

**College of Charleston**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE 103.02**  
**WORLD POLITICS**

**Dr. Guoli Liu**

**Spring 2018**

**Maybank Hall 307, Tuesday and Thursday 9:25 -10:40 am**

**Office: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 103**

**Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:00-4:30 pm and Wednesday 9:00-11:30 am, and by appointment**

**Telephone: 843-953-5883; E-mail: LiuG@cofc.edu**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

World politics has been in a state of extraordinary transition. We live in a time when international news is instantaneous; when the Internet can open windows into the lives of people around the globe; when many countries are seeking new ways to cooperate with each other; when questions of global climate change, international finance and trade, and nuclear proliferation seem to affect everyone. Because our lives have become more tightly interconnected with the lives of everyone else on the planet, everything has also become much more complex. 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 are the most important historical events that have shaped the international system? What are the contending theoretical approaches to international politics? What are the main levels of analysis? Why are there wars? What are the causes and consequences of the global financial crisis? Why do countries have a hard time cooperating to prevent genocides or global environmental problems? How can we effectively fight against terrorism? How serious is the threat of nuclear proliferation? What are the key political and security challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan? Why are some countries rich while others are poor? What are the most challenging transnational issues? World politics today poses a real challenge to our understanding, yet we believe there are keys that will open the doors for us. We can search for a "toolbox" of analytical concepts from contending theories of world politics that can be applied to a wide variety of topics. 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 global politics, this course includes critical 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. Applying theoretical perspectives to real world issues, we will examine causes of global crises and possible solutions to the crises. We are going to examine the following questions: What is globalization? Is globalization a positive or negative development? Does globalization make war more or less likely? Who are the relevant actors and what are their interests? What strategies can they be expected to pursue? When are their choices likely to bring about cooperation or conflict? How do institutions constrain and affect interactions? How might

they impede or facilitate cooperation? Most importantly, what will your role be in world politics? How will you choose to identify yourself and participate locally, nationally, and globally? By addressing both theoretical and empirical questions, we should be able to gain a deep understanding of the key challenges facing the world today. We need to develop both a firm grasp on the wide-ranging dynamics of current events and a deeper, more well-informed worldview of how these events can be examined and explained. We will acquire strong critical thinking skills by studying contending theoretical approaches and examining multiple global issues.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS THIS COURSE WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE \***

This course seeks to introduce you to key concepts, theories and dynamics of world politics and familiarize you with a number of pressing issues that dominate world politics today. By the end of the semester, you should have obtained a working understanding of many essential concepts of international politics and at the conclusion of the course, you will be expected to demonstrate an ability to independently employ a subset of these concepts to describe, analyze and assess the essence of a pressing global issue. You will also acquire and refine a capacity to identify and employ these concepts to ongoing contemporary issues in world politics that you discover on your own. Working together, we will achieve the following learning objectives: 1.) To develop a comprehensive understanding of the various theoretical traditions in global politics and the roles they play; 2.) To understand the relationship between theory and policymaking or problem solving in global politics; 3.) To appreciate the diversity of worldviews and theoretical assumptions that might inform political situations; and 4.) To develop an understanding of the global system and thereby increase the capacity to act or participate at various levels within it.

This course also aims to develop your skills of critical reading and critical writing. As you develop and refine these abilities, you should be able to: 1.) propose an interpretation of the texts you read; 2.) identify central issues, concepts or conflicts that appear in the texts; 3.) evaluate an author's "tactics" or ways of communicating knowledge; 4.) investigate and articulate the implications of the arguments you encounter; and 5.) relate your ideas to ideas presented by other students and the world around you. You will also come to readily appreciate the difference between espousing opinions and developing arguments as the course progresses.

In this vein, the course will seek to challenge and improve a number of skills that are considered vital for students of the Liberal Arts and Sciences to master. These include: 1.) critical reading and comprehension (through required reading and review assignments); 2.) oral communication, listening and presentation abilities (through class discussions and paper presentation); 3.) effective writing and development of arguments (through analysis papers and exams); 4.) critical thinking and analytical capacities (through analysis papers, debate, and exams); 5.) comprehension of other's views and capacity to formulate, defend one's own position (through reading, class discussions and exercises, class writing assignments); 6.) library research and locating relevant sources (through analysis papers and special sessions with library staff); 7.) cooperative work and active learning (through in-class exercises and out-of-class activities, exam preparation); and 8.) time management and personal responsibility (through set-up of the entire course, specific exercises in class).

- I would like to thank Professor John Creed for helping to develop this section.

## GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course counts towards the general education social science requirement. Students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions. These outcomes will be assessed in the “critical analysis paper.”

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE ALTERNATIVE

This course has been approved to satisfy Category 2 of the Foreign Language Alternative program. Upon completion of this course, students will use models and theories to analyze a cross-cultural issue (program learning outcome 2).

## 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; (3) write a critical analysis paper and present it to class, (4) write a critical review paper of a case study or “theory in practice,” and (5) follow current events and news analysis.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance of exam I (20%), class participation including two participation reports (10%), a 5-6 page critical analysis paper (10%), a presentation of your paper (10%), two quizzes (20%), and exam II (30%). You have a great opportunity to write a second critical analysis paper on a global issue or a case study. The second paper can replace the lowest ten percent of your course grade. 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. If you do not receive a digital confirmation of any electronic submission, it means that your work has not been received. It is your responsibility to submit all work on time.

