

**International Relations
PS 5302-W
Summer 1
Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS**

Professor: Dr. Tiffany Vincent
Office Hours: Available via email.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed with a focus on contemporary world politics in a globalized era. We will examine various theoretical approaches relevant to the field, to understand the conditions that shape state behavior (including but not limited to social, political, and economic components).

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate political, social, and economic conditions that affect state behavior.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion, research paper, and Exam 1
2. Identify and apply IR theory to contemporary global issues.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion, research paper, and Exam 1
3. Describe the role of commerce and security in an increasingly globalized environment.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion, research paper, and Exam 2
4. Identify strengths and weaknesses of continued globalization.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion, research paper, and Exam 3

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The graduating student will:

- Demonstrate the ability to critique significant theoretical approaches of international relations.
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate domestic and international governmental processes.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis.

COURSE FORMAT & EXPECTATIONS:

This is an online distance education course. As such, it is open throughout the semester but there are assigned due dates for submitting assignments and exams (see class schedule below; **NOTE:* some assignments/due dates will be announced via our Blackboard homepage throughout the semester or via email). This course is designed to allow for a more peer-led learning vs. instructor-led lecture environment. The role of the instructor will be to guide the students through the process of understanding the course subject matter. The role of the student will be to read the required materials each week and participate in the online class discussion forums. Specifically, it is required that each student:

1. Read and be prepared to discuss the assigned materials online.
2. Raise relevant questions and contribute relevant observations to the topic at hand.
3. Fully participate in online discussion forums.
4. Demonstrate appropriate and respectful communication with classmates and the instructor.

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul

Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Without full participation and being prepared for each weekly activity, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in this course. *Keep in mind that your computer problems are NOT an excuse for any lack of completion of course material. YOU will need to maintain access to a reliable Internet connection (keep in mind there are computers available for your use in the Sul Ross Library). I am not responsible for any technological glitches that may occur in the online environment.* Sul Ross State University does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

CIVILITY STATEMENT:

In the classroom environment I hold each of you accountable for both your actions and words. Therefore, you should commit yourself to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every individual in the classroom, including respect for University property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the professor, it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference. –*Note: This *DOES* apply to this online course.

DISABILITY POLICY:

In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. Contact Mary Schwartz (Office: 112 Ferguson Hall) to set up an accommodations meeting, or call (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

TEXTBOOK (Required):

Baylis, John. Et. al, *The Globalization of World Politics*, 6th Edition. Oxford Press, 2014. ISBN: 9780199656172

GRADING SCALE:

- 60% Exams (4 exams worth 15% each)
- 30% Chapter Reflections/Discussion Board Posts
- 10% Participation

*There is NO EXTRA CREDIT for this course, so please do not ask.

This course follows the traditional percentage based grading system below.

- A: 100-90
- B: 89-80
- C: 79-70
- D: 69-60
- F: 59 & below.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS- Each student will complete four exams in this course. At the graduate level, this course will consist of written essay responses to question(s) that I will create to determine your ability to think critically about the assigned material. Exams (and directions) will be emailed to your sulross.edu email address (*each exam is worth 15% of your overall final course grade*) and will be due on the date specified in the course outline below. I will email you the exams the day before they are due (see course schedule on the next page), this means that you will have 48 hours to complete the exam and submit it to me. **Missed exams will result in a grade of zero. Exam deadlines are inflexible and absolute – no excuses.**

CHAPTER REFLECTIONS/DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS- As a summer online graduate course, your active engagement, participation, and demonstration of reading comprehension is vital to your success in this class. To this end, after each chapter/assigned reading I will post a discussion question in our Blackboard home page. After each assigned reading, you are required to respond to my question, create a question of your own, and respond to a classmate's question. *For each week then, a total of 3 discussion posts are required.* The questions/answers should be analytical (theoretical) over the topic at hand and/or an attempt to develop a closely related line of inquiry. The purpose is to generate productive online classroom discussion and demonstrate critical thinking ability with regard to the assigned reading(s). The questions/answers are meant to be evaluative/analytical for the sake of discussion rather than trivia questions from the readings. Failure to be respectful and civil in your responses/questions with classmates or with the instructor will result in no credit—and potential removal from the course. Ideally I would like for you to complete your posts for that day's assigned reading the same day, however there is some flex-time, which will be that **discussion posts for each section are due the day BEFORE THE EXAM IS DUE FOR THAT SECTION.** For example, our first exam will be on TUESDAY, June 7th; therefore you must complete the quizzes for that section BY MONDAY, JUNE 6TH AT 11:55 p.m. At the end of the semester, I will take the average of your grades on these weekly submissions and that grade will be worth 30% of your overall final course grade.

