Course Title: International Relations in an Age of Globalization
Course Number: PLSC 102
Period: 2018 Fall Semester
Time: Two 1‘20” sessions per week (Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.)
Classroom: TBA
Professor: Claudio Lodici (c.lodici@usa.net)
Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays (by appointment)

Course description: Broadly stated, politics is the struggle to define the rules and mechanisms by which the individual’s life is organized within a larger social group. Within the global context, confrontation inevitably arises around the goals and values of different societies. This power struggle is further compounded when social problems are global in nature, yet are beyond the scope of any particular domestic, institutional response. Through the world lens, therefore, the paramount question is how global society will establish, maintain, and/or change the dominant paradigm of rules that will dictate the individual’s life?
This class, International Relations in an Age of Globalization, PLSC 102, both examines issues confronting the members of global society and requires a perspective recognizing the historical and cultural aspects of the shifting terrain of global power. More importantly, this course provides a sturdy foundation – the necessary background information and conceptual tools – upon which students may build an understanding of contemporary international relations.
There are two sections to this course. In the first section, we will survey the major philosophical contributions traditionally used in the study of
international relations as well the history of the modern international system of politics and power. This includes a large spectrum of issues and methodological concepts in contemporary world politics, including international security, gendered forms of violence, international political economy and globalization, international organizations and law, the international development and global inequality, and environmental issues. We will study these issues by examining how they impact the relationship between the United States and particular areas in the world that have contemporary relevance, such as the Middle East, China, and Africa. Class is complemented with discussions on current issues in world politics. Each Thursday will be a student-led discussion.

Please note: This syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.

Course procedure: Students are expected to have completed their reading before the end of the semester. They are also expected to actively participate in all sessions, and their participation will be taken into consideration. Some sessions are in seminar format.

Credits: Three credit hours

Evaluation: Class participation and daily readings. There are 80 points awarded at the discretion of the instructor for attendance, participation (it is not necessary to speak, but it is necessary to be "present"), and questions. Students will be expected to bring to class each Tuesday one question related to the chapter from the Duncan, Jancar-Webster and Switky’s text for that week. As you read the chapter[s], there should be something that either is of interest to you or that is not clear to you. The success of this class depends upon the quality of the dialogue in class. It is expected that students will attend every class and that they will be fully prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Class participation grades will reflect their attendance record, the frequency of their contributions to class discussions, and the quality of their questions, observations, and conclusions.

There will be daily readings worth 40 points. Each of the students will report once on a short reading assignment on class days. Students are to read one or
two chapter sections summarizing the most significant or revealing points in the day’s readings.

There will be a term project worth 200 points. Each student will also write a paper of approximately 3000 words (or about 12 double-spaced typewritten pages) analyzing one aspect of contemporary government in one of the political systems explored. Students should choose their topic in consultation with the instructor. The completed paper will be due by November 29.

The following schedule will be strictly observed:

1. Consultation with the instructor on your research idea (by October 2).
2. A typed project proposal, including the central questions, a plan for research, and a preliminary bibliography (due October 25).
3. A rough draft of the paper (due November 15).
4. A final draft (due November 29).

Plagiarism: Students of this university are called upon to know, to respect, and to practice a high standard of personal honesty. Plagiarism is a serious form of violation of this standard. Plagiarism is the appropriation for gain of ideas, language, or work of another without sufficient public acknowledgement that the material is not one’s own. Plagiarism on the part of a student in academic work or dishonest examination behavior will result in failure and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Each student will write a book review of approximately 600 words. Students will have the ability to make their own choice as long as the book deals with world politics. This will be submitted no later than November 22. Each review should include a brief synopsis, followed by the reader’s reaction. What was the author’s point. What did the editor provide. What do you think of the book. What did you learn. What did you like about the book. What didn’t you like about the book. How did the book relate to your understanding of democracy and government today. Why was the assignment worthwhile. Why wasn’t the assignment worthwhile. THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST BE WORD PROCESSED, SPELL CHECKED AND PROOF READ. Failure to follow these directions will result in either a lowered grade or having the assignment returned.
ungraded to be resubmitted. Late assignments (including those returned for resubmission) may have points deducted for each day late. Reviews are worth a possible 80 points.

Examinations: There will be two examinations (Midterm: essay, with some choice--1 of 3, e.g.; Final: 10 short answer essays). The Midterm exam will be worth 200 points, the final will be worth 400 points.

