Welcome to World Politics. The aim of the course will be to examine the concept and practice of Politics on a global level, to examine the primary theoretical approaches to understanding world politics and international relations, and to examine key-issues of contemporary world politics. This will be a lecture based course supplemented by class-room discussions, videos, and student presentations/discussions. This is a critical-thinking based course rather than a simple survey of global political issues. Particular attention will always be paid to how theory intersects with global political practice and issues, and how different theoretical approaches and paradigms grasp issues differently and suggest different policy approaches in the real-world of global political relations amongst a range of global political actors.

General Objective: Students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions. This will be assessed via memos/discussion questions, as discussed below.

Course Readings: There will be one text-book, World Politics in a New Era, supplemented by on-line readings available through the class web-site on OAKS. Readings will be expected to be completed before class and will utilized in class discussions.

Course Requirements: There will be four equally weighted components to your grade: two in-class tests, in-class presentation, and discussion questions/memos. Each student will receive a letter grade on each assignment and your overall grade will be a simple averaging of the letter grades assigned to each assignment. Expectations for all assignments will be made explicitly clear in class and detailed explanations for grades will be provided in class. Class attendance is mandatory and subject-matter schedule is flexible based on instructor’s discretion.

TESTS: Tests will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, short-answers, and one short essay. Details of test style, content, and expectations will be discussed in lecture.
PRESENTATION: Student’s can work by themselves or with a partner on an in-class presentation on a topic of their choice related to the class material but not specifically discussed through class readings or lectures. The goal of this assignment is to offer an open-ended and expansive exploration of global politics driven by student interest. You will have to clear your topic with the instructor. Students will deliver a 10 minute “mini-lecture” in class with the aim of educating their fellow students on their chosen topic. Significant research is expected and a source list will be required (i.e. reading the Wikipedia entry on a topic is NOT acceptable).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/MEMO: One of the objectives of this class is to motivate students to habitually engage with foreign political events. Each student will submit 5 sets of discussion questions/memos throughout the semester on assigned dates that will be determined the first week of class premised upon news-source articles on current world-political events. Each submission will consist of 3-5 discussion questions aimed at stimulating in-class discussion on the day that the assignment is turned in along with a 1-2 paragraph summary of the article/issue. An overall grade will be assigned to all 5 submissions based upon criteria that will be discussed in detail in class.

Schedule: The Schedule is purposefully general and malleable and all students who regularly attend class will be perfectly aware of the flow of class and class expectations every week and every lecture.

1: Introduction. The concept of the Political and World Politics.
Reading: Chp. 1 (Week One)

2: Theoretical Paradigms: Realism.
Reading: Chp. 2, pgs 19-42. Oaks reading. (Week Two)

3: Theoretical Paradigms: Liberalism
Reading: Chp. 2, pgs. 42-47. Oaks reading. (Week Three)

4: Theoretical Paradigms: Constructivism and Other Approaches
Reading: Chp. 2, pgs. 47-56. Oaks reading. (Week Four)

5: Brief History of Modern Global Political System
Reading: Chp. 3, pgs. 59-91, 101-108. Chp. 4 & 5. This reading is to have been started earlier and finished by this class-period. Reading is lighter in previous classes for this purpose. (Week Five and Six)

6: Midterm: October 1st

7: Global Economy, Globalization, and Global Governance.
Reading: Chp. 9, pgs. 338-360 Chp. 10, pgs. 379-392, 397-413. Chp. 13, pgs. 509-522, 529-538. OAKS readings. (Week Seven)
8: Security Issues  
Reading: Chp. 7, pgs. 239-266. Chp. 8, pgs. 293-318. (Week Eight)

9: Environmental and Resource Issues.  
Reading: Chp. 12 (Week Nine)

10: Global Ethical Issues  

11: Presentations (Nov 12-14) **Presentations will also be on-going throughout the semester.**

12: Global Political Thought  
Reading: OAKS (Week Twelve)

13: Review (Week Thirteen)

14: Final Exam: Dec 7, 8-11 am

**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.