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# POLI 140: CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

FALL 2020  
140-2001 (42180)

## COURSE INFORMATION

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**Instructor: Dr. Yvonne A. Gastélum**

**Email:** ygastelu@sdccd.edu

3 Units, Lecture Course

Class Days: Mondays and Wednesdays

Class Times: 12:45pm-2:10pm

Class Location: Remote (Canvas LMS)

Access Canvas at:

<https://sdccd.instructure.com/login/canvas>

Office Hours Times: Fridays, 9:00-11:00 am

Office Hours Location: Zoom (synchronous)

Access Zoom through Canvas

## COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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This course is a study of world politics including the various approaches to international relations and international political economy. Emphasis is placed on the roles of nationalism, nation-states, transnationalism and international organizations in the making of contemporary world politics as well as on issues of national security, power and diplomacy, economic competition, international law and the environment. This course is intended for students majoring in political science or anyone with an interest in world politics.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

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Political Science is the study of patterns of power, and the subfield of international relations focuses on the power relationships between states, supra-national institutions, subnational groups and other non-state actors. In this course, we study states, nations, the nation-state, nationalism, realism, liberalism, war, national interests, and political economy alongside political concerns over human rights, transnationalism, and human security that affect how states interact.

This course is structured as a remote learning course. Students will access the course through Canvas and participate in synchronous learning through Zoom during regularly scheduled class time. Students are required to read class material and work through learning modules online, while using class time to ask questions and discuss the material presented.

Advisory:

ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or Assessment Skill Levels R6/W6.

Transfer Applicability: Associate Degree Credit & Transfer to CSU, CSU General Education, IGETC, UC Transfer Course List.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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- Mingst and Arreguín-Toft., *Essentials of International Relations*, 8th ed. (Norton, 2017).
- InQuizitive (Online Learning Tool)\*

There is an **ebook** available through the publisher, Norton, for \$40, which includes both *Essentials of International Relations* and *Inquizitive*. \* Access the **link on Canvas** to purchase ebook. You need only one version of the book: print copy or ebook, not both. If you choose to purchase or rent a print copy, you may purchase Inquizitive separately through the same link for the ebook (see purchase options).

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

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- Students may use the Inbox feature in Canvas to send messages to the instructor.
- Emails to the instructor should be sent directly to [ygastelu@sdccd.edu](mailto:ygastelu@sdccd.edu). Include your name, class section and time, and specific information on the subject you are emailing about. Missing information will delay a response.
- Use of Canvas to message fellow students is appropriate for class related issues only. Any student using Canvas to communicate directly with classmates should identify their name and class section in the email and follow the Student Conduct Code as well as maintain a respectful tone within all emails and messages.
- All communication in this course should maintain respectful discussion between students and between students and the instructor.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

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Students are expected to abide by the terms of the Student Conduct Code in classrooms and other instructional settings, including online and remote learning. Prohibited conduct includes:

- Willful disruption or obstruction of a class.
- Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the college or infringes on the rights of members of the college community.
- Unauthorized recording, dissemination, or publication (including on websites or social media) of class lectures, course materials, or academic presentations for commercial or other purposes.
- Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the college community, including (but not limited to): physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, or sexual misconduct.

Any violations of the Student Conduct Code will be referred to appropriate authorities.

## STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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1. Identify and explain the theories, methods, actors and influences that make up the field of International Relations (IR).
2. Categorize and describe the major periods of world history from an IR perspective.
3. Apply the theoretical arguments of Liberalism, Feminism, Postmodernism and Peace Studies to critique the traditional Power Politics view of international security issues.
4. Compare and contrast the decision-making models used to make and analyze foreign policy decisions and explain how substate actors affect decision-making processes and outcomes.
5. Distinguish between conventional types of war and terrorism and assess how the increasing use of terror as a means of leverage in international conflicts is changing the ways in which governments view and use military forces as well as international organizations such as the United Nations.
6. Define Political Economy and explain how the ascendance of liberal over mercantilist economics has led to increased globalization.
7. Employ the concepts of comparative advantage and interdependence to analyze countries' trade strategies and to explain the rise of trade regimes such as the World Trade Organization and regional trade agreements.
8. Assess the principles of Supranationalism and Integration Theory as challenges to those of Realism and Neoliberalism in relation to issues such as European unification; global telecommunications; the rise of an international culture; environmental management and sustainable development.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. Critical Thinking—Learn to think critically in reading, writing, and/or speaking about the fundamental concepts and methods of Political Science, thereby identifying problems, theses, arguments, evidence and conclusions.
2. Communication—Learn to write or speak about the fundamental concepts and methods in Political Science, thereby addressing problems, formulating theses, making arguments, analyzing and weighing evidence, and deriving conclusions.
3. Personal Actions and Civic Responsibilities—Demonstrate an ability to understand one's role in society, take responsibility for one's actions, and make ethical decisions in complex situations.
4. Global Awareness—Articulate similarities and contrasts among cultures, times, and environments, demonstrating an understanding of cultural pluralism.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSESSMENT, AND GRADING

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### Writing Assignments (150 points).

