money, goods, information, technology, people, ideas, and images that flow within and between countries. We study World Politics to help understand these dynamics, but also to decide how to engage with them, if at all. This means looking at the broad range of actors, structures, and issues on the international scene. It means looking at how states interact, and how states serve as administrative containers for societies, identities, ideologies, economies, political systems, and individuals, and how these things cooperate and collide.

The course has two goals. The first is to provide an introduction to the concepts and debates surrounding the study of World Politics. We will engage these through two main subfields in Political Science: Comparative Politics, which analyzes the differences among and *within* countries and determines why these differences matter, and International Relations, which focuses on relations *between* countries. The second goal is to give students a general idea of how political scientists think and engage with the wider world. This does not simply entail gaining knowledge of politics and history of different countries. It also means learning about theories that explain patterns of World Politics and how political scientists study the topic. We ask questions such as: Why are some countries democratic while others are authoritarian? Why are there wars? Why are some countries rich while others are poor? Students will learn how to connect academic theory to the real world.

The course proceeds in three parts. Part I will be an introduction to World Politics and Political Science as an anchor for the course, and will provide a crash course in the history of World Politics. Part II will look at International Relations. Part III will look at Comparative Politics.

## Course Objectives and Methodology

This course counts towards CofC's General Education Social Science Requirement and its student learning outcome is:

### **Students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions (Response Paper #4)**

Political Science student learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate understanding basic facts about the world
- Demonstrate capacity to theorize or explain political outcomes
- Demonstrate familiarity with current political debates
- Demonstrate skills in critical thinking
- Demonstrate knowledge of social scientific inquiry norms and standards

The course is taught through readings, lectures, class discussions, current events, and film:

- *Readings.* Readings Students are expected to have completed the readings *before* the class sessions. Keeping up with these readings will be vital to your overall course performance, and it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind. The knowledge acquired in the readings will be cumulative. That is, each week you will be introduced to new ideas that will become part of the "tool-box" you will use to analyze readings and lectures in subsequent weeks.

Students will engage three types of readings this semester. The first are scholarly articles found in academic journals, intended to expose students to what social science research does. The second are samples of news journalism that cover contemporary issues related to key concepts and theories developed by social science. Finally, students will read two books over the semester, each of which correspond to the main thematic components of the class. Other readings may be assigned.

- *Lectures.* Class sessions serve as the "textbook" for this course. Each week will feature a specific topic and a corresponding lecture that will anchor the readings and class discussions with key terms, concepts, cases, and historical context.
- *Discussions.* Class discussions will be fundamental and students are expected to participate.
- *Current Events.* Students are expected to independently follow current events and trends in World Politics by reading *The Economist* magazine.
- *Films.* Periodically students will be asked to view films outside of class and be prepared to discuss them in class.

## Course Requirements

These include two exams, submission of 4 response papers, participation in the Model U.N., and participation in class lectures.

- *Exams (20 + 20 = 40%).* There will be two substantive exams during the semester each covering the International Relations and Comparative Politics components of the class.
- *Response Papers (40%)*
  - Students will submit a 3-4 page response paper that links the week's readings to a current issue in world politics featured in the *Economist*.
  - Papers are due in class on FRIDAYS unless otherwise specified.
  - Students will submit a total of **4 response papers** throughout the semester, **with two for the International Relations section and two for the Comparative Politics section.**

A separate guideline will be provided for this assignment.

### **Hard copies only. No late submissions.**

- *Model United Nations (10%).* Students will be expected to participate in the College of Charleston's Model UN during the Fall semester. More guidance will be provided as the semester proceeds.
- *Class participation (10%).* The quality of this class depends on the quality of discussion, therefore students are expected to participate in class.

## Course Policies

Here are the rules of the road:

### *Grading Scale*

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						

*Attendance Policy.* Attendance is **REQUIRED**.

