POLI 103 World Politics  
Fall 2017

Education Center Room 118  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:50-12:05

Professor Christopher Day  
Office: 114 Wentworth St. Room 105  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3  
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: International Relations, which focuses on relations between countries, and Comparative Politics, which analyzes the differences among and within countries and determines why these differences matter. 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 three parts. Part I will be an introduction to World Politics and Political Science as an anchor for the course, and will provide a crash course in the history of World Politics. Part II will look at International Relations. Part III will look at Comparative Politics.
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 (Response Paper #6)**

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 three types of readings this semester. The first includes samples of news journalism that cover contemporary issues related to key concepts and theories developed by social science. The second (indicated by bullet point) are scholarly articles found in academic journals, intended to expose students to what social science research does. Finally, students will read two books over the semester, each of which correspond to the main thematic components of the class. 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 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.

- **Tests** \((15 + 15 = 30\%)\). There will be two substantive written tests during the semester each covering the International Relations and Comparative Politics components of the class.

- **Policy Memos** \((5 \times 6 = 30\%)\)
  - Students will submit a 1 to 2-page policy memo that links the week’s scholarly readings to a current issue in world politics featured in the *Economist*.
  - Papers are due in class on Thursdays unless otherwise specified.
  - Students will submit a total of 6 policy memos throughout the semester, with three for the International Relations section and three for the Comparative Politics section.

  A separate guideline will be provided for this assignment.

- **Short essays** \((10 + 10 = 20\%)\). Students will write two 1,000 word essays based on an essay prompt about the course’s assigned books. Students will have roughly half the semester to complete each of these assignments.

- **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>Grade</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>
<td>88-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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**Attendance Policy.** Attendance is **REQUIRED**.

**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. 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)

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

“Like” the Department of Political Science on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CofCPoliticalScienceClub?ref=hl

“Like” the Program of African Studies on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CollegeOfCharlestonAfricanStudiesProgram
Course Outline and Readings

Part I: Setting the Scene

1. August 22-24: Introduction


2. August 29-August 31: World Politics and Political Science

*No class Thursday, August 31 for the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*


3. September 5-7: A Brief History of Global Chaos

Different students will be assigned two of the following:


Part III: Fundamentals of International Relations

4. September 12-14: Foreign Policy

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


5. September 19-21: International Organization & Non-State Actors


- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics (Cornell University Press 1998) 1-37

6. September 26-28: Paradigms in International Relations


7. October 3-5: International Political Economy

https://intpolicydigest.org/2016/06/02/the-tpp-debate/


8. October 10-12: International Security

*Essay #1 Due October 12*

http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/

- Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” American Political Science Review 97, 3 (August 2003) 343-361

9. Fall Break

*No Class October 17 for Fall Break*

**TEST #1 Thursday, October 19**

**Part II: Fundamentals of Comparative Politics**

***Begin reading State of Rebellion***

10. October 24-26: States in Comparative Perspective

International Crisis Group, South Sudan: A Civil War by Any Other Name (Nairobi/Brussels 10 April 2014)


11. October 31-November 2: States, Society, and Institutions

**MODEL UN NOVEMBER 3-4**


12. November 7-9: Regimes and Political Systems

“The mess one Marxist makes,” *The Economist* 29 July 2017


13. November 14-16: Political Interests

Jill Lepore, “Battleground America,” *The New Yorker* 23 April 2012

http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/04/23/battleground-america


14. November 21: Political Violence

*No class Thursday, November 23 for Thanksgiving*

*Essay #2 Due November 21*


- Stathis Kalyvas, ‘The Ontology of “Political Violence:” Action and Identity in Civil Wars,’ *Perspectives on Politics* 1, 3 (2003) 475-494

15. November 28-30: Final Week

**TEST #2 Thursday, November 30**
POLI 103 Film Schedule

**Setting the Scene**

Week 2: Babel

Week 3: Guns, Germs, and Steel (3-part series)

**Fundamentals of IR:**

Week 4: In the Loop

Week 5: No Man’s Land

Week 6: Children of Men

Week 7: Margin Call

Week 8: Star Trek VI

**Fundamentals of Comparative Politics:**

Week 10: Ghandi

Week 11: The Last King of Scotland

Week 12: The Lives of Others

Week 13: Das Experiment

Week 14: The Killing Fields