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 his or her from 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 cheat on an exam or plagiarize any portion of your paper. I will turn an Honor Code violation in 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. Steven L. Lamy, John Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, *Introduction to Global Politics*. Fourth edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
2. *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher*. 2017 Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2018.
3. Allison, Graham, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *American Political Science Review* vol. 63, no. 3 (1969): 689-718.
4. The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2017*. Available at <http://data.worldbank.org/products/wdi>.
5. United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone*. Available at [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016\\_human\\_development\\_report.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf)
6. Charles Fishman, *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water*. New York: Free Press, 2011.

The following resources listed below are helpful in keeping up with the pressing issues and debates in world politics. For complete access to the digital contents of these newspapers and journals, go to the CofC Libraries site <https://library.cofc.edu/>. Use the "Ask Us" (online chat) service <http://answers.library.cofc.edu/> if you need assistance accessing these or any other sources.

### **Newspapers and Magazines**

*The New York Times*  
*The Washington Post*

### **TV/Radio**

Nightly News (ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN)  
The PBS NewsHour

*The Wall Street Journal*  
*The Financial Times*  
*The Economist*  
*TIME*

This Week (ABC)  
Face the Nation (CBS)  
Meet the Press (NBC)  
All Things Considered (NPR)

### **Journals**

*International Organization*  
*International Security*  
*Journal of Conflict Resolution*  
*International Affairs*  
*International Political Science Review*  
*China Quarterly*  
*Foreign Affairs*

*World Politics*  
*International Studies Quarterly*  
*Political Science Quarterly*  
*Review of International Studies*  
*Asian Survey*  
*American Political Science Review*  
*Foreign Policy*

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

1. The Importance of Global Politics  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Preface and Chapter 1.  
*Global Issues*, Preface.  
**(Deadline for completing the readings, January 11, 2017)**
2. The Evolution of Global Politics  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 2.  
(January 18)
3. Contending Theoretical Perspectives  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 3.  
*Global Issues*, Chapters 1-2.  
(January 25)
4. The State and Foreign Policy  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 4.  
(February 1)
5. Global and Regional Governance  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 5.  
*Global Issues*, Chapter 7.  
(February 8)

**Exam I: Thursday, February 15**

**The critical analysis paper is due on Tuesday, February 20**

6. **Global Issues** Analysis Paper Presentation and Debate  
(February 22, 27, and March 1)

**The first participation is due on Tuesday, March 6.**

7. A Critical Case of Foreign Policy Making  
*Thirteen Days: The Cuban Missile Crisis*  
Allison, Graham, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *American Political Science Review* vol. 63, no. 3 (1969): 689-718.  
(March 8)
9. Global Security, Military Power, and Terrorism  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 6.  
*Global Issues*, Chapters 3-7.  
(March 15)

**Spring Break: March 18-24, 2018.**

10. Human Rights and Human Security  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 7.  
*Global Issues*, Chapters 11-12.  
(March 27)
11. Global Trade and Finance  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 8.  
*World Development Indicators 2017*.  
*Global Issues*, Chapters 8-10.  
(April 3)
12. Poverty, Development, and Environmental Issues  
*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapters 9-10.  
*Human Development Report 2016*.  
*Global Issues*, Chapters 13-16.  
Fishman, the entire book.  
(April 10)
13. Current Affairs and Course Review  
Additional readings will be assigned.  
(April 17)

**The second participation report is due on Tuesday, April 17.**

**Exam II: Thursday, April 26, 2018.**

**Critical Analysis Paper** Assignment  
POLI 103 World Politics, Spring 2018

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) develop the ability to evaluate the contending perspectives on world politics and develop a position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) develop effective writing skills. In addition, this paper should help you participate in the **critical issues debate** in our class.

You should start with one case study or a key issue in *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (2017 edition only) and summarize the key issue and contending perspectives. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you can develop your own position. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least **six** additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Political Science Citation Guide” (available at <http://polisci.cofc.edu/>). To help you find relevant, quality sources for your paper, consult the “POLI 103 World Politics Library Guide” (available at <http://libguides.library.cofc.edu/worldpol>). Here you will find links to research article databases, national and international newspapers, authoritative websites such as United Nations and the World Bank, as well as contact information for CofC librarian Burton Callicott who can provide individual research assistance.

Please select your topic no later than Tuesday, January 23. No more than three people can have the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between 5-6 pages. I welcome the opportunity to review your draft paper as soon as possible. The final paper is due in class by Tuesday, February 20.

1. Defeating the Islamic State
2. Far-Right Extremism
3. Modernizing the Nuclear Arsenal
4. US-Iran Relations
5. Reforming the U.N.
6. Women in Leadership
7. The Obama Legacy
8. Privacy and the Internet
9. The Dark Web
10. Decriminalizing Prostitution
11. Virtual Reality
12. Nanotechnology
13. Solar Energy Controversies
14. Arctic Development
15. Fighting Cancer
16. Mosquito-Borne Disease

## Participation Report Assignment

Spring 2018

Active class participation by everyone is very important for the success of our class. The participation report is designed to encourage you to actively and constructively contribute to our joint academic endeavor. You are required to submit two written reports. The first report is due on Tuesday, March 6. The second report is due on Tuesday, April 17. Please limit each report to 3 pages. The participation report is a summary of your contribution to the class. Please include the following in your report:

1. Comments and questions about the required readings;
2. A summary of your comments and questions in class;
3. Concise discussion of relevant academic issues and current events;
4. Additional readings that you have done for the class;
5. Additional comments and suggestions about the class;
6. Anything else that is significant for the progress of our class.
7. Do you have perfect attendance? If not, why?
8. **What are the strengths and weaknesses of our textbooks?** Please comment on all main textbooks that you have read. Please answer this question in more details in your second participation report.