- 1) Students will complete various online writing assignments, including policy proposals, essays, close readings of articles, responses to videos, news clips, and coverage of current events. Each assignment will have directions and must be completed by the due date listed on Canvas.
- 2) Late assignments are accepted within one day after the due date for full credit. All other late assignments will be assigned half-credit unless you have emailed the instructor for an extension with an explanation of why you need one.
- 3) All online assignments are due before 11:59pm Pacific Time on the due date listed and should be submitted on time. Each online assignment will require you to upload a **PDF file** (essay upload), or type in a response (Discussion and Quizzes).
- 4) Uploaded Essay Assignments are subject to review through the Canvas plagiarism check.
- 5) Uploaded essay assignments and discussions will be graded on content and organization, and should include:
  - a) a thesis argument in the first paragraph that defines and explains the subject/problem/issue in the prompt, explaining **why** this is significant and **how** it matters;
  - b) analysis and development of key points, including any elements presented in the prompt, that stays close to the material presented in the course;
  - c) specific examples that support your thesis and explain the ideas presented in the body of the essay;
  - d) Common Feedback on Analytical Writing Assignments:
    - Good analysis: Complete, well-presented analysis.
    - Filler: This portion of your writing is unnecessary, does not follow from the previous points, and does not advance an argument.
    - Not Quite/Incorrect Analysis: This is incorrect. You have made a mistake in your analysis.
    - Level of Analysis or Summary w/o Sufficient Analysis: There is insufficient analytical development of this idea. You need to further develop it by explaining the concept or point, explaining **why** it is important (the significance) and **how** it is applied, or how it works/functions/matters, etc.
- 6) Uploaded essay assignments have a rubric that shows the point breakdown for that assignment. Follow the directions on each assignment within each unit module.
- 7) In addition to Canvas Assignments that are loaded into learning modules, there are several extra credit discussions listed on the Reading Schedule at the end of this syllabus.

### InQuizitive Assignments (100 points).

- 1) There are five InQuizitive Chapters required (Chapters 1, 3, 6, 7, 11).
- 2) InQuizitive can be accessed from Canvas in the Welcome Module. Due dates are listed on the Reading Schedule at the end of this syllabus and you will need to return to the Welcome Module and access the link there to complete each chapter.

- 3) Inquisitive Chapters have a sliding confidence bar to choose from that will directly affect your score. Choose one of the following before answering:
- I know I know it
  - I'm pretty sure
  - I think I know it
  - I might know it
  - I have no idea!
- i) Choose the confidence bar wisely as it will affect your score per question. The higher your confidence the more points you get if you are correct. However, if you choose "I Know It" and you get it wrong it will deduct more points than if you had chosen a lower confidence position. Remember to slide the confidence bar per question.
- ii) You can work on each chapter until you get 100% or you can opt to stop once the minimum number of questions are completed. If you stop short of 100% your score will be calculated into this portion on your grade based on the average score for chapters you completed.
- iii) **InQuizitive should be accessed only through Canvas. Click on the link in the Welcome Menu labeled InQuizitive Chapters. Accessing InQuizitive through any other way may delay submission of your scores to Canvas and scores not properly submitted will not be counted.**
- iv) You will see a green box stating "connected to LMS" if you are connected properly while accessing chapters.
- v) If you have any technical trouble open a help desk ticket at [support.wwnorton.com](http://support.wwnorton.com). If you do not see your InQuizitive scores in your Canvas Grades, or if you are prompted to enter a Student Set ID, it means that you are not enrolled correctly. Click on the InQuizitive link in Canvas and sign in, and your account will sync up. If you continue to experience problems, email me directly with the error code or issue and open a help desk ticket as described above.

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

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Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first week of class. It is the student's responsibility to contact DSPS directly for any necessary paperwork. You can find information at the following website: Mesa College DSPS <http://www.sdmesa.edu/dsps/>

I have made every effort to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact the course instructor immediately.

## GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

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1. It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer attending (for on-campus classes).
2. It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer participating (for online classes).
3. It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline (8/28/2020) due to excessive absences/failure to participate in an online course.

4. Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule, will receive an evaluative letter grade in the class.
5. Students may not reproduce or alter videos, lectures, slides, or any instructor produced materials presented in this course.
6. Plagiarism or Cheating invalidates an assignment and will result in an "0" for that assignment. See the section on Academic Honesty in this syllabus.
7. Syllabus dates may be subject to change. Students will be notified on any changes via Canvas Announcements. The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus and the course schedule in order to facilitate course instruction and students will be notified prior to any changes.
8. The final grade in this class will be affected by active participation, including attendance as follows:

You will attend class and log in to the Canvas course regularly and complete required assignments by the due date and time. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points. See Course Requirements, Assessment, and Grading section in this syllabus.
9. Extenuating circumstances (documented illness, hospitalization, or emergency) will be considered for make-up of a missed assignment. Alternate assignments may be substituted on a case by case basis if circumstances make it difficult to make up a missed assignment.
10. **Late assignments are accepted within one day of the due date for full credit.**
11. If you run into technical difficulty with Canvas, contact the Canvas Help Desk. If an assignment is due and you are having difficulty submitting, contact me immediately by email or Canvas Inbox messaging and attach the assignment in PDF format only.
12. Students are responsible for their internet connection. Students should make sure to have a good connection when accessing Canvas and submitting work. Keeping a copy of work on the cloud through Google Docs is one way to prevent loss of written work due to technical issues.\_

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

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Students are expected to submit their own work, with correct citations and a Works Cited for all essays and written work.

Cheating and Plagiarism invalidate an assignment and you will receive a "0" on that assignment. The following definitions (edited for our purposes) are from the SDSU General Catalog and should serve as a sample reference for considering what constitutes cheating and plagiarism.

### **CHEATING**

Cheating is the act of obtaining credit for academic work by the use of dishonest or fraudulent means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- (a) copying from another's test or other examination, paper, essay, or any class work;
- (b) discussing answers or ideas relating to the answers on a test or other examination without the permission of the instructor;
- (c) obtaining copies of a test, an examination, or other course material without the permission of the instructor;

- (d) using notes, cheat sheets, or other devices not explicitly authorized by the instructor;
- (e) submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the rules of the course;
- (f) altering or interfering with the grading procedures;
- (g) using websites to complete your work like essaybot.com or homeworkgain.com or others that provide essays and answers, whether for free or for purchase;
- (g) plagiarizing, as defined below; and knowingly assisting another student in any of the above.

### **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting the same as one's own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source. Plagiarism shall include but not be limited to:

- (a) submitting work, either in part or in whole, completed by another;
- (b) omitting footnotes/endnotes for ideas, statements, or facts that belong to another;
- (c) omitting quotation marks when quoting directly from another;
- (d) close and lengthy paraphrasing of the writings of another without proper citation;
- (e) Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own;
- (f) Using information that you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit;
- (g) submitting as one's own work papers purchased from others (companies, peers, online editing services, etc).

### **PLAGIARISM CHECK**

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Students agree that by taking this course all required papers and written work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review within Canvas for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers may be included as source documents a reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR CANVAS**

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Student support for Canvas can be reached at 1-844-612-7421

### **SUCCESS IN AN ONLINE/REMOTE LEARNING COURSE**

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Students should keep in mind the following requirements:

- A computer - PC or Mac - with a stable Internet connection. Higher speed Internet connections (cable modem, DSL) are strongly recommended.
- Basic computer skills - email, internet research, and creating basic word processor files, with conversion to PDF.
- A reliable email address that will not change from the beginning until the end of the semester.
- A "technology back-up" plan. Students should plan out an alternative location to do assignments and quizzes in the event their computer or Internet connection is not working!
- Time. Distance learning courses require as much time as traditional (classroom) instruction. The primary difference is that online instruction allows flexibility.

Students are also required to:

- Make use of the online course materials available via Canvas. Access to these materials is available once you have registered to the course, on the first day of class.
- Participate in asynchronous online discussions and synchronous class via Zoom.
- Complete readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus and on Canvas.
- Check email and Canvas Announcements on a daily basis.
- Communicate promptly with instructor about any difficulty participating in the course.

## COURSE READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

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**Monday, August 17, 2020: First Day of Class. Introduction Lecture and Syllabus Review. Access Welcome Module in Canvas.**

### Unit 1 Understanding International Relations

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020:**

- 1) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 1 (p. 3-14).
- 2) Access Unit 1 Module.

**Monday, August 24, 2020:**

- 1) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 3, "Realism" (p. 67-80).
  - Lecture will cover realism and the theoretical underpinning of realist thought as presented by Thucydides in the History of the Peloponnesian War.
  - Concepts including geopolitics, balance of power, city-states and nation-states, and normative political theory, will be introduced within our discussion of realism and the international political structure.
  - We will discuss why Sparta and Athens went to war, differentiate Thucydides' theory from the perspectives of the different state actors, and explain the role of justice, power, and interest in international relations.

