

PSC102: Introduction to International Politics

Syllabus & Schedule for the Spring Semester, January 30th to May 12th, 2017

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Course Description

This course examines how the international political system was established, how it has changed over time, and how it functions today. Focusing on the role of states, complemented by a thorough analysis of non-state actors, students will investigate how the global system works and how the process of globalization is remaking the political and economic world. We will explore in depth the primary areas of challenge and opportunity facing the world today: security, human rights, human development and poverty, trade and finance, and environmental issues. Throughout the course we will reflect on current events and apply what you are learning in class to what is going on in the world around us.

Required Reading and Resources

Required Textbook: *Introduction to Global Politics, Fourth Edition*
By Lamy, Masker, Baylis, Smith, and Owens. Oxford University Press. 2017
ISBN: 9780190299798

Textbook Resources: <http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190299798/stu>

Resources

The New York Times

In addition to the assignments from the primary text, you will need to consistently follow current world events through the New York Times. Check out their new section, [The Interpreter](#), which explores the ideas and context behind major world events.

Students at Buffalo can get free digital access to the New York Times. Here is a short video with the login instructions http://youtu.be/M32a_XyRMSY.

Farred Zakaria GPS

CNN's flagship world affairs program offers in-depth interviews with world leaders, newsmakers and analysts who break down the world's toughest problems. View Sundays on CNN at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. or on CNN International at 7 a.m., 3 p.m., or 10 p.m. Or listen to the Podcast: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/tv-season/fareed-zakaria-gps/id484251557>

Other News Sources: The Economist magazine, BBC News, Aljazeera News, The Guardian (UK), the Washington Post, Univision, CNN, or National Public Radio (NPR). Though they are presented as entertainment, I also find interesting news and opinions expressed on The Daily Show, The Nightly

Show, and on HBO; Real Time with Bill Maher, This Week Tonight with John Oliver, Frontline documentaries on PBS, and VICE news and documentaries.

Communications

Communications related to the course should take place within the online course in Blackboard Learn. There are several ways to communicate with your classmates and me:

Discussion Forums are where you will post your responses to discussion questions and read the responses of others. Your contribution to discussions is an important part of the course, and part of the learning activities you'll be evaluated on. Forums are located within the Learning Modules. Use these spaces for any question or comment on the material that is of interest to the whole class.

Course Email is a private, one-to-one way for you to communicate with me and directly to your classmates. Use course mail to address specific questions or comments to me. Use this resource only for private communication. If you have a question related to content or course information, use the **Ask the Prof.** forum. Do NOT use external email for communication in this course.

"Ask the Prof" is the general course forum for public contact and communication with me and other students in the course. This is the best place to ask logistical questions that might also be on the minds of your fellow students.

Twitter You can follow me @ProfHolley

Overview of Course Schedule

Below you will find a general overview of the course schedule. For specific assignments and due dates look at the **Module Overview** in Blackboard Learn. In order to guarantee the optimal effectiveness of this teaching medium, you should proceed through the Learning Module activities as follows:

1. Review Module Overview before the "official" start of the module and make note of each assignment's completion date.
2. Read the assigned chapters from the text(s) and any additional assigned articles or materials (Days 1-2 of the module)
3. Participate in the Discussion Forum(s) per the instructions, but at least 24 hours before the close of the module.
4. Complete the Main Assignment (when required) at least 24 hours before the close of the module.
5. Take Readings Quiz (final 3 days of the week)

All assignments and forums close at 11:55 PM on the date indicated.

Important: The order of the tasks is important. For instance, the reason I suggest doing the readings quiz at the end of the week is to ensure that you have the greatest amount of exposure to the material. Discussion forums allow interactive student learning so that you may learn from one another and discover the gaps in your knowledge. The main assignment is done at your own pace and is meant to encourage independent research. The readings quizzes are to be taken only when you have mastered the subject matter and are ready to move on. If you take these before the Discussion Forum and the Main Assignment, you are doing yourself a disservice.

