

## Syllabus –Fall, 2020

Political Science 110 - Introduction to World Politics (International Relations)

Online

Peter Bowman, Professor

Virtual Office Hours: M-TH, 9AM-5PM - During these times, I frequently check my email and VM. I shall reply to your email or call/VM message with any questions, concerns or comments that you have within 24 hours, often sooner.

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No prerequisites for this course

Required Textbooks:(1) Mingst, Karen & Arreguin-Toft, Ivan, Essentials of International Relations, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Norton & Co., 2020 (M) (2) Zakaria, Fareed, The Post-American World, Release 2.0, Norton & Co., 2012 (Z).

**Course lecture notes for each topic can be accessed through the “files” section of the course Canvas website.**

**Mode of Instruction: This course instruction shall be asynchronous. In other words, there shall be no set day and time that we meet. Technology permitting, I shall record and upload onto Canvas one 1 hour and 25 minute audio-visual module every Tuesday & Thursday during each of the 16 weeks this semester (with the exception of exam days). This is the equivalent number of required hours for the course. The modules shall be a combination of lecture, the notes on Canvas/“Files” section and other visuals, as appropriate for the topic. I shall upload each module in the “Modules” section of Canvas, and post an announcement on Canvas to apprise you of its availability. You can listen/view the modules at whatever time that fits your schedule (it need not be Tuesday or Thursday; whatever works for your schedule). That said, you are strongly encouraged to find a set, consistent time to view the sessions, so as to establish a routine that will enable you to keep up with the course material. You are also strongly encouraged to view/listen to each module within the 24 hour period that it is made available so that you don’t get behind the pace of course instruction and suddenly find yourself backlogged with unviewed modules.**

Course Description: This is a survey course recommended and largely intended for, but certainly not limited to, those students who plan to transfer to a four year college or university. It is designed to acquaint the student with the concepts and elements of world politics (aka, international relations). This course will study the "games" of world politics through two angles: (A) theory and (B) history. We shall focus on various explanations as to the causes of foreign policy and state behavior, war and conflict, terrorism, the nuclear age, global economy, development and trade and the drive toward global democracy and human rights. We shall also refer to various historical cases which serve as an application to such theories covered over a 100-plus year span. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Analyze the nation-state model of international politics which entails a focus on a state's internal characteristics, historical experience, and the concept of national interest; Analyze the three levels of analysis which compete to explain state behavior
2. Be able to explain, analyze and critique the major theories of state behavior including Classical Realism, Neo-Realism, Liberalism (Idealism) and Constructivism.
3. Deduce valid conclusions about the causes and consequences of major 20th century wars, including the major phases of the Cold War; Analyze and explain the Cold War foreign policy of the former Soviet Union and compare it with contemporary Russia and the former Soviet republics
4. Analyze problems, wars and possible solutions to the conflicts in the Middle East and South Central Asia, such as the Arab-Israel conflict, nuclear tensions in Iran, and the war/reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq.
5. Identify possible strategies for war prevention and limitation; Analyze Just War Theory, Bargaining Theory, nuclear weapons policy, both during the Cold War and the contemporary problem of proliferation.

6. Analyze the rise of asymmetrical (guerilla) warfare and the tactics used by terror/militant organizations
7. Compare and contrast the foreign policies and military/economic potential of the major states/actors, such as the United States, China, Russia, India and the European Union

This course, when completed, helps to satisfy discipline requirements for the Political Science transfer AA-T degree, the Associate of Arts (AA) degree as well as the general education and major requirements for transfer to both the UC and CSU systems.

**Course Requirements:** Students will be required to take three exams and complete three analytical papers. Students shall also complete interactive online assignments using Canvas.

