

POL SCI 104-001

Introduction to International Relations

Spring 2017

Th 6:00 – 8:50 PM

CART 130

Instructor: Nicholas R. Davis

Email: davisn@uwp.edu

Office: N/A (meet in the classroom or coffee shop)

Office Hours: Th 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Course Overview

This course provides students with a general overview of global politics. Students need not be familiar with international relations or even political science, as this course will begin with the basics and cover a variety of topics in global politics of interest to a broad range of students. Such topics include developing the conceptual and theoretical tools for interpreting global politics and the workings of the international system, basic foreign policy analysis, and the identification and exploration of key actors in the international system.

This is a general education course that satisfies a requirement in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. While the course has many particular goals (see below), it also has three general education goals which meet the following requirements at UW-Parkside: communication/literacy, reasoned judgment, and social and personal responsibility.

- **Literacy** Reading for understanding and effective written communication are emphasized. Students can expect to read about six hours per week. Written communication is achieved through essay assignments and exams. This course also features writing workshops to improve written communication.
- **Critical thinking** Students will be able to recognize a problem, analyze information, identify assumptions, and make reasoned judgments based on a range of information. Essay assignments and class discussion are designed to bolster critical thinking.
- **Global perspective** This course is centered around acquiring the knowledge and skills that provide an understanding of global issues and processes. Students will learn how to recognize cultural contexts and view global events and issues from different perspectives.

A typical class meeting will consist of a combination of lecture and analytical discussion following a series of important topics and questions in global politics. At the end of this course, students will have learned about important issues facing political actors in the international system as well as analytical tools to better assess these issues.

Course Objectives

This course examines some of the major issues in the study of global politics for a better understanding of international political phenomena. The exams, essays, and participation exercises are designed in order to measure each of the objectives of the course. By completing the course, students will be better able to:

1. Write effectively, with attention to consistency of organization and presentation as well as use of appropriate and effective sources to support a central claim.
2. Think critically, through identification of their own and others' point of view, addressing assumptions, and presenting evidence to form conclusions.
3. Better understand the complexity and importance of major global concepts, issues, processes, and systems; recognize the interconnected nature of the world and importance of social and personal responsibility as global citizens.

Course Requirements

In this course you will prepare for and attend lectures, participate in class discussions, take two exams, and complete two writing assignments. Details of these expectations are provided below.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

There is a companion website to the course available on D2L. I will use this site to disseminate information regarding the course such as reminders about exams and assigned tasks. I will also collect your writing assignments and post grades on D2L. You may direct all questions regarding the performance of D2L to the University Help Desk (595-2444). I expect you to check the D2L course site often for announcements and other materials, and to be sure to check your RangerMail email as well.

When sending emails to myself or other students, I expect that you will be professional, courteous, and write in complete sentences. Any email correspondence that does not include a salutation (i.e. "Hello,") and some identification of who you are (i.e. "Thanks, A. Student") **will not receive a response**. You should get in the habit of writing emails in a professional manner, since instructors, employers, or clients will react much better to well-written correspondence.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

I expect that you will prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned material from the textbook. The textbook for this course is:

Lamy, S. L. et al. 2016. *Introduction to Global Politics*. 4th ed. Oxford University Press.

ISBN (format): 978-0-19-029979-8 (book), 978-0-19-065405-4 (looseleaf), 978-0-19-029981-1 (eBook)

You can purchase this book through the UWP bookstore site, although I strongly urge you to explore rental options or obtain the book from Amazon or elsewhere. There is no reason to buy a brand new copy if you can get a good used copy or if you are comfortable with a rental or an eBook, which typically are much less expensive. You must have a copy of this book to succeed in the course, however. Access to the publisher's online resources for this book are not required.

Additionally, there are some writing workshop readings on D2L. These readings will be referred to as "LVM2" for brevity, since the both authors are LaVaque-Manty. Selections are referred to by chapter, but may only be a selection from that chapter. You are not required to obtain the book, but here is the full LVM2 citation (in case you want to find it):

LaVaque-Manty, M. and D. LaVaque-Manty. 2015. *Writing in Political Science: A Brief Guide*. Oxford University Press.

