

**Global Issues (POLS 2401)
Fall 2009**

001 MWF 9:00-9:50
002 MWF 10:00-10:50
003 MWF 2:00-2:50
Classroom: J-101

Professor Brian Gridley
Office Hours (J319): MF 11:00-1:30, W 11:00-12:00
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Class Website: www.spsu.edu/sis/gridley

Required Readings:

Charles W. Kegley, Jr. and Gregory A. Raymond. 2010. *The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics*. 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Additional web-based reading assignments will be made on a weekly basis. These assignments will be announced in class and listed on the course website. Students are also strongly encouraged to stay current with ongoing international events. Several useful sources for international news can be found on the course website.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the study of international relations. It is intended to introduce students to the major concepts, actors, and issues that define the field. First, the course begins by examining the major intellectual traditions that have influenced the study and practice of world politics. Second, the course then examines the major actors that shape global politics, giving emphasis to the great powers, developing states, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations. Finally, the course examines some broad issue areas in contemporary world politics, including globalization, political economy, the environment, human rights, and security.

By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of the field of international relations and some of the major issues that shape contemporary world politics. For students majoring or minoring in international studies or political science, this course will provide a foundation for subsequent coursework in these fields. For all participants, however, this course is intended to enable students to engage in meaningful discussions about world politics as informed global citizens and scholars.

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe some major political, economic, social, and environmental issues confronting the global community.
2. Evaluate major threats to peace and stability in the world today, and be able to discuss the underlying reasons for a lack of resolution.
3. Evaluate the demographic, economic, and/or ethno-national dimensions to issues of development.

Grading:

Quiz	20 pts	(Friday, September 11th)
Exam 1	100 pts	(Friday, September 25th)
Exam 2	100 pts	(Monday, October 26th)
Final Exam	100 pts	(Exam week, date to be announced)
Debate	100 pts	(See schedule below)

The exams will use a combined multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer format. Exams and assignments must be completed on the date they are scheduled except in the case of a **documented** family or medical emergency. Anyone missing an exam or assignment without a valid excuse will receive a failing grade for that particular exercise.

Attendance and Participation Extra Credit: Students can earn an additional three extra credit points on each exam through regular class attendance. Students who miss one-and-a-half or fewer classes in the period covered by each exam will earn three extra credit points for that exam. Arriving late to class will count as one-half of an absence. **Daily attendance will be taken by means of a sign-in sheet. Each student is responsible for making sure that he or she has signed in each class session.**

Students can also earn up to ten extra credit points based on verbal participation in class discussions. The number of extra credits points awarded will be determined by each student's verbal contribution to the class throughout the semester. Students who submit a picture by the August 31st due date will automatically earn one of these ten points.

The grading scale for the course will be:

- A: 100%-90% (420-378 pts)
- B: 89%-80% (377-336 pts)
- C: 79%-70% (335-294 pts)
- D: 69%-60% (293-252 pts)
- F: 59% or below (251 pts or less)

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to abide by the Southern Polytechnic State University code for academic honesty (see the student handbook at <http://www.spsu.edu/student/handbook.html#acedreg>). Additional information can be found at <http://www.spsu.edu/cs/faculty/bbrown/papers/conduct.html>.

H1N1 and Other Campus Emergencies: Should it be necessary for the university to suspend classes due to the H1N1 (i.e. swine flu) virus or other campus emergency, students should check the announcement section of the course website for additional instructions. In the event of a prolonged closure, class instruction will continue online.

Course Outline: Students are strongly urged to stay current with the assigned readings. Additional readings from online sources will be added on a weekly basis. Any additional readings will be announced in class and listed on the class website. Students are responsible for all assigned readings even when they are not covered in class lectures.

