

Political Science 2401

Global Issues

Fall 2015 CRN# 80666/89108

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM

Langdale Hall 600

Instructor: Prof. Adnan Rasool

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday

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11 AM to 12: 30 PM

Syllabus

Course Description

This is an introductory level course aimed at equipping the students with basic knowledge of global issues and challenges. As this is an introductory course, no prior knowledge of international relations is required. Starting out with a survey of global politics, the course revolves around learning outcomes that ensure that by the end of this course the students will have knowledge about International Organizations, Non-Governmental organizations, Nature of the International System, Human Rights, Environmental Issues as well as international development. The course intends to stimulate discussion among students regarding these issues and their potential solutions.

Additionally the course aims to provide students an opportunity to critically analyze and question global norms and practices based on the knowledge they acquire throughout this course. The intention here to help the students become productive and involved members of the global society by exposing them to existing state of the world.

Course Objectives

The course aims to achieve the following learning outcomes over the semester;

- Students should be able to identify key structural features of the contemporary international system. They should be able to argue for or against the concept of state sovereignty as well as demonstrate why or why not international law is needed.
- Students should be able to identify and describe the roles of major international organizations e.g. United Nations, NATO, ASEAN, NAFTA, European Union, African Union, SAARC, SCO etc.
- Students should also be able to identify and explain what is an NGO? What are its functions and why are they needed in the global system. Students should also be able to name at least 5 International Non-Government Organizations.
- Students should be able to recognize the following issues within the global security paradigm:
 - o Terrorism

- What is Terrorism? Motivations for Terrorism? Differentiating between terrorism and other forms non – conventional warfare.
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
 - What kinds of weapons are WMD? What is the motivation for these WMDs?
- Human Rights
 - What are Human Rights? Current Human Right Crisis? How to deal with Human Right Crisis?
- Environmental issues
 - How environmental issues impact international affairs? Current points of disagreement and how to address them?
- International Development
 - Basic issues in International Development. Approaches to development. Impact of development on standard of living. International Trade and finance, how they impact states.
- Multinational Corporations
 - Role of such organizations in the global system. Arguments for and against their involvement in international affairs.

In each case the students will have a clear understanding of the basic definition, sub issues and current debates.

- Students should be able to identify at least 3 active conflict zones in the world.

Additionally students should be able to pass a *Map Quiz* that includes identifying countries and regions on a map.

Required Reading

D'Anieri, P. J. (2014). *International politics: Power and purpose in global affairs*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Additional readings and relevant course material will also be made available through *Desire 2 Learn*

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

3 Major Exams – 60% of the grade will be based on these three exams. Each Major Exam is 20% of the grade. The exams will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in, or matching questions as well as short answer questions. In case you cannot make it to an exam, you need to provide a legitimate excuse and only then can a makeup exam be scheduled for you.

Class Quizzes + Activities – 15% of the grade depends on class quizzes & activities. Students will be told the class before about upcoming class quizzes and class activities will happen without prior announcements. This class is highly interactive and relies heavily on class activities to appraise students.

Component Briefs – 20% of the grade will be dependent on the component briefs. Students are required to submit 4 component briefs over the course of the semester. Students can work in pairs to do these assignments and will share the grade. Each brief is supposed to be about 500 words. The

purpose of the component briefs is to allow students to apply what they learn in class on real life issues facing the world.

End of Semester Essay– 5% of the grade is the end of semester essay you will write about what you learned throughout the semester. The idea is to summarize core concepts you have studied and what new things you have learned. It is an open ended essay but you will be provided detailed instructions on what needs to be included. This essay is expected to be about 800 words.

This course is designed to challenge the students not overwhelm them. If you encounter issues with readings, assignments or the class itself, please see the instructor immediately.

Grading Scale

All Political Science courses (as well as courses in most other departments) will be awarded grades on a plus/minus scale. The following quality points will be used to calculate GPAs.

A+ = 4.3	A = 4	A – = 3.7
B+ = 3.3	B = 3	B – = 2.7
C+ = 2.3	C = 2	C – = 1.7
D = 0	F = 0	WF = 0

Grades will conform to the following numerical score and letter grade equivalent.

A+ = 97 – 100	A = 94 – 96	A – = 90 – 93
B+ = 87 – 89	B = 84 – 86	B – = 80 – 83
C+ = 77 – 79	C = 74 – 76	C – = 70 – 73
D = 60 – 69		F = 0 – 59

Grade Appeals

If the students have genuine reason to believe their grade was appropriated improperly, they submitting a written appeal to me. All appeals should include the original graded work and specific point of order identified. If I find that a mistake was indeed made, the grade will account for the change.

Attendance Policy

Students are encouraged to attend all classes. Each students is allowed a maximum of 6 absences throughout the semester without prior approval. A 7th absence without approval will resolve in automatic unregistering from the course. In case of an excused absence, the student is expected to seek advanced approval a minimum of 48 hours before the class. It is pertinent to mention here that

any pop quiz would not be made up if the student is not in class. Instead the student will be allowed to do a bonus assignment to cover for the pop quiz.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted. Any assignment submitted after the due date will not be graded or taken in to account. Students are strongly advised to complete their work on time as deadline extensions will not be granted in this course.