ISBN (format): 978-0-19-020393-1 (book)

You might find this book useful if you continue to take political science classes, since it contains a chapter on writing empirical papers as well (not required for this class). If you are a political science major, finding a used copy could be a good investment.

EXAMS

There are two exams in this class, each worth 25% of your final grade. Both the midterm and the final will include thirty (30) multiple choice questions, five (5) short answer questions, and two (2) short essay questions. The midterm will cover the material in weeks 1 through 6, and the final exam will cover the material after the break, weeks 8 through 13. The class day immediately before each exam will have a review session of a discussion on the material so that you know what you need to prepare.

If you have a university-approved excuse for missing an exam, you have 24 hours to contact me in order to have the opportunity for a make-up exam. If you do not contact me within this time and provide documentation of your absence, you will not be allowed to make up the exam.

CRITICAL ESSAYS

There are two written assignments in this course, each worth 15% of your final grade. Each critical essay will be between 5 and 6 double-spaced pages. The purpose of these essays is to formulate an argument (thesis) and credibly defend your perspective by providing evidence from the textbook, lecture, or additional readings. Being “right” is not important; being *clear, concise, and leveraging the readings* to argue a point is essential. These essays are critical in that you must address the opposing point of view as well.

The guidelines document for formatting the essays is posted on D2L. Failure to follow the formatting rules for will result in a zero. There will be no opportunities to rewrite the essay if you miss the formatting, so be very careful. I am happy to meet with you prior to the deadline to read your essay and ensure you have done the assignment correctly.

Writing Workshops Additionally, the day before the essay is due we will have a modified class. Instead of lecture and discussion, we will hold a writing workshop. You will bring two draft copies of your essay to class, one for me and one for a peer reviewer. As a peer reviewer, you will read your classmate’s paper and identify some strengths and weaknesses. You will be required to give a short review of the paper, including helpful comments for improvement, to the class. The purpose of the writing workshops is to improve your paper before it is due by (1) getting feedback from another student, and (2) examining how another student addressed the essay.

Essays must be uploaded as a document to the appropriate D2L dropbox by 5:00 PM on Friday (due dates listed in the schedule below). The document must be one of the following file types: .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .pdf – note that Apple Pages cannot be read by D2L. Unreadable files will receive no points. Grades will be assigned via a rubric, available on D2L. Late essay assignments are not allowed.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is worth 10% of your final grade. A typical class meeting will have a participation exercise after the lecture component. The participation exercise will either be a class discussion (worth 2 points), peer reviewing (worth 2 points), or an exam review (worth 1 point). You will be graded on the participation activity each class period. It is in your best interest to be prepared, since poor performance on more than one activity could mean the difference between final course letter grades.

Class Discussion You will discuss some of the important ideas we cover each day, and I will act as a moderator for class discussion. I will let you know what the discussion question(s) will be in advance so that you can prepare to add to the class discussion. You should take notes while reading and/or during lecture to help you make reasoned arguments in discussion. You should also make a list of 2 - 3 additional questions related to the material, since I will randomly call on students to pose a new question when the discussion stalls. Points will be awarded for involvement in the discussion, quality of answers, and preparedness with alternative questions.

Peer Review As stated above, we will hold two modified class sessions during the semester to help you improve on your essays. Besides bringing a complete draft (2 copies) with you, you must engage in reviewing another student's paper including explaining to the class the important points of the paper you are reviewing. Points will be awarded for thoroughness of the review, as well as the helpful critiques provided for to the student you review.

Exam Review Twice this semester we will hold an exam review instead of a class discussion. You must come prepared to ask questions and help your fellow students determine the correct answers. Again, I will act as a moderator while you pose questions and work out answers to help prepare for the exam.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory, and worth 10% of your final grade. Since this class only meets once a week and we cover an entire chapter each class, you will be at a severe disadvantage on the exams by missing even one class. As such, each of the ten (10) full class periods is worth a point. The writing workshops are also worth a point, despite being shorter classes. This means that when you attend the writing workshops, you are getting extra credit towards your final grade.