**Wednesday, August 26, 2020:**

- 2) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 2 (p. 19-36).
  - Lecture will cover the Westphalian system and the modern balance of power, as well as distinguish this modern theory of international relations from earlier conceptions.
- a) You should be able to define the main characteristics of the Westphalian system as well as the main factors leading to World War I.

### **Assignments to Submit in Unit 1**

- a) **InQuizitive Chapter 1 due August 28, 2020.**
- b) **Discussion Board: The World after World War 1 due August 31, 2020.**

## **Unit 2: The International System and the Modern Nation-State**

**Monday, August 31, 2020:**

- 1) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 2 (p. 36-65).
- 2) Access Unit 2 Module.

**Wednesday, September 2, 2020:** Review Lecture.

**Monday, September 7, 2020:** Labor Day Holiday, No Class.

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020:**

- 1) Read "Statecraft" on Canvas and *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 5 (149-157).
- 2) Read "The Special Case of the Kurds" on Canvas.

**Monday, September 14, 2020:**

- 1) Read "Remembering World War I and II" on Canvas.
- 2) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 4 (p. 107-133).

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020:** Review Lecture.

- b) Lecture will review concepts including polarity in the international system, nation-states as primary actors in the international system, and democratic versus authoritarian states.

### **Assignments to Submit in Unit 2**

- a) **Global Perspectives Quiz due September 4, 2020.**
- b) **InQuizitive Chapter 3 due September 14, 2020.**
- c) **Realism and the Balance of Power Assignment due September 18, 2020.**

## **Unit 3 Elites and Charismatic Leadership**

**Monday, September 21, 2020:**

- 1) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 4 (p. 133-147).
  - Lecture will focus on charismatic leadership and specific examples, including leadership in Russia, Turkey, Venezuela, and Egypt.
  - We will review concepts of international relations such as coercive diplomacy and the characteristics of interstate war.
  - Review Canvas unit articles and assignments.

**Wednesday, September 23, 2020:**

2) Read “The Role of Elites in Diplomacy and War” on Canvas and additional Canvas Articles in Module.

**Monday, September 28, 2020: Discussion Day on Zoom (extra credit).**

**Wednesday, September 30, 2020:** Charismatic Leadership Assignment Review.

**Assignments to Submit in Unit 3**

a) **Charismatic Leadership and Authoritarianism due October 5, 2020.**

#### **Unit 4 International Law**

**Monday, October 5, 2020:**

1) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapters 6 (p. 187-215).

**Wednesday, October 7, 2020:**

2) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 6 (p.216-231).

**Monday, October 12, 2020:**

3) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 7 (p. 233-243).

**Wednesday, October 14, 2020:**

4) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 7 (p. 246-267).

**Monday, October 19, 2020:** Review Lecture.

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020: Discussion Day on Zoom (extra credit). See “Should We Negotiate with Rogue States?” PDF on Canvas.**

**Assignments to Submit in Unit 4**

a) **Chapter 06 Video Exercise due October 23, 2020.**

b) **Inquisitive Chapters 6 and 7 due October 24, 2020.**

#### **Unit 5 Human Rights**

**Monday, October 26:**

1) Read “Understanding Human Rights” on Canvas.

2) Read Excerpt from *World Politics*, “Human Rights,” on Canvas.

**Wednesday, October 28:**

◦ Read “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” on Canvas.

**Monday, November 2, 2020:**

- 1) Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapters 9 and 10.
  - Lecture will present both chapters together and focus on the enforcement of Human Rights.

**Wednesday, November 4:**

- 1) Read “The Geneva Conventions” on Canvas.

**Monday, November 9, 2020:** Review Lecture.

**Wednesday, November 11, 2020: Veteran’s Day Holiday. No Class.**

**Monday, November 16: Assignment Review.**

**Wednesday, November 18: Assignment Review.**

**Assignments to Submit in Unit 5**

- a) **The Importance of Human Rights Assignment due November 22, 2020.**

**November 23-27: Thanksgiving Holiday.**

### **Unit 6 Political Economy**

**Monday, November 30, 2020:**

- 1) Read “Political Economy” on Canvas.

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020:**

- 2) Read “The Resource Curse” on Canvas.

### **Unit 7 Human Security in a Transnational World**

**Monday, December 7, 2020:** Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 11 (p. 401-409).

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020:** Read *Essentials of International Relations*, Chapter 11 (p. 409-427) and “Responsibility to Protect” on Canvas.

**Monday, December 14, 2020: Discussion on Zoom (extra credit).**

**Assignments to Submit in Unit 7**

- a) **Discussion of Human Security due December 14, 2020.**

## FINAL COURSE GRADE RUBRIC

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225-250 points: A

200-224 points: B

175-199 points: C

150-174 points: D

Below 150 points: F