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? 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, Afghanistan, and Pakistan? Why are some countries rich while others are poor? 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 in depth 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 is the nature of their interactions? 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? When and how do institutions favor different actors and their interests? 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.

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).
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 two analysis papers and present one to class, and (4) follow current events and news analysis.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their performance of one midterm exam (30%), class participation including two participation reports (10%), a 5-6 page analysis paper (10%), a presentation of the paper (10%), and a final exam (40%). You also have a great opportunity to write a 5-6 page paper about “Contemporary World Politics” based on China in the 21st Century, World Development Indicators 2012, and Human Development Report 2011 (10%). The lowest ten percent of your grade will be dropped from your grade for the course. 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. **You must turn in a printed copy of all written work for credits.** Electronic submission can only be accepted if you receive prior written permission. If you do not receive an email 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.

**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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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


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 the newspapers and journals, please use your account with the College of Charleston library.

**Newspapers and Magazines**

- *The New York Times*
- *The Christian Science Monitor*
- *The Washington Post*
- *The Wall Street Journal*

**TV/Radio**

- Nightly News (ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN)
- The World (BBC/PRI)
- The PBS NewsHour
- This Week (ABC)
The Economist
The Financial Times
China Daily
TIME
Meet the Press (NBC)
Face the Nation (CBS)
Morning Edition (NPR)
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 International Relations
   Introduction to Global Politics, Preface and Chapter 1.
   Mingst and Snyder, Preface.
   (Deadline for completing the readings, January 10, 2013)

2. The Evolution of Global Politics
   Introduction to Global Politics, Chapter 2.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapters 1-2.
   Steger, the entire book.
   (January 17)

3. Realism and Liberalism
   Introduction to Global Politics, Chapter 3.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 3.
   (January 24)

4. Critical Approaches to World Politics
   Introduction to Global Politics, Chapter 4.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 4.
   Wasserstrom, the entire book.
   (January 31)

5. States and Foreign Policy
   Introduction to Global Politics, Chapter 5.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 5.
* A Critical Case of Foreign Policy Making

*Thirteen Days: The Cuban Missile Crisis*


Allison and Zelikow, the entire book.

(February 7)

The first analysis paper is due on Thursday, February 7.

6. International Law and Organization

*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 6.

Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 7.

(February 14)

The second analysis paper topic is due on Thursday, February 14.

Midterm Exam: Thursday, February 21.

7. Non-state Actors and International Relations

*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 7.

Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 6.

Friedman and Mandelbaum, the entire book.

(February 22)

The first participation report is due on Tuesday, February 26.

8. International Security and Military Power

*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 8.

Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 8.

(February 28)

Spring break: March 2-10.

9. Terrorism and Globalization

*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 9.


(March 12)

10. Human Rights and Human Security

*Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 10.

(March 19)

The second analysis paper is due on Thursday, March 21.
11. International Political Economy
   *Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 11.
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 9.
   *World Development Indicators 2012*.
   (March 26)

12. Global Trade and Finance
   *Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 12.
   (April 2)

13. Poverty, Development, and Hunger
   *Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 13.
   *Human Development Report 2011*.
   (April 9)

14. Global Environment Issues
   *Introduction to Global Politics*, Chapter 14.
   (April 16)

   **The second participation report is due on Thursday, April 18.**

15. The Future of World Politics
   Mingst and Snyder, Chapter 10.
   (April 23)

   **Final Examination: Tuesday, April 30, 2013, 8:00-11:00 am.**

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