Travel plans or other personal commitments may not interfere with examinations. The first exam will cover the first half of the class; the final exam will be cumulative.

Added together, the total number of points is 1,000.

The grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Pass with credit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum passing grade for a course taken under the Pass/Fail option will be C minus (C-)

I Incomplete
W Withdrawal
WF Withdrawal Failure

C- will be the minimum acceptable grade for university undergraduate requirements, such as the University Core Curriculum and the Values Across the Curriculum requirements.

Grade Tabulation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading assignments</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tem project</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please note that there is often, although not always, a positive correlation between class attendance and participation and the student's ability to earn a better than average grade.

**Grading philosophy:**

A Excellent. Indicates the highest level of achievement in the subject and an outstanding level of intellectual initiative.

B Good. Indicates a good level of achievement, intelligent understanding and application of subject matter.

C Satisfactory. Indicates academic work of an acceptable quality and an understanding of the subject matter.

D Poor. Minimum credit. Indicates the lowest passing grade, unsatisfactory work and only the minimum understanding and application.

F Failure. Indicates the lack of even the minimum understanding and application.

**Attendance policy:**

Students are expected to attend each class session unless they have a valid reason for being absent. Students who miss a single class for a medical reason must make a reasonable effort to contact me in advance, and upon return to class, present me with a note which acknowledges that the information provided is accurate.

**Two unexcused absences lower the final course grade by 5%.** The final course grade will be lowered an additional 2% for each class missed over and above the first three. Arriving late counts as either ¼ or ½ of a missed class. There are no make-up exams, tests, or quizzes unless students demonstrate in advance that a significant life-event prevents them from attending class or if they have a documented emergency. The following are not acceptable excuses: scheduled flights or trips, job interviews, picking up relatives at the airport, etc.

Attendance and punctuality are basic requirements for an effective course. Beyond that, each person's frequency and quality of contribution to the class discussion will be assessed and reflected in the class participation score. If students cannot attend a class it is a courtesy to inform me in advance if possible.

**Disagreement:**

Political attitudes and opinions tend to reflect one's social background and self-interest, and since we all
have different backgrounds and interests there is no reason why we should be expected to agree. A student does not have to agree with the professor to get a grade in this class. It is both legitimate and desirable for you to disagree with me and independently and critically evaluate the material. I will exercise my academic freedom and say what I think is accurate about politics; you have the same right. Political Science is a way of thinking about politics, not a set of right answers and airing your disagreements is an excellent way to learn how to think. So please, if you feel I am wrong, challenge me. Former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn had two bits of advice for the new members: "Learn to disagree without being disagreeable", and "Don't turn political differences into personal differences".

**Behavior:** Civility and toleration are essential for an academic atmosphere conducive to learning. **Incivility in the classroom will not be tolerated**. Students should make sure to **turn off cellular phones** and other electronic devices before class. Students are **not allowed to eat, drink, or smoke** in the classrooms.

**Honor Code:** Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

**Examinations:** As stated above, travel plans or other personal commitments may not interfere with midterm and final examinations.

**Course outline**

**September 4-6: The Foundation of World Politics.**
Duncan et al.: Chapters 1, 2 (pages 2-61)

**September 11-13: Analyzing World Politics.**
Duncan et al.: Chapter 3 (pages 62-95)

**September 18-20: Power in World Politics.**
Duncan et al.: Chapter 4 (pages 96-129)
September 25-27: Foreign Policy Formation and Execution  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 5 (pages 130-159)

October 2-4: Intergovernmental Actors  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 6 (pages 160-199)

October 9-11: Non-State Actors  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 7 (pages 200-229)

October 12-21: Semester Break

October 23-26 (make-up Friday): Political Geography  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 8 (pages 230-261)

October 25: Midterm Exam

October 30 - November 1: Nationalism's Power in World Politics  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 9 (pages 262-289)

November 6-8: Global Violence: Wars, Weapons, Terrorism  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 10 (pages 290-327)

November 13-15: Global Rights, Women, and Global Justice  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 11 (pages 328-367)

November 20: International Political Economy and Developed Countries  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 12 (pages 368-399)

November 22-25: Thanksgiving recess

November 27-29: International Political Economy and Developed Countries  
Duncan et al.: Chapter 12 (pages 368-399)

December 4-6: The Politics of Development; The Global Environment  
Duncan et. al.: Chapter 13, 14 (pages 400-473)

Final Examinations: Sat, Mon-Thu Dec 8, 10-13