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. 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.

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 (Memos)
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.** 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 two types of readings this semester. The first will be chapters from a textbook on world politics. The second include scholarly articles found in academic journals, intended to expose students to what social science research does. Students need not master these scholarly articles, but must grasp their basic contours.

- **Lectures.** Class sessions serve as the anchor for this course. Each week will feature a specific topic and a corresponding lecture that will tie together 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.** Each week 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 6 response papers, participation in the Model U.N., and participation in class lectures.

- **Quizzes (25%).** Every two weeks there will be an in-class quiz that will cover preceding material. There will be a total of 6 quizzes and I will drop the lowest score. The Quiz Schedule is as follows:
Quiz #1: Thursday, September 5
Quiz #2: Thursday, September 19
Quiz #3: Thursday, October 3
Quiz #4: Thursday, October 17
Quiz #5: Thursday, October 31
Quiz #6: Thursday, November 14

• **Policy Memos** (25%). *A separate guideline will be provided for this assignment.*
  
  o Students will submit a 1 to 2-page policy memo that links the week’s readings to a current issue in world politics featured in the *Economist.*
  o Papers are due in class on Thursdays unless otherwise specified.
  o Students will submit a total of 6 policy memos throughout the semester and I will drop the lowest score. The Memo Schedule is as follows:

  Memo #1: Thursday, September 12
  Memo #2: Thursday, September 26
  Memo #3: Thursday, October 10
  Memo #4: Thursday, October 24
  Memo #5: Thursday, November 7
  Memo #6: Thursday, November 26

• **Cumulative Final Exam** (30%)

• **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**

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<th>Letter</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
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**Attendance Policy.** Attendance is **REQUIRED.** Tardiness is not acceptable.

**Submission of Work.** Students are expected to submit their work on the day it is due in hard copy form. In the event that students cannot submit work on time because of Life Circumstances, they must inform the professor at **least 24 hours beforehand,** and provide a concrete date for submission. After this date, work will not be accepted. Also, please note that “My computer crashed” = “My dog ate my homework”.
**Honor Code.** Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)

**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](http://csl.cofc.edu) or call (843) 953-5635.

**Required Readings**


- Students will take out twelve-week digital subscription to *The Economist* magazine ($12)

All other readings will be available on OAKS.

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

1. August 20-22: Setting the Scene

*World Politics* Introduction


**Frameworks**

2. August 27-29: Brief History of the World

**No class Thursday, August 29 for APSA Conference**

*World Politics* Chapter 1

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest* 16 (Summer 1989) 3-18

3. September 3-5: Frameworks for World Politics

*World Politics* Chapter 2


**Global Peace and Security**

4. September 10-12: Why Are There Wars?

*World Politics* Chapter 3


5. September 17-19: Domestic Politics & War

*World Politics* Chapter 4

6. September 24-26: International Relations & War

World Politics Chapter 5


7. October 1-3: Civil Wars and Terrorism

World Politics Chapter 6


International Political Economy

8. October 8-10: Trade

World Politics Chapter 7


9. October 15-17: Financial Relations

**No Class Tuesday, October 15 for Fall Break**

World Politics Chapter 8

10. October 22-24: Monetary Relations

World Politics Chapter 9


11. October 29-31: Wealth & Poverty

World Politics Chapter 10

Transnational Politics

12. November 5-7: International Law

World Politics Chapter 11


13. November 12-14: Human Rights

World Politics Chapter 12


**No Class Thursday, November 21 for ASA**

World Politics Chapter 13


Conclusion

15. November 26-28: What’s Coming?

*No Class Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving Break*

World Politics Chapter 14

Samuel Huntington, “A Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72, 3 (Summer, 1993) 22-49

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

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