Week	Topic	Start Date	End Date	Learning Activities
Course Opens January 26th				
Module One: Foundations of Global Politics				
Week 1	Introduction & Icebreaker Activities	Jan 30	Feb 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the Syllabus 2. Familiarize yourself with the course Schedule 3. Read all sections of Course Information in Blackboard 4. Update your User Profile and Preferences 5. Complete the Icebreaker Activities
Week 2	Introduction to Global Politics	Feb 6	Feb 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Chapter 1 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take quiz
Week 3	The Evolution of Global Politics	Feb 13	Feb 19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Chapter 2 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take quiz
Module Two: Theories of Global Politics				
Week 4	Realism, Liberalism, and Critical Theories	Feb 20	Feb 26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Chapter 3 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take quiz
Module Three: Global Actors				
Week 5	Making Foreign Policy	Feb 27	March 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Chapter 4 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take chapter quiz
Week 6	Global and Regional Governance	March 6	March 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Chapter 5 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take chapter quiz
Module Four: Global Issues: Security				
Week 7	Global Security, Military Power, and Terrorism	March 13	March 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Chapter 6 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview*

				4. Take chapter quiz
Spring Break, March 20 to 25				
Week 8	Human Rights and Human Security	March 27	April 2	1. Read Chapter 7 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take chapter quiz
Module Five: Global Issues: Political Economy				
Week 9	Global Trade and Finance	April 3	April 9	1. Read Chapter 8 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take chapter quiz
Week 10	Poverty, Development, and Hunger	April 10	April 16	1. Read Chapter 9 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take chapter quiz
Module Six: Global Issues: Environmental Issues				
Week 11	Environmental Issues	April 17	April 23	1. Read Chapter 10 2. Review PowerPoint presentations 3. Complete all activities in Module Overview* 4. Take chapter quiz
Week 12		April 24	April 30	
Week 13/14	Course Wrap-Up	May 1	May 12	1. Complete any activities in Module Overview* 2. Final Exam Preparation
Final Exam Available May 14-17				

** See Module Overview and Due Dates at the start of each module for the specifics on each assignment and their corresponding deadlines.*

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Thoughtful and informed participation is critical to your successful completion of this course. This means reading/viewing assigned material, completing assignments on time, and engaging in class discussions in a timely and substantive manner.

If you are concerned about your standing in the class do not wait until the end of the course when it is too late, communicate with me about this early in the semester.

Grading Policy

Thoughtful, informed and timely participation is critical to your successful completion of this course. This means engaging in class discussions in a substantive manner by posting your own ideas and responding thoughtfully to other's posts.

Students are required to turn in all assignments on time. Turning in assignments late will result in a lower grade or a zero depending on timing and student's communications.

Any assignment with more than 20% of plagiarized material (i.e. not properly cited sources) will receive a zero.

Students who participate in *every* course assignment and receive a cumulative average grade of 85 or higher for discussions, quizzes, and modular assignments do not have to take the final exam. They will receive their cumulative grade as their final exam grade. So if a student does all of the assignments on time and has a total of 87 at the end of the course, then he/she does not have to take the final exam and will receive an 87 as the grade for the final.

Assignments

Participation in Class Discussions: 30% of your grade

Thoughtful and informed participation is critical to your successful completion of this course. This means engaging in every class discussion in a timely and substantive manner. Each chapter of the text will have an associated discussion. Most of the questions will ask you to apply the material from the chapter to current events. This is a good place to expand your understanding of the course by reviewing the news media for examples of what we are studying.

We will occasionally discuss politically controversial topics in this course. One of the things that I love about Farmingdale is the wide spectrum of perspectives held by its students and the lively discussions we have as a result. We all stand to learn a lot if we treat each other with respect and approach this class as an opportunity to hone our critical thinking skills.

This course should be a safe place for learning to think critically and constructively - no matter your political leanings. To ensure an open discussion in which we understand one another's opinions I suggest the following guidelines for discussions:

- Listen in a spirit of humility and open mindedness so learning can come not only the instructor, but also from your classmates.
- Strive to consider others' ideas without feeling defensive or closed.
- Students may discover that some of their preconceptions and perspectives are challenged in this type of course. Please be as honest as possible with yourself when considering your own opinions.
- Take the attitude that it is OK to offer respectful feedback in a way that disagrees with thoughts and opinions of others and for them to respectfully disagree with yours. This is not a personal attack. It means someone is listening and thinking about what you said.
- Strive to seek clarification of any possible misunderstandings as soon as possible. Every person must be treated with respect. Consult the professor if you feel the discussion has taken a disrespectful tone.
- The late Senator Moynihan used to say, "You are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts." I would take that a step further and ask that opinions expressed in this class be supported by reputable sources.
- Use reputable sources to support your points and cite your sources according to the CMS guidelines.