**Exams: There will be three online exams given (two midterms and a non-cumulative final that will cover the final 1/3 of the course material). Each exam will consist of the student choosing and answering two (2) out of five (5) essay questions, along with fifteen (15) multiple choice questions. The material will be drawn from the readings, lecture notes and modules. A complete essay answer is one that expands discussion of a topic beyond mere description and shows me analysis and your understanding of the concept at hand. While the final exam is not cumulative, you will find that the material in this class builds. It, therefore, behooves you to retain what will have been covered in previous exams. A study guide (SG) consisting of a list of testable material (for possible multiple choice and essay questions) which is to be covered in each test shall be available by way of the course Canvas site. Each exam SG is located in the Canvas “announcements” page. In addition to the SG, the Canvas site shall also contain more specific and particular “hints” for the essay portion of each exam. Each exam essay hint section shall contain a series of essay questions eligible to appear on that respective exam (whether they be the exact wording, or a reasonable facsimile). The essay hints are also found in the “announcements” page of Canvas.**

The dates of each exam are included in the class/topics schedule on the back of this syllabus. For each exam, you will have a 24 hour period, beginning at midnight, 12 AM, on the scheduled day and ending at 11:59 PM that same day to take the exam, so be sure you pick a time of day that will allow you a one hour and 20 minute window without interruption to complete the test. Obviously, the latest you could check in and start the test would be no later than 10:30 PM to be assured that you would have the necessary hour and 20 minutes without the window closing before you're able to finish. Go to the "Quizzes" link on the Canvas site, click the link for the appropriate exam and begin. Once you click the link, you are on the clock, so to speak, and have 80 minutes to complete the exam. The window will close off at that 80th minute, regardless of where you are on the exam.

I shall allow an open book and open note test. You must only use material from the readings, lecture notes on the "Files" section, and the material covered in the modules. Any student that provides exam answers drawn from material that did not originate from any of these said class sources is subject to any number of penalties, including, but not limited to, a zero for that exam question, a zero for the entire exam, an automatic "F" for the course and/or referral to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

From previous experiences at giving open material exams in past years, I have found that students who were not prepared because they thought having open access to class materials would get them by, were scrambling through their notes to find the answers and ended up performing poorly because much of the limited time was wasted looking things up, instead of writing the kind of detailed analysis that the questions called for. Again, you have a limited window in which to complete each of these tests, so please see to it that you have prepared thoroughly by applying the study techniques that the syllabus recommends below.

The following are study suggestions that will enhance your chances of success on the exams, and in the course: (1) **Re-write your notes.** Pedagogical (learning) studies show strong evidence for repetition as a key to retention. Choose an hour(s) of the day/day(s) of the week that fits your schedule. Allot that time for this class. Use that to not just go over the notes, but, again, to re-write and, thus, retain the class material that we will have gone over that day/week. Remember, **Repetition>Reinforcement>Retention!** (2) **Do the readings.** In particular, go to both the SG and essay hints that are drawn from the readings. Go to those readings. Read those sections. Take notes from those sections and then re-write those notes. Again, this is a form of repetition and reinforcement that has shown to be very effective. (3) **Contact me in virtual office hours.** With most of you, the challenge in this course will be retaining the substantial sum of material presented. If you do the above suggestions, comprehension of material will come most of the time for most of you. However, if the course, or any part of the course, proves a challenge to you from a comprehension standpoint, that's when you come contact me right away. Do not wait until half-way or later in the semester to do this.

**Make-up Exams:** Make up exams will be given for those students who are unable to take the exam on the scheduled day due to extenuating circumstances beyond their control. It shall be the student's responsibility to contact me about a make-up exam. **A student shall only be allowed to take ONE (1) make-up exam out of the three exams given in the course. Any subsequent missed exams by a student after their one make-up option has been used, shall result in a score of zero.**

The instructor and student shall mutually agree to a day and time period when the make-up exam shall be completed.



