POLI 103 World Politics
Spring 2014

Maybank Hall 316
MWF 10:00-11:50 and 11:00-11:50am

Professor Christopher Day
Office: 114 Wentworth St. Room 105
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30pm
Email: dayc@cofc.edu
Phone: 843-953-6617

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 four parts. Part I will provide a basic introduction to World Politics and Political Science as an anchor for the course. Part II will look at Comparative Politics. Part III will look at International Relations. Part IV will tie together the two subfields.
Course Objectives and Methodology
General education social science requirement student learning outcome:

Students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions (through readings and writing assignments)

In addition, students come away from the course with the following:

** reading and critical comprehension (through required reading and writing assignments)

** oral communication, listening, presentation abilities (through class discussion)

** effective writing and development of arguments (through writing assignments)

** comprehension of other’s views and capacity to formulate, defend one’s own position (through reading, class discussions, quizzes, and writing assignments)

** time management and personal responsibility (through set-up of entire course)

** critical analysis and thinking (through reading, discussion, and lectures)

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. One of these will be a political novel. 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.** Each week students will be expected to watch an assigned film and prepare to discuss it in class.
**Course Requirements**
These include two take home exams, submission of 10 weekly memos, a final take-home writing assignment, and participation in class lectures.

- **Take Home 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. These will be take home exams.

- **Weekly Memos (30%)**. One of the objectives of this class is to motivate students to habitually engage with foreign political events. Students will submit a 1-2-page memo about any *Economist* article from the previous week. Students will submit a total of 10 memos throughout the semester. A separate guideline will be provided for these memos. Memos will receive grades of check (√) or minus (-). **Hard copies only. No late submissions.** They are due on the following dates at the beginning of class:

  Memo 1: January 24  
  Memo 2: January 31  
  Memo 3: February 7  
  Memo 4: February 14  
  Memo 5: February 24  
  Memo 6: March 14  
  Memo 7: March 21  
  Memo 8: March 28  
  Memo 9: April 4  
  Memo 10: April 11

- **Final Assignment (20%)**. Students will be given an academic article to critically analyze. This will be due in class **Wednesday, April 23**

- **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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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</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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**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

- Students will take out twelve week digital subscription to *The Economist* magazine ($12) available at https://subscriptions.economist.com/US/SRCH/ETE/ggle/reg/

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

“Like” the Department of Political Science on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CofCPoliticalScienceClub
Course Outline and Readings

Part I: Setting the Scene

1. January 8: Introduction

No readings

***No Class Friday, January 10 for SPSA Conference***

2. January 13-17: World Politics and Political Science


Part III: Fundamentals of International Relations

3. January 22-24: States in International Relations

***No Class Monday, January 20 for MLK Holiday***

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


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

- Gideon Rachman, “Think Again: American Decline,” *Foreign Policy* (January/February2011), pp. 59-63 [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/01/02/think_again_american_decline#sthash.gHkNPHuJ.dpbs](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/01/02/think_again_american_decline#sthash.gHkNPHuJ.dpbs)


- The Anti Homosexuality Act, 2009, Parliament of Uganda  
- 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](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jun/20/uganda-bans-organisations-promoting-homosexuality)

5. February 3-7: Paradigms in International Relations

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


6. February 10-14: International Political Economy


***No Class February 19-21 for Model African Union***

Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” *APSR*, vol. 97, no. 3 (August 2003)
• Nicholas Schmilde, “Getting Bin Laden: What happened that night in Abbotabad,” The New Yorker (August 8, 2011)
  http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/08/08/110808fa_fact_schmidle
• Seymour Hersch, “Iran and the Bomb: How real is the nuclear threat?” The New Yorker (June 6, 2011)
  http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/06/06/110606fa_fact_hersh

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

***TAKE HOME EXAM DUE IN CLASS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28***

9. ***No Class March 3 – March 7 for Spring Break***

**Part II: Fundamentals of Comparative Politics**

***Begin reading A Man of the People***

10. March 10-14: States in Comparative Perspective


11. March 17-21: States, Society, and Institutions


• Human Rights Watch, Laws of Attrition: Crackdown on Russia’s Civil Society after Putin’s Return to the Presidency (April 2013)
  http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/russia0413_ForUpload_0.pdf

12. March 24-28: Regimes and Political Systems


• Peter Hessler, “Big Brothers,” *The New Yorker*, January 14, 2013

13. March 31-April 4: Political Interests


14. April 7-11: Political Violence


***Must be finished reading *A Man of the People***

***TAKE HOME EXAM DUE IN CLASS FRIDAY, APRIL 11***

Part IV: Putting it all Together

15: April 14-18 Globalization and World Politics


16: April 21: Final Assignment Given

April 23: Final Assignment Due

NOTE: Additional readings may be assigned and the course outline may be adjusted to serve the needs of the class.
POLI 103 Tentative Film Schedule

Week 2: Babel

**Fundamentals of IR:**

Week 3: In the Loop

Week 4: No Man’s Land

Week 5: Children of Men, Dr. Strangelove

Week 6: Margin Call

Week 7: Thirteen Days, Star Trek VI

**Fundamentals of Comparative Politics:**

Week 9: The Battle of Algiers, Ghandi

Week 10: The Last King of Scotland

Week 11: The Lives of Others

Week 12: The Experiment

Week 13: City of God, The Killing Fields