

# World Politics- Poli Sci 103

## Spring Semester 2017

The College of Charleston  
Department of Political Science

**Course:** World Politics, Pol Sci 301

**Location/Time:** [RSS 101](#) MWF 11-11:50

**Instructor:** John Altick, PhD

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**Office Hours:** MWF immediately after class and by appointment

Welcome to World Politics.

General Education Social Science Learning Outcome: **Students apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions.**

This outcome will be assessed for the purposes of General Education through the memos discussed below in the **Course Requirements** section.

### 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

The aim of the course will be to examine the concepts and practices 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 historical and 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 realities, and how different theoretical approaches portray varied understandings of global political issues and suggest different policy approaches in the real-world of global political relations amongst a range of global political actors.

**Course Readings:** Perspectives on International Relations by Henry Nau

**Course Requirements:** There will be **four components to your grade: two in-class tests, an in-class presentation, and three 2 pg. memos.** You will receive a letter grade on the tests, memos, and the presentation and your overall grade will be a simple averaging of the letter grades assigned to each assignment. **Class attendance is mandatory and subject-matter schedule is flexible based on instructor's discretion.** EX: B+ (test #1), B (test #2), A- (combined grade for 3 memos), B (presentation)= B+ overall Grade. (I will round up to nearest ½ grade)

**TESTS:** Tests will consist of a combination of short-answers and an essay question. Details of test style, content, and expectations will be discussed in class.

**PRESENTATION:** Students can work by themselves or in groups up to 3 on an in-class presentation on a topic of their choice, **must be approved by Professor**. The general purpose of the presentation is to go in depth on a very specific world political theme, event, topic. Very open-ended but must be specific with **detailed** research. (Same level of detail / research as a 5-10pg research paper). Students will deliver a 10-15 min “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. only reading the Wikipedia entry on a topic is NOT acceptable). Primarily an effort-based grade.

**MEMO:** One of the objectives of this class is to motivate students to habitually engage with foreign political events. Each student will submit **3** memos throughout the semester (No more than 1 on any given day and no more than 1 per week). Each submission will consist of a 2 pg summary and critical engagement of the article/issue addressing the general education learning objective: **Students apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions**. With this in mind, apply the conceptual approaches we go over in class to the real-world events that you are covering in your memos. **An overall grade will be assigned to all 3 submissions**. Acceptable sources will be foreign affairs periodicals such as Time Magazine, The Economist, US News and World Report, well-respected world-class newspapers and journalistic sources, academic journals (available on library webpage) etc. Simple opinion / editorial pieces are **not acceptable**. If you have doubt as to the legitimacy of your article source **ask the professor**. Consider that you are writing a 2-pg summary on the article and choose your articles accordingly. You will be graded upon the content of your submission with consideration for the article chosen (i.e. choosing a 1 pg brief article from the Post and Courier will not be as well-received as a 30 pg journal article)

**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. **Midterm date is also flexible** but will be fixed at least 1 full week in advance.

1: Introduction & History. The concept of the Political and World Politics.  
Readings: Textbook: Chp 1-4

2: Theoretical Paradigms & World Politics Issues: Realism, Liberalism, & Constructivism  
Reading: Textbook Chp 5-7 & additional readings  
Midterm: Week 7

3: Globalization & Change  
Reading: Textbook: Chp 8-10

***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.