**Writing Assignments:** In lieu of a semester-long research paper, you will be asked to write three (3) short papers that each integrate a minimum of two (2) mainstream media sources (please feel free to use more sources, if need be), covering the topic of your choice, so long as it is of an international politics/comparative-world theme and relevance. For each of your two sources, please choose a hard news or feature article. Please do not use op-ed pieces (editorials, opinion columns, etc.). Also, do not use short news clips from wire reports. Please make sure your source/article is that of a substantive and detailed provider of information. Due to the international nature of the topics that you shall address, it is required that you select a print source of a national/international-level circulation and audience. The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, Wall Street Journal and the Economist are all excellent sources from which to draw. Some strong online-based sources include BBC World, NPR.org, Al-Jazeera, Politico and CNNworld. These publications have their own staff-writers in various bureaus throughout the world. Thus, they can provide you with a lot more detailed analysis, hard news, primary source information and topic background than can newspapers with only a local/regional-level circulation.

Next, write a 3-4 page summary and analysis on this topic, addressing the following criteria: (1) Give a detailed and complete background and synopsis of the topic. What is the conflict(s)? What are the various perspectives and arguments of each of the parties involved? What are some of the origins of the problem? What are some possible solutions for conflict resolution from the different perspectives of the different actors involved? (2) Give an analysis comparing the information offered on each of the two (or more) sources. Which source gives more detail? Is there a particular bias with one source? Which medium, overall, would be a more dependable source for one to do research, with regard to selection, bias, detail, etc.? What are some of the contents and passages from the sources that support your evaluations? These are the questions you will be asked to address with each paper. Please attach a copy of both sources to your paper. It is very important that you cite your sources. For every idea or words that are not your own, please cite the author and/or the source. You are free to use any of the major citation styles (MLA, APA, Turabian/Chicago style). Just be sure to be consistent and, again, cite sources. Any opinions, assertions or arguments that you might want to present, please do so by citing sources, as well as providing evidence and facts from these sources, which are more authoritative in expertise than you. Papers which include opinions or arguments that lack such evidence and sources, and are based on just anecdotal experiences, or your “gut” feeling shall be docked in points. Each assignment is worth five points. Late assignments will be docked one (1) point for every calendar day that a paper is not turned in after the original due date.

The due dates of each assignment are as follows: First assignment: **September 17**, Second Assignment: **October 22**, Third Assignment: **November 19**.

To be considered on time, you shall turn in each of the papers either through Canvas during any portion of the 24 hour period of the above listed due date for each respective paper. Late papers will be docked one (1) point for every additional day an assignment is not turned in after the due date.

**Weekly Discussion Questions:** Every student enrolled in the class shall each have their own Canvas account. Every week (**Starting every Wednesday through the following Wednesday at 3 PM, beginning the week of September 9**), students will be required to log on to the Canvas site and respond to a different question(s) on the discussion board. Each weekly question(s) will be given by the professor and will be related to course material and other related topics. Student responses shall address each question in a way that uses relevant course materials, and that gives an analysis of the discussion board topic. There is no required length for each student post. However, students who post responses that consist of such short, simple statements, such as “Good point”, “I agree”, or other obviously non-substantive remarks that lack serious thought shall not be accepted for credit. While the professor shall have the discretion to determine whether or not posts meet these requirements, your common-sense should be more than sufficient to distinguish between posts that are of substance and those that are not.

For every acceptable weekly post that a student completes on the discussion board, that student shall receive a check mark for credit. Missing check marks shall result in the student's Bb discussion board portion of their grade being affected. While students are required to post a minimum of one response per week, there certainly is no maximum limit on posts. If you want to respond to other students' posts on the weekly topic/question, discuss the topic with your colleague, please feel free to do so. Part of the purpose of this assignment is to interact with your fellow students and to further your familiarity with the course material. **NOTE: For all discussion entries (both weekly discussion questions and the reflection questions), all submissions must be turned in by way of the actual discussion forum on Canvas before the selected time expires and the window/forum, thus, closes. All posts that are submitted through email or any other way other than the Canvas discussion forum (regardless of the time that they were submitted) shall NOT be counted for discussion credit or reflection question credit.**

**Reflection Questions:** During random times throughout the semester, I shall post a question on Canvas and establish a time window for you to complete it. I will ask you (usually) one question, drawn from the lecture material that day as a way to reflect on what you have learned from this material. So long as you answer with some thought and detail, you shall receive credit. I reserve the right to not assign you credit if I feel your response does not adequately address the material or question. Each question is worth one (1) percent of your grade. The questions, in total, shall make up five (5) percent of your grade. You must attend class on that day to answer any in-class question, as make-ups shall not be allowed.

**Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals:** If for some reason you decide to withdraw (drop) from this class, you must do so officially. **This will be your responsibility.** You are reminded that a "W" cannot be recorded for you after the last date to withdraw. If you physically stop attending class after this date, an "FW", or "F" will automatically be assessed on your transcript. An academic grade will be assigned by me if you do not attempt to administratively drop but stop physically showing up after the drop deadline. Please observe the appropriate "add" and "drop" deadlines by way of the online "My Schedule" section.

**Grading:** Your course grade will be broken down into the following assignments and percentages:

First Exam: 20%

Second Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Writing Assignments (Total): 15%

Online Discussion Assignments: (Total) 10%

Reflection Questions (Total): 5%

The following grade scale will be used when determining final letter grades:

90-100: A

89- 80: B

79-70: C

69-60: D

59 and below: F

A mark of "F" or "Incomplete" may be given in the event of any missing work by a student.

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Essentially, I define plagiarism as any of the following:

- a. Verbatim copying without proper acknowledgement.
- b. Paraphrasing without proper acknowledgement.
- c. Putting together a "patchwork" paper from diverse sources, without proper acknowledgement of those sources.
- d. Unacknowledged appropriation of information or someone else's ideas.

Cheating on exams is defined as any of the following:

- a. Drawing answers from anyone other than yourself.
- b. Having access to both a copy of the exam and/or its answers prior to the exam being administered.
- c. Having access to exam answers during the exam via a "cheat sheet" or any other document that was created before the exam was given.

Any student caught engaging in any of these acts will be subject to either a verbal warning, a lowering of the grade for that assignment and/or the course, or dismissal/failure from the assignment/exam and the course. Moreover, the student shall be subject to referral to the Office of Student Affairs for possible suspension or expulsion from the college. A fulfilling academic and learning experience helps to be insured when students do their own work.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with Disability Resource Center (DRC) and/or myself during the first week of class.

### **Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments**

<u>Day/Week</u> (Denotes Start of a New Topic/module)	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
August 25	Introduction and Overview	M – 1, Z - 1
August 27	The State and Nationalism	M -2(20-24), 5(150-163)
		M – 5(175-187), Z - 2 (34-52)
September 3	IR Theory – Levels of Analysis	M – 4, Z – 2 (19-34)
September 15	IR Theory – Conflict vs Cooperation	M – 3, 5(150-174) , Z – 2, M – 4, Z
–		4,6
October 6	<b>First Mid-Term Exam</b>	
October 8	IR Historical Background/ WWI & WWII	M -2
October 15	Post War U.S. Foreign Policy - The Cold War	M – 2
October 20	Former Soviet/Russian Foreign Policy	M – 2

November 3                               **Second Mid-Term Exam**

November 5                               The Middle East                               Z – 2(10-19), Supplemental:  
Kenneth Pollack, Brookings Institute, “U.S. Middle East Policy After the Iran Nuclear Agreement”  
(Found in Canvas “Files” section)

Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy (Readings & Online Notes Only) M – 5(165-173), Z – 7

November 19                               Theories and Causes of War                               M - 6

December 1                               Nuclear Weapons and Foreign Policy (M – 6, cont.)

December 10                               Democratic Peace Theory/ Intl. Organizations                               M – 7, 9, 10, Z - 3

December 17                               **Final Exam**

**NOTE: Assignments, grade weighting criteria, dates, topics, writing assignment dates and exam dates are subject to change.**