PARTICIPATION- Worth 10% of the overall course grade, your active and productive participation in this course is expected and required.

Class Schedule

DAY	TOPICS COVERED
SECTION 1	
Wednesday, June 1 st	Introduction (pgs. 1-13) and Chapter 1: Globalization and world politics (pgs. 15-29)
Thursday, June 2 nd	Chapter 4: From the end of the Cold War to a new global era?
Friday, June 3 rd	Chapter 5: Rising powers and the emerging global order
Monday, June 6 th	Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), watch the short video and read the article titled, "How Globalization Affects Developed Countries" http://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/10/globalization-developed-countries.asp *Chapter Reflections/Discussion Board Posts for this section are due on Blackboard TODAY @ 11:55 p.m. *EXAM 1 will be emailed to you today and is due tomorrow.
Tuesday, June 7th	EXAM 1 DUE (Begin readings for Section 2)
SECTION 2	
Wednesday, June 8 th	Chapter 6: Realism Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and watch the short video titled, "Theory in Action: Realism" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnKEFSVAiNQ
Thursday, June 9 th	Chapter 7: Liberalism Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and watch the short video titled, "Theory in Action: Liberalism" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZbDMUaqwE8
Friday, June 10 th	Chapter 8: Contemporary mainstream approaches: new-realism and neo-liberalism
Monday, June 13 th	*Chapter Reflections/Discussion Board Posts for this section are due on Blackboard TODAY @ 11:55 p.m. *EXAM 2 will be emailed to you today and is due tomorrow.
Tuesday, June 14th	EXAM 2 DUE (Begin readings for Section 3)
SECTION 3	
Wednesday, June 15 th	Chapter 14: The changing character of war Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and read the article titled, "How the Predator Drone Changed the Character of War" http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-the-predator-drone-changed-the-character-of-war-3794671/?page=1
Thursday, June 16 th	Chapter 15: International and global security Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and read the article titled, "Where are the China Hawks?" http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/06/china-isis-iran-threat/394799/
Friday, June 17 th	Chapter 16: International political economy in an age of globalization

Monday, June 20 th	Chapter 18: International law Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), watch the short videos (one at the top located just under the title of the article, and the other on the left-hand side of the page titled ‘Related Video: Power struggle over island in South China Sea), and read the article titled, “U.S. Protests after Chinese military jet lands on South China Sea island ” http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/18/politics/chinese-military-jet-lands-on-island/
Tuesday, June 21 st	*Chapter Reflections/Discussion Board Posts for this section are due on Blackboard TODAY @ 11:55 p.m. *EXAM 3 will be emailed to you today and is due tomorrow.
Wednesday, June 22nd	EXAM 3 DUE (Begin readings for Section 4)
SECTION 4	
Thursday, June 23 rd	Chapter 22: Environmental issues
Friday, June 24 th	Chapter 23: Terrorism and globalization
Monday, June 27 th	Chapter 24: Nuclear proliferation Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and read the article titled, “In Hiroshima, Obama and Abe are pledging to stop nuclear proliferation. Their actions don’t match their words.” https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/27/heres-the-real-benchmark-of-obamas-visit-to-hiroshima-nuclear-nonproliferation/
Tuesday, June 28 th	Chapter 28: Poverty, development, and hunger Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and read the article titled, “How has globalization benefited the poor?” http://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/how-has-globalization-benefited-poor
Wednesday, June 29 th	Chapter 33: Globalization and the post-cold war order
Thursday, June 30 th	*Chapter Reflections/Discussion Board Posts for this section are due on Blackboard TODAY @ 11:55 p.m. *EXAM 4 will be emailed to you today and is due tomorrow.
Friday, July 1st	EXAM 4 DUE (covering section 4) Your Final Exam is this fourth exam
Monday, July 4th	HOLIDAY

***NOTE:** This schedule is tentative and therefore subject to change at my discretion.