

World Politics 21:790:321:01

Spring 2018

T-Th 10:00-11:20

Hill Hall 107

Instructor: Gabriela Kuetting

Office: Hill Hall 719

Office hours: T-Th 11.30-12.30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended as an introduction to the study of world politics. The course is both theoretical and historical. Students will be expected to attain a firm grasp of major theories, concepts, and controversies in the field of international relations, as well as the significance of important historical events to shaping contemporary world politics. The central theme of the course is the relationship between theory, history, and practice: how do our theories of world politics and the lessons we draw from historical events shape our understanding of the contemporary world?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

If the course succeeds, you should be able to assess critically the various theories of world politics in light of the empirical evidence that you have learned. In addition, the course intends to impress upon you the fact that the social world is ambiguous; we need analytical tools, as well as ethical values, to help us make sense of it. Ideally, the analytical concepts we will study should help you interpret the world you live in, and become a more informed global citizen. If you are successful in the course, you should feel more confident in your ability to interpret and engage in debates about major controversies in world politics, and more motivated to keep up with world events.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one required text that you must purchase to be successful in the course:

Stephen Lamy et al, Introduction to Global Politics, 4th Edition, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Recommended:

This course requires us to keep up with current world events. Recommended daily sources: The New York Times; The Wall Street Journal or The Financial Times, NPR radio, and the BBC News Hour. Good weekly source: The Economist.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation and Attendance	(10%)
Mid-term Exam (multiple choice)	(30%)
Book review	(30%)
Final paper	(30%)

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Any student who is found to be plagiarizing her/his work will be held accountable. Please refer to the Student Judicial Affairs website <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers> for the Academic Integrity Policy and the Code of Student Conduct, including the definition of plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, you should read the relevant section in your textbook BEFORE the class.

Class 1: Tuesday 16 January 2018
General introduction to the course and logistics

Class 2: Thursday 18 January 2018
Global Actors and Global Issues (pp 5-12)

Class 3: Tuesday 23 January 2018
Intro to Theories and Approaches (pp 12-25)

Class 4: Thursday 25 January 2018
The Evolution of Global Politics (30-50)

Class 5: Tuesday 30 January 2018
The Evolution of Global Politics II – Globalization and the International Order (51-67)

Class 6: Thursday 1 February 2018
Theories – Realism (72-82)

Class 7: Tuesday 6 February 2018
Theories – Liberalism (83-92)

Class 8: Thursday 8 February 2018
Critical Theories (97-110)

Class 9: Tuesday 13 February 2018
Case Study: Global Environmental Politics through three theoretical lenses (no reading)

Class 10: Thursday 15 February 2018
Case Study: Global Development through three theoretical lenses (no reading)

Class 11: Tuesday 20 February 2018
In class review

Class 12: Thursday 22 February 2018
Mid-term

Class 13: Tuesday 27 February 2018
Foreign Policy Analysis (chapter 4)

Class 14: Thursday 1 March 2018
Foreign Policy Case Study (no reading)

Class 15 Tuesday 6 March 2018
Global Governance (156-180)

Class 16: Thursday 8 March 2018
Regional Governance (181-202)

Spring break

Class 17: Tuesday 20 March 2018
Security Politics (206-231)

Class 18: Thursday 22 March 2018
Security Politics (232-249)

Class 19: Tuesday 27 March 2018
Book review meetings

Class 20: Thursday 29 March 2018
Book review meetings

Class 21: Tuesday 3 April 2018
Human Rights (252-262)

Class 22: Thursday 5 April 2018
Human Security (262-286)
Book reviews due on Blackboard

Class 23: Tuesday 10 April 2018
Global Trade (288-307)

Class 24: Thursday 12 April 2018
Global Finance (309-319)

Class 25: Tuesday 17 April 2018
Development and Poverty (322-342)

Class 26: Thursday 19 April 2018
Global justice movements (reading on Blackboard)

Class 27: Tuesday 24 April 2018
Global Environment (chapter 10)

Class 28: Thursday 26 April 2018
Discussion of final paper (case study)