You must contact me immediately if you are going to be late or if you have an emergency and need to leave early. If you miss a partial class period without discussing it with me, you will lose that entire attendance point. If you are only a few minutes late, you will be warned; but know that I will eventually take away partial or complete attendance points for students who are habitually late, depending on the severity of the offense.

Grading Policies

Consistent with the above requirements, course grades will be calculated as follows: two exams at 25% each (50%), two essays at 15% each (30%), and attendance (10%) and participation (10%) for a total 100%.

Final Grade Calculation

Two exams, 50 points each	50%
Two essays, 100 points each	30%
Attendance, 10 points	10%
Participation, 20 points	10%
Total:	100%

Grades will appear on D2L, typically in three business days or less. Grades will be calculated using the scale below. Rounding and grade curves are at my discretion. You are responsible for ensuring that you have received grades for all completed work. If you do not see a grade

for a completed exam, essay, or participation exercise you should contact me immediately. After the last class meeting I will not entertain any questions about missing work or grades on work completed during the semester.

Grading Scale

100-93	A	87-83	B	77-73	C	67-63	D
92-90	A-	82-80	B-	72-70	C-	62-60	D-
89-88	B+	79-78	C+	69-68	D+	59- 0	F

PROFESSIONALISM

You will be expected to behave professionally in this class. That is to say, you will be expected to arrive on time and to attend all meetings. You will be prepared for each class and actively participate in discussion. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior, including, but not limited to: reading non-class material, conversing during lectures, insulting classmates or the instructor, or leaving early. I also will not tolerate students who do not put forth every effort.

During class you will not be allowed to use electronic devices for anything other than academic activities. This means no social media, Youtube, etc. It is disruptive to other students and rude to the instructor and will not be tolerated. Should I encounter you misusing electronic devices during lecture, I reserve the right to take away your attendance/participation points for the day. If the behavior is distracting to other students you will be asked to surrender the device for the duration of the class or leave the room.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I take plagiarism extremely seriously. Let it be noted for the record that cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating on an examination will be punished according to University guidelines. In addition, if a paper is handed in without any citations, improper citations, or plagiarized material the paper will receive a zero, and you will be referred to the university for disciplinary action. Please consult the section on student academic dishonesty in the Student Guidebook for a listing of the practices that may be considered cheating.

EQUAL ACCESS NOTICE

It is the University's policy to provide (on a flexible and individual basis) reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services for a letter of verification to provide to their instructors. Disability Services is located in WYLL D175 and can be reached at 595-2372 or dss@uwp.edu.

Course Schedule

The topics covered and readings required for each class period appear below. Readings from the textbook are marked by a chapter number; you are expected to complete that entire chapter before coming to class that day. Writing workshop readings (LVM2) are posted on D2L.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Participation Activity
<i>I. Foundations</i>			
2/02	Introduction to Global Politics	Lamy Chapter 1	Student introductions
2/09	Evolution of Global Politics	Lamy Chapter 2	Discussion 1
2/16	Theories of IR	Lamy Chapter 3	Discussion 2
2/23	Writing workshop I (plagiarism)	LVM2 Chapters 1, 2 & 7	Peer review
2/24	Essay 1 due on D2L by 5:00 PM		
<i>II. Global Actors</i>			
3/02	Making Foreign Policy	Lamy Chapter 4	Discussion 3
3/09	Global and Regional Governance	Lamy Chapter 5	Exam review
3/16	EXAM 1		
3/23	NO CLASS (Spring Break)		
<i>III. Global Issues</i>			
3/30	Global Security	Lamy Chapter 6	Discussion 4
4/06	Human Rights	Lamy Chapter 7	Discussion 5
4/13	Writing workshop II (style)	LVM2 Chapters 3, 5 & 6	Peer review
4/14	Essay 2 due on D2L by 5:00 PM		
4/20	Global Trade and Finance	Lamy Chapter 8	Discussion 6
4/27	Poverty and Development	Lamy Chapter 9	Discussion 7
5/04	Environmental Issues	Lamy Chapter 10	Exam review
5/11	EXAM 2 (Final) at 5:45 PM		