*Submission of Work.* Late work will not be accepted. Work submitted electronically will not be accepted. **“My computer crashed” = “My dog ate my homework”**

*Honor Code.* All students are expected be familiar with the College of Charleston Honor Code, and to abide by it. Violations will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately.

*Learning Disabled.* If you have a learning disability, please let me know as soon as possible so special arrangements can be made for certain class requirements.

*Other Special Circumstances.* I normally will do business with anyone who lets me know in advance of any special circumstances. But please note that the expression “it is better to ask for forgiveness than permission” was not invented by a College Professor.

*Center for Student Learning.* I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and they are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843) 953-5635.

### **Required Readings**

- Daniel W. Drezner, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* (Princeton University Press 2011)
- Jason Stearns, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa* (PublicAffairs 2012)
- Students will take out twelve week digital subscription to *The Economist* magazine (\$30) available at:

[https://subscriptions.economist.com/GLB/SPLASH/MAST/T1/NA/?absplitsrc=/GLB/MAST/T1&abrnd=55c0de5550cba&country=US&sub\\_type=student](https://subscriptions.economist.com/GLB/SPLASH/MAST/T1/NA/?absplitsrc=/GLB/MAST/T1&abrnd=55c0de5550cba&country=US&sub_type=student)

All other readings are posted on OAKS or are available online.

**NOTE: Additional readings may be assigned and the course outline may be adjusted to serve the needs of the class.**

“Like” the Department of Political Science on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CofCPoliticalScienceClub?ref=hl>

“Like” the Program of African Studies on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeOfCharlestonAfricanStudiesProgram>

## Course Outline and Readings

### Part I: Setting the Scene

#### 1. August 26-28: Introduction

#### 2. August 31-September 2: World Politics and Political Science

\*No class Friday, September 4 for the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting\*

(skim) Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," *International Organization* 53:3 (Summer 1999): 433-68

(skim) David Collier and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research," *World Politics*, Volume 49, Number 3 (April 1997), pp. 430-451

(skim) James Fearon & David Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil Wars," *American Political Science Review*, 97:1 (Feb, 2003), pp. 75-90

#### 3. September 7-11: A Brief History of World Politics

Robert Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic* February 1994  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1994/02/the-coming-anarchy/304670/>

Samuel Huntington, "A Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* Summer 1993  
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/1993-06-01/clash-civilizations>

Benjamin Barber, "Jihad vs. McWorld," *The Atlantic* March 1992  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1992/03/jihad-vs-mcworld/303882/>

### Part III: Fundamentals of International Relations

#### 4. September 14-18

\*\*\*Begin reading *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*\*\*\*

Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," in Art and Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* (Pearson- Longman, 2009), pp. 29-49

John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in Art and Jervis, pp. 50-60

- James Fallows, "The Tragedy of the American Military," *The Atlantic* January/February 2015 <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/12/the-tragedy-of-the-american-military/383516/>

## 5. September 21-25: International Organization & Non-State Actors

Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics* (Cornell University Press 2004) pp. 16-44

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Cornell University Press 1998), pp. 1-37

- The Anti Homosexuality Act, 2009, Parliament of Uganda  
<http://www.parliament.go.ug/new/images/stories/bills/The%20anti%20homosexuality%20bill%202009.pdf>
- Jeffrey Gettleman, “Americans’ Role Seen in Uganda Anti-Gay Push,” *The New York Times*, 3 January 2010  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/04/world/africa/04uganda.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/04/world/africa/04uganda.html?_r=0)
- John-Henry Westen, “Int’l Pressure on Uganda to Accept Homosexuality Caused Over-the-Top Sanctions: Christian Activist,” *LifeSiteNews.com*, 27 November 2009  
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive//ldn/2009/nov/09112708>
- David Smith, “Uganda bans 38 organisations accused of 'promoting homosexuality'”, *The Guardian*, 20 June 2012  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/20/uganda-bans-organisations-promoting-homosexuality>

## 6. September 28-October 2: Paradigms in International Relations

Jack Snyder, “One World and Many Theories,” *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2004), pp. 52-62

- Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, “The Women’s Crusade,” *New York Times Magazine*, (August 17, 2009)  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

## 7. October 5-9: International Political Economy

Fred Block, “Introduction,” in Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1944/2001), pp. xviii-xxxviii.

