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Southern Polytechnic State University
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MW 3 pm to 4:15 pm
TR 11 am to 12:15 am
TR 3 pm to 4:15 pm

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Global Issues – POLS 2401

The world has become more interdependent. What exactly does that mean? The world has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. How has the world changed? Some argue that the events of September 11, 2001 changed the world. Are things different? Does it matter if more countries are democratic? What is the impact of economic development or the lack of it? Can we make sense of the varied and wide ranging events in the world from conflict in the Middle East to development of a single European currency? Are some things constant in world politics or are we living in a novel age? Why should we even care?

This course will introduce concepts and theories to assist you in understanding the actors and issues in the general framework of world politics. In this course, we will look at the contending theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of world politics and apply the various approaches to different empirical situations. We begin the course by looking at the major actors and their relations. This will include: an examination of foreign policy decision making, "great power" politics, international organizations, and the influence of various nonstate actors. We then turn to the international political economy with the globalization of politics and markets and global environmental patterns and problems. Finally, we move to world conflict and its management. We will examine armed conflict between and within states and seek to understand its causes and origins and methods to prevent it.

This course should provide you with an elementary understanding of world politics, and give you sufficient preparation by providing a broad foundation (theoretically and empirically) to continue further studies on issues in world politics. If this is the only course on world politics you take, it should provide you with basic tools necessary to be a responsible member of the informed public on global issues and foreign policy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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.

TEXTBOOK (required)

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. and Shannon Blanton. 2009. **World Politics: Trend and**

Transformation, 12th ed. New York: Thomson Wadsworth .

Supplementary reading will also be available through electronic reserve in the library (Res)

Additionally, you need to stay abreast of major happenings in the world. As university students in the United States, we have access to more sources of information than we could possibly consume. I suggest you take a look at the New York Times (nytimes.com), the Christian Science Monitor (csmonitor.com), and/or the BBC World Service (bbcworldservice.com).

COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade in this class will be derived from four examinations of equal weight. The exams will be of a multiple-choice type drawn from the assigned readings and class lectures. Sometimes the readings and the lectures will directly overlap, but not always. It is imperative that you attend all classes and take notes, and read all the assignments. Included in each exam will be questions on current events. There is always something going on in the world so stay informed.

COURSE OUTLINE

Section 1

Read
Chapter 1

Lecture Themes
Introduction to World Politics

Levels of Analysis

Thinking Theory

Chapter 2
(Res) "The World Must Be Made Safe. . ."
(Res) "A Realist Theory. . ."

Idealism v. Realism

Chapter 3

Models of Decision Making
and Domestic Sources of
Foreign Policy

(Res) "How Decision-Makers Learn from History"

Video -- " Truth, War, and Consequences "
Test One

Section 2

Chapter 4	Great Powers in World Politics
(Res) "The Power Transition"	
Chapter 5	The South -- Development and Underdevelopment.
(Res) "A Structural Theory of Imperialism"	
Chapter 6	International Organizations
Chapter 7	NonState Actors in World Politics
	Clash of Civilizations
Test Two	
<u>Section 3</u>	
Chapter 9	Globalization
Chapter 10	Liberal International Econ. Order
(Res) "From After Hegemony"	Hegemonic Stability Theory
	Population
Chapter 11	Environmental Problems.
Chapter 12	
Test Three	
<u>Section 4</u>	
Chapter 13	War: Causes of Conflict
(Res) "Warfare Is Only an Invention"	Terrorism
Chapter 14	The Security Dilemma
	Coercive Diplomacy
Chapter 16	International Law
Chapter 17 (pp 542-547)	Democratic Peace
(Res) "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"	
(Res) "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace"	

Test four will be given during the week of December 12-16