

Syllabus

PSC 231: World Politics



PSC 231 World Politics

(Satisfies International and Foreign Culture requirement.)
General introductory course to the field of foreign policy and international politics. Mainly theoretical in nature but such concepts as revolution, economic and political development, and nationalism also considered. 3 credits.

Instructor

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Learning objectives

To introduce the fundamental concepts of international relations
To convey the essential concepts used by political scientists
To introduce the actors, the geographical and historical context, and the leading theories used to explain international relations
To use current and past international events to illustrate the fundamental course concepts.

Office hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:30
Friday: 1:00-2:30

Textbook:

The text for this course is *International Relations*, Goldstein and Pevehouse (Pearson, Longman 2007). It is available in the UNLV Bookstore.

The course will integrate concepts from the text book with current events as they occur. Students should be alert to and following events on the international scene as they are presented in the media.

Weekly topic guide

We will cover the following topics in this sequence. We will stay very close to one topic per week.

Chapter 1: Understanding International Relations

- Chapter 2: Power Politics
- Chapter 3: Alternatives to Power Politics
- Chapter 4: Foreign Policy
- Chapter 5: International Conflict
- Chapter 6: Military Force
- Chapter 7: International Organization and Law
- Chapter 8: Trade
- Chapter 9: Money and Business
- Chapter 10: Integration
- Chapter 11: Environment and Population
- Chapter 12: The North-South Gap
- Chapter 13: International Development

Tests and grading

Quarterly tests will be given. Tests will consist of multiple choice response and short essays. Tests cover the text book readings, the lectures, and current events discussed in class. Tests include two parts: multiple choice and essay questions. The questions will be modeled on the sample questions on the text book web site:

http://wps.ablongman.com/long_goldstein_ir_7/0,10728,2296546-,00.html.

Test dates: T-Th / Fr
 September 27th/September 28th
 October 25th/October 26th
 November 29th/November 30th

Final Exam: The final examination is set by the University Registrar and times, dates, and room locations are scheduled on that web site. The final examination will be conducted at the designated time and place. Please note that this may differ from the normal meeting time or place for the course. Final examination week for Fall 2007 is December 10-15. The final will be comprehensive.

Written work

Reflective essay: one reflective essay of 550-750 words will be prepared and submitted October 4th (T-Th) or October 5th (Fr). The essay will be word processed, free of mechanical and typographical errors, and will demonstrate insightful analysis into an actual challenge in the international sphere. Topics will be assigned to students by the instructor.

Late work/missed tests

Be punctual and professional. Late work is penalized at the rate of 10% per day for each day late. Unexcused absence from an exam will normally result in a grade of zero for that exam. Make up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grade	Criteria	Numeric Range
A	Far exceeds the standard for all required work	96-100
A-	Far exceeds the standard for all required work	91-95
B+	Exceeds the standard for all required work	88-90
B	Exceeds the standard for all required work	85-87
B-	Exceeds the standard for all required work	81-84
C+	Met the standard for all required work	78-80
C	Met the standard for all required work	75-77

C-	Met the standard for all required work	71-74
D+	Did not meet the standard for all required work	67-70
D	Did not meet the standard for all required work	64-66
D-	Did not meet the standard for all required work	61-63
F	Did not meet the standard all required work. Must retake the course	< 60

Grading components:

tests	60%
final examination	30%
written project	10%

Your right to learn. The classroom is a safe space for the discussion of issues pertaining to the course. Behaviors that interfere with the rights of others such as ringing cell phones, beepers, distracting conversations are not allowed.

Attendance: Class attendance is expected and missing more than 3 classes will normally result in a reduction of the final course average of one letter grade for each unexcused absence in excess of three. For example, missing four classes would lower a final grade of B to a grade of C.

Cheating:

There will be none. Any attempt at gaining outside assistance on exams, in any form, will result in failure of the entire course.

Other Policies:

Religious Holidays: Any student missing quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of a religious holiday shall be given an opportunity to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than September 5, 2007 of her or his intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering a test or examination at an alternative time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not reasonably have been avoided

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center for coordination in your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex in Room 137. The DRC phone number is 895-0866 (TDD: 895-0652).

Use of WebCampus: This course will use WebCampus as a way to maintain communications with students. I will post most lecture notes there, copies of the syllabus, and any changes to the course schedule. Under normal circumstance, test grades and other scores will be posted on WebCampus one week following the test or due date.

Cell phone, iPods, wifi and similar devices must be in the off position during class. Their use in any respect during an examination will result in a grade of 0% for that test.