Students who are unable to complete work in due time are encouraged to come see me before the deadline to seek help. The purpose here is to reward the students who do things on time and discourage tardiness as a work ethic.

Academic Honesty

"There is much difference between imitating a man and counterfeiting him."

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

As Benjamin Franklin said, you are free to get inspiration but don't copy paste. Plagiarism will result in the immediate dismissal from the course. Additionally the university's Policy on Academic Honesty applies to all assignments in this course. For further information on GSU policy regarding academic dishonesty (including plagiarism), see the GSU Catalog for 2009-10, pp. 83-87.

In case the student has questions regarding plagiarism, they can contact the instructor to seek clarification. Any case of student plagiarism will be immediately reported to the university authorities and will make it to the student's permanent record.

Withdrawal and Hardship Policies

The last day to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" is October XX, 2014. All students who withdraw on or before this date will receive a "W"; students that withdraw after this date will receive "WF" (Withdraw Fail). Exceptions to this policy are listed on the Registrar's website (<http://registrar.gsu.edu/registration/withdrawals/>).

Incompletes

An Incomplete (I) may be given to a student who for nonacademic reasons beyond his or her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. With regards to this course specifically, a student failing to pass the map quiz during the semester will be given an 'Incomplete' grade till they eventually pass the map quiz. In order to qualify for an 'I', a student must: (a) have completed most of the major assignments of the course, and (b) be earning a passing grade in the course (aside from the assignments not completed) in the judgment of the instructor. Further information on Incompletes is available in the GSU Catalog 2009-10, p. 79

Email Correspondence

Students are required to activate their GSU email addresses and regularly check it for any official correspondence for this course. This is a University sanctioned requirement i.e. all official business

contact should occur through the official email addresses assigned by the university. Additionally check *Brightspace* regularly for course updates.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring any accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services before an instructor can modify instructions or expectations. The Office of Disability Services may be contacted at 404-413-1560 or in the Student Center in 230. Any student with a disability who may require special accommodations is requested to make an appointment with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students must self-identify so that arrangements can be made according to University policy.

Students are expected to complete this process as early as possible during the semester.

Misc. Notes

- Eating and other disruptive behavior is not allowed. Any student involved in such behavior will be asked to leave the class room.
- Electronic devices such as computers, cell phones and tablet usage is not allowed during class.
- University policy to be in accordance with FERPA states that final grades on any assignment will not be given out over the phone or via email at any time by the instructor. Details of FERPA can be accessed from <http://registrar.gsu.edu/academic-records/records-management/ferpa/>
- To enhance the classroom experience, students will be asked to fill out online surveys from time to time. All surveys will be anonymous and failure to fill them out would cost student points from their class participation grade. The surveys are an attempt to get more student feedback and potentially embed that in to future classes.

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluations.

THIS SYLLABUS LAYS OUT A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE. IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS FINAL, AND DEVIATIONS MIGHT BE NECESSARY

Course Schedule with Assignments

Week 1

Aug 25th – Introduction and Course Overview

Aug 27th – Concept of State and State Sovereignty

Week 2

Sep 1st – Intro to Theories of IR

Sep 3rd – International Law and Why It Matters

Week 3

Sep 8th – International Organizations; Their Status, goals and impact on the global system

Sep 10th – Security Dynamics in the modern world

Week 4

Sep 15th – What is Terrorism and what motivates it

Sep 17th – Weapons of Mass Destructive and Global Security Dynamics

1st Component Brief Due

Week 5

Sep 22nd – Intro to Non-Government Organizations

Sep 24th – Major Exam 1

Week 6

Sep 29th – Intro to Non-Government Organizations

Oct 1st – Core concepts of Human Rights

Week 7

Oct 6th – Climate Change and Environmental Politics

Oct 8th – Introduction to International Development

Week 8

Oct 13th – Major Development Strategies and their impacts

Oct 15th – Role of International Organizations in Development

2nd Component Brief Due

Week 9

Oct 20 – Major Exam 2

Oct 22nd – International Financial Order and Foreign Aid

Week 10

Oct 27th – Impact of Development and Financial Order on Living Standards

Oct 29th – Role of Information Technology and Communications in Global Affairs

Week 11

Nov 3rd – International Trade

Nov 5th – International Diplomacy

Week 12

Nov 10th – Multinational Organizations and Corporations

3rd Component Brief Due

Nov 12th – Global Inequality

Week 13

Nov 17th – Non State Actors in International System

Nov 19th – Global Media and New Global issues

Week 14

Nov 24th & Nov 26th – Thanksgiving Break

4th Component Brief Due

Week 15

Dec 1st – Impending Global Issues

Dec 3rd – Review for Final Exam

Dec 10th – FINAL EXAM (4:15 PM)