In each discussion you are expected to create a new post with your own ideas and respond in a thoughtful manner to two other posts by your classmates. You are expected to read all posts. Please post early in the time frame of the discussion so that your fellow students have the opportunity to respond.

There will be approximately 15 discussions throughout the semester.

Quizzes: 20% of your grade

Every chapter or group of chapters will have an associated quiz focused on the content of the course's textbook. The quiz will be available during the last three days of the week (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). They will, for the most part, consist of true/false, multiple-choice, and match-up questions. You will have two chances to take each quiz before the deadline and the highest grade will be your final grade. Your lowest grade of the semester will be dropped from your total grade for all quizzes.

Modular Assignments: 30% of your grade

In this course you will create and develop a blog on the foreign policy of the country of your choice. During each module you will receive an assignment to add specific content to your blog. This ongoing assignment is intended to challenge you to expand your understanding of international relations. This is also an opportunity to explore in depth any country of particular interest to you.

I chose to assign blogs instead of papers because they are more easily viewable by your classmates and they build a connected body of work rather than a series of disconnected papers. The blogs also give you the opportunity to develop a skill that may be useful to your professional lives after college.

There will be 5 modular assignments throughout the semester.

Module One: Create your blog and post a brief introduction to the country and foreign policy focus of your blog.

Module Two: Post a brief historical perspective on your country's foreign policy

Module Three: Create a post on the most pressing issue your country's foreign policy faces in the near future.

Module Four: Peer Review and Feedback

Module Five: Create a post that connects your country's foreign policy to international finance or trade.

Blog assignments are always due on the last day of the module in which they are assigned. All blog posts should be approximately 300 words in length unless otherwise indicated. Sources for your blog should be reputable and identified and cited properly.

Final Exam: 20% of your grade

At the end of the semester there will be a final exam focused primarily on the content of the chapters of the course. The final exam will, for the most part, consist of true/false, multiple-choice, and match-up questions. It may also include a brief essay.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the college's educational mission and your personal and

intellectual growth. You are expected to bear individual responsibility for your work and to uphold the ideal of academic integrity. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be sanctioned.

All your written work should be checked for plagiarism. This is an excellent tutorial about what is and is not plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/whatisplag.php>. Cutting and pasting information from other sources without proper citation can be viewed as plagiarism. It is a violation of school policy, but, more importantly, it hurts you as a student as it involves little thinking or reflection. This will not be tolerated in this course.

Again, any assignment submitted with 20% or more of plagiarized material (i.e. not properly cited sources) will receive a zero.

Persistent suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students office.

Writing Support and Required Formatting

Depending on your perspective, you have the blessing or the curse of having a professor who takes writing very seriously. No matter what you do in your life after college, strong writing skills will set you apart from the rest and will develop your thinking and communications skills in general. When I read an assignment rife with grammatical errors, typos, and information that was clearly cut and pasted from another source it is like walking down a stony path without shoes. You don't want your reader to have an unpleasant experience while reading your work.

Of course, when I am grading your work, my main focus is the content - I want to see that you understand the material and are able to develop your own reactions to what we are learning. However, decent writing has to be a part of a political science course.

One simple step you can take is, after you are finished writing, read your writing out loud (ideally to a friend, but that is not necessary). When you hear your writing I think you will identify some of the errors or missing pieces of information.

[The APSA \(American Political Science Association\) Style Guide](#) is used by students of Political Science and International Studies. It is based on the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) (CMS) (which you have free online access to via the Greeley Library).

We will use the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) for this course. You can refer to the manual itself or to Purdue's very handy [Citation Chart](#) for the three major styles, including CMS.

[The Center for Excellence in Writing](#) offers a number of free services for all UB students seeking to develop their writing ability. [Learn about their services](#). Visit them in 209 Baldy Hall. I encourage you all to take advantage of this valuable and free resource.

Purdue has an excellent resource for writing, the Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

If you want more feedback from me please let me know and I will be happy to offer more in-depth guidance.

About Your Instructor

Professor Holley received a Masters in International Relations from Columbia University and is currently pursuing a PhD in online education at SUNY Buffalo. She teaches for the Political Science departments in SUNY Buffalo and Farmingdale. She is also a consultant for the Open Society Foundation's Global Drug Policy Program and the owner of a green business in New York City. Professor Holley has worked in training, marketing, and communications for the United Nations Development Program, AFS Intercultural Programs, and other nonprofit organizations. She has worked in and traveled to over 25 countries in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia and speaks French, Spanish and a little Russian.