

International Relations
PS 3306/5302
Fall 2016
Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS

Professor: Dr. Tiffany Vincent
Office Hours: 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).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The graduating student will be able to:

1. Evaluate political, social, and economic conditions that affect state behavior.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion response, question creation and Exam 1
2. Identify and apply IR theory to contemporary global issues.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion response, question creation, and Exam 1
3. Describe the role of commerce and security in an increasingly globalized environment.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion response, question creation, and Exam 2
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion response, question creation and Exam 2
5. Identify strengths and weaknesses of continued globalization.
Method of Assessment: Weekly discussion response, question creation, and Exam 3

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.

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.

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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.

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 (3 exams worth 20% each)
- 30% Chapter Reflections/Discussion Board Posts
- 10% Participation/Attendance

*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 three exams in this course. 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 20% 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 week before they are due (see course schedule on the next page), this means that you will have 1 week 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 an online course, your active engagement, participation, and demonstration of reading comprehension is vital to your success in this class. In the discussion section of Blackboard each week, I will pose a discussion question or two over the assigned reading(s). Discussion post(s) will appear every Monday and will be due on Sunday @ 11: 55 p.m. of the same week, so you will have 7 days to think about and construct your answers. Each week 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 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. At the end of the semester, I will take the average of your grade 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

WEEK	ASSIGNED READINGS
SECTION 1 THEME: The contemporary global scene and major theories	
Week 1 (8/23)	Course introduction and syllabus
Week 2 (8/30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (pgs. 1-13) and Chapter 1: Globalization and world politics (pgs. 15-29) • Chapter 4: From the end of the Cold War to a new global era? • Chapter 5: Rising powers and the emerging global order
Week 3 (9/6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 6: Realism <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Chapter 8: Contemporary mainstream approaches: new-realism and neo-liberalism</p>
Week 4 (9/13)	EXAM 1
SECTION 2 THEME: Conflict	
Week 5 (9/20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Lynn III, W. J. (2014). The End of the Military-Industrial Complex. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 93(6), 104.
Week 6 (9/27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/ • Byman, D. (2016). ISIS Goes Global. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 95(2), 76-85.
Week 7 (10/4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 23: Terrorism and globalization • 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/
Week 8 (10/11)	EXAM 2
SECTION 3 THEME: Global economic and social issues	

Week 9 (10/18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16: International political economy in an age of globalization • Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and read the Working Paper titled, “Economic Impact of Selected Conflicts in the Middle East: What Can We Learn from the Past?” https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2014/wp14100.pdf • Click on the link below (or cut and paste it into your web browser), and read the article titled, “How Brexit Will Change the World.” http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/06/brexit-change-europe-britain-us-politics-213990
Week 10 (10/25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/ • Lucas Jr., G. R. (2011). "NEW RULES FOR NEW WARS" INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JUST WAR DOCTRINE FOR IRREGULAR WAR. <i>Case Western Reserve Journal Of International Law</i>, 43(3), 677-705.
Week 11 (11/1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 22: Environmental issues • Ramanathan, V., Seddon, J., & Victor, D. G. (2016). The Next Front on Climate Change. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 95(2), 135-142.
Week 12 (11/8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Week 13 (11/15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 33: Globalization and the post-cold war order • FREELAND, C. (2015). Globalization Bites Back. <i>Atlantic</i>, 315(4), 82-86.
Week 15 (11/29)	EXAM 3

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