- Michael Lewis, “Beware of Greeks Bearing Bonds,” *Vanity Fair*, October 1 2012  
<http://www.vanityfair.com/business/features/2010/10/greeks-bearing-bonds-201010>
- “11 Things About the Greek Crisis You Need to Know,” *Vox* June 20 2015  
<http://www.vox.com/2015/6/30/8868363/greece-crisis-default-austerity>

## 8. October 12-16: International Security

Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” *APSR*, vol. 97, no. 3 (August 2003)

- Graeme Wood, “What ISIS Really Wants,” *Atlantic Monthly* (March 2015) <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>
- “Everything you want to know about the Iranian nuclear deal,” *The Economist* Apr 5 2015 <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/04/economist-explains-3>
- “Is this a good deal?” *The Economist* Apr 2 2015 <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21638915-better-alternativesand-long-way-good-deal>
- “A question of trust,” *The Economist* Apr 3 2015 <http://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2015/04/politics-iran-deal>
- “The view from Tehran,” *The Economist* Apr 3 2015 <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21646166-young-and-hopeful-iran-are-cautiously-optimistic-view-tehran>

\*\*\*Must be finished reading *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*\*\*\*

## 9. Fall Break + Midterm

\*No Class October 19 for Fall Break\*

**\*\*MIDERM EXAM\*\***

*Part I October 21 in class*  
*Part II October 23 in class*

## **Part II: Fundamentals of Comparative Politics**

\*\*\*Begin reading *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*\*\*\*

### 10. October 26-30: States in Comparative Perspective

Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation” in H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds., *From Max Weber* (Oxford University Press, 1958), pp. 77-79

Charles Tilly, “War Making and State making as Organized Crime,” in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer & Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In*, (New York: Cambridge, 1985), pp. 169-91

- Jon Lee Anderson, "A History of Violence," *The New Yorker* 23 July 2012 <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/07/23/a-history-of-violence-4>

### 11. November 2-6: States, Society, and Institutions

**\*\*MODEL UN NOVEMBER 6-7\*\***

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in Robert C. Tucker, ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton 1978), pp. 473-491

- Jeffrey Winters, "Oligarchy and Democracy," *The American Interest*, Vol. VII No. 2 (November/December 2011)  
<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2011/09/28/oligarchy-and-democracy/>

## **12. November 9-13: Regimes and Political Systems**

Robert Dahl, Chapter 1, "Democratization and Public Opposition" in *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (Yale University Press 1971), pp. 1-16.

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* (University of Oklahoma Press 1991), pp. 3-30.

- Peter Hessler, "Big Brothers," *The New Yorker*, January 14, 2013  
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/01/14/big-brothers>

## **13-14. November 16-23: Political Interests**

*\*No class Friday, November 20 for the African Studies Association Annual Meeting\**

*\*No class Wednesday November 25 and Friday November 27 for Thanksgiving\**

Mancur Olson, "The Logic" in *The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities* (Yale University Press 1982), pp. 17-35

- Matt Taibbi, "The Truth About the Tea Party," *Rolling Stone* (September 28, 2010)  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/matt-taibbi-on-the-tea-party-20100928>

## **15. November 30-December 4: Political Violence**

Stathis Kalyvas, "The Ontology of "Political Violence:" Action and Identity in Civil Wars," *Perspectives on Politics* 1:3, 2003, pp. 475-494

- Jon Lee Anderson, "The Mission: A Last Defense Against Genocide," *The New Yorker*, October 20, 2014  
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/10/20/mission-3>

*\*\*\*Must be finished reading *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*\*\*\**

## **15: December 7: Final Exam Review**

**\*\*FINAL EXAM\*\***

**11:00 class: Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm-3:00pm**  
**1:00 class: Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm-3:00pm**