❖ August 24th-August 28th: Trend and Transformation in World Politics

- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 1, Pp. 1-10
- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 3, Pp. 59-60
- **August 28th: Debate Groups Will Be Chosen in Class**

❖ August 31st: Levels of Analysis

- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 1, Pp. 16-18
- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 3, Pp. 60-73
- **August 31st: Picture Assignment Due**

❖ September 2nd-September 7th: Theories of World Politics

- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 2
- **September 7th: Labor Day (No Class)**

❖ September 9th-September 16th: Great Powers

- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 4
- **September 11th: Quiz**

❖ September 18th-25th: Global South

- Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 5
- **September 25th: Exam I**

- ❖ September 28th-October 5th: Intergovernmental Organizations
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 6, Pp. 139-159
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 10, Pp. 272-277
 - **October 2nd: Preliminary Debate Bibliographies Due**

- ❖ October 7th-October 9th: Nongovernmental Organizations
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 6, Pp. 159-171

- ❖ October 12th-October 14th: Globalization
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 11
 - **October 13th: Deadline for Student Withdrawals**

- ❖ October 16th-26th: International Political Economy
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 12
 - **October 26th: Exam II**

- ❖ October 28th-November 4th: The Global Commons
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 14
 - **November 4th: Debate #1 (Global Climate Change)**

- ❖ November 6th-November 11th: Human Rights
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 13
 - **November 11th: Debate #2 (International Criminal Court)**

- ❖ November 13th-November 18th: The Threat of Armed Conflict
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 7
 - **November 18th: Debate #3 (Combating the Terrorist Threat)**

- ❖ November 20th-27th: Arms Proliferation
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 8, Pp. 203-211, 221-228
 - **November 25th and 27th: No Class (Happy Turkey Day!)**

- ❖ November 30th-December 4th: Weapons of Mass Destruction
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 8, Pp. 211-220
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 9, Pp. 231-234, 240-245

- ❖ December 7th-December 9th: Strategies for Peace
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 9, Pp. 234-237
 - Kegley and Raymond, Chapter 10, Pp. 255-262

- ❖ **Final exam will be given during exam week (date to be announced)**

Global Issues Debate Project

Each student will participate in a team debate dealing with one of the issue areas listed below. On **Friday, August 28th** students will be selecting their debate groups in class. Students not present in class on this day will be placed in a group by the instructor. Every effort will be made to accommodate each student's preferences, though some students may be asked to argue in favor of a position they don't personally agree with. All students must be present on the day of their group's presentation (check your schedules in advance).

The debate topics are as follows:

- ❖ **Debate 1** (Wednesday, November 4th):
Resolved: leading developing countries, including China, India, and Brazil, should accept binding reductions in their greenhouse gas emissions in the next international global climate change agreement.
- ❖ **Debate 2** (Wednesday, November 11th):
Resolved: the United States should ratify the Rome Statute and become a party to the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ **Debate 3** (Wednesday, November 18th):
Resolved: military force is the most effective mechanism for combating global terrorism.

On **Friday, October 2nd**, each team will submit a preliminary bibliography of sources to be used in the debate. This bibliography should include a minimum of ten sources. **At least four of these sources must be published book chapters, magazine articles, or academic journal articles that are a minimum of five pages in length each.** Published magazine and journal articles can be found listed in the Galileo and JSTOR databases located on the SPSU library webpage (www.spsu.edu/library). Wikipedia and blogs are not appropriate sources for academic work and should not be used for this project. The bibliographies should be typed and use an accepted citation format. Preliminary bibliographies will count for 10% of the final project grade. A final bibliography will also be submitted on the day of the presentation and will count an additional 5%.

On the day of the debate, each team will be asked to make a presentation lasting between 14 and 19 minutes in length. All teams have the option (but are not required) to use PowerPoint as part of their presentations. After both sides have made their presentations, the entire panel will be opened for questions from the rest of the class. **Information presented in the debates may be included on the exams.**

In addition to the verbal presentation and final bibliography, each group member will submit a self-evaluation that "grades" the contribution of each team member (including the individual submitting the evaluation) to the final group effort. These self-evaluations should assign a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F) to each group member, along with any additional comments that might assist the instructor in better evaluating the effort and contribution of each team member to the final group project. **It is each student's responsibility to make sure that he or she is contributing to his or her group.** Each student's grade will be based both on the overall quality of the group project and that individual's contribution to the group effort.

Project grades will be based on the following criteria:

- Content of the presentation, including the relevance of the arguments made and the effective use of supporting evidence (70%)
- Preliminary and final bibliographies (15%)
- Organization and delivery of the presentation (15%)
- Self-evaluations (will affect individual grades)