

PLSC 102: International Relations in the Age of Globalization - Syllabus

John Felice Rome Center

Spring 2019

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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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?

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.

Learning outcomes:

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.

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.

Required Text:

World Politics - International Relations and Globalisation in the 21st Century, 2nd Edition, by Jeffrey Haynes, Peter Hough, Shahin Malik, and Lloyd Pettiford, (London: SAGE Publishing, 2017)

World Politics is supported by online student resources, which are available at:

<https://study.sagepub.com/worldpolitics2e>

Evaluation:

Class participation, attendance, and questions. Students will be expected to bring to class each Thursday one question related to the chapter from the Haynes, Hough, Malik and Pettiford 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. **Class participation counts for 5 percent of the final grade.**

There will be a **term project worth 15 percent of the final grade.** Each student will also write a paper of approximately 3000 words (or about 12 double-spaced typewritten pages) analyzing one aspect of international relations. Students *must* choose their topic in consultation with the instructor. The completed paper will be due by **November 26.**

The following schedule will be strictly observed:

1. Consultation with the instructor on your research idea (by **October 3**).
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 26**).

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 Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

There will **multiple-choice quizzes worth 6 percent of the final grade.** Quizzes will relate to current *and previous* topics. A quiz may be given at the beginning of a class. There will be no make-up quizzes -- none even later during the same class period. Quizzes will be announced 1 week in advance.

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 21.** 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 count for 4 percent of the final grade.

Examinations:

There will be two examinations (Midterm: essay, with some choice--2 of 5, e.g.; Final: 10 short answer essays). The **Midterm exam will count 30 per cent of the final grade**, the final exam will be worth **40 percent of the final grade**.

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.

In-class tests (mid-term exam, final exam, and quizzes) are **closed book/notes**. Quizzes may include multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions. No exams are dropped or replaced.

Caveat: student may not miss any exams. Missed exams, without verifiable appropriate documentation, will be recorded as a zero. The final exam must be taken to receive credit in the course. Tests and exams are cumulative.

All graded material will have to be returned to the instructor in a timely manner for archiving.

Grading:

94-100:	A
90-93:	A-
87-89:	B+
84-86:	B
80-83:	B-
77-79:	C+
74-76:	C
70-73:	C-
67-69:	D+
60-66:	D
59 or lower:	F

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

Percentage-Based Grading System:	Class participation	5 %
	Quizzes	6 %

Book review	4 %
Term paper	15 %
Midterm exam	30 %
Final exam	40%

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:

(please note that course attendance is based on prompt class attendance, preparation and active participation in class discussions)

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absences will be permitted. **Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit”.**

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

Week

Topic

1. September 3-5: The Foundation of World Politics.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: pages ix; 1-35 (International Relations and Globalization. Development of International Society)

2. September 10-12 Analyzing World Politics.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: pages 37-85 (International Relations before WWII. IR After WWII. IR after the Cold War)

3. September 17-19: Power in World Politics.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 87-150 (Realism. Liberalism. Marxism and Neo-Marxism. Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism)

4. September 24-26: Foreign Policy Formation and Execution.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 151-198 (Critical Theory. Social Constructivism. Feminist Theory and Gender in IR)

5. October 1-3: Intergovernmental Actors.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 199-232 (International Organizations and Transnational Actors. The United Nations)

6. October 8: Non-State Actors.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 233-266 (International Law. Regionalism)

October 10: Midterm examination

October 11-20: Fall semester break

7. October 22-24-25 (Friday class day): Political Geography.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 267-317 (International Security Studies. International Political Economy. Human Rights)

8. October 29-31: Nationalism's Power in World Politics.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 318-370 (The Natural Environment. Development, Poverty and Inequality. Migration)

9. November 5-7: Global Violence: Wars, Weapons, Terrorism.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 371-402 (New Wars. Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation)

10. November 12-14-15 (Friday class day): Global Rights, Women, and Global Justice.

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 403-418 (Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Intervention)

11. November 19-21: International Political Economy and Developed Countries

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 419-433 (Terrorism and Political Violence)

12. November 26: International Political Economy and Developed Countries

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 435-452 (Rising Powers)

November 28-December 1: Thanksgiving recess

13. December 3-5: The Politics of Development; The Global Environment

Haynes, Hough, Malik, and Pettiford: 453-466 (Conclusions and the future of International Relations)

Final examinations: December 7, 9-12

** Please note that students must complete the reading assignments listed above by Thursday in the current week.*

