POLS 228 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, Fall 2015
Instructor: Vincent Auger  Email: VA-Auger@wiu.edu
Office Hours (Morgan 426): M,W 12-2; Tues 1-3; or by appointment.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The current international system is characterized by growing interdependence among states and peoples, but also by many sharp divisions and conflicts. Many theories about the nature of relations among states are being questioned and reevaluated for their continuing relevance. This course is designed to help you to understand and to participate in that reevaluation, both as students of political science and as citizens. To accomplish this, the course surveys a wide range of theoretical perspectives and substantive issues. During this course we will: 1) consider several ways of explaining what occurs in international relations; 2) deepen our understanding of the historical origins and current dynamics of the contemporary international system; 3) analyze the nature of the evolving international system and specific issues of enduring importance in global politics today. This course will also provide you with opportunities to sharpen your analytical abilities, and to exercise and improve your oral and written communications skills.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and POLICIES

1) COURSE READINGS: You should complete the readings during the portion of the course for which they are assigned. This will help you understand the lectures, and will also make classroom discussion more productive and interesting.


Other course readings will be posted on the Western Online site. I also encourage you to follow current developments in world politics.

2) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: There will be four exams on the readings and lectures. Exams will have short-answer and essay questions. Missed exams may not normally be made up. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

You will write two short papers; one will be an assigned topic, the other on a topic of your choice. The assignment instructions will be available on Western Online. Each paper will be worth 50 points. You may earn extra credit by writing a third paper.

3) ATTENDANCE POLICY: Please arrive on time and remain in the classroom until class is ended. Attendance will be monitored with a sign-up sheet which will be circulated in class. It is YOUR responsibility to be sure that you have signed the attendance list. You may miss class three times during the semester without incurring a grade penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5 point deduction from your total points in the course.

4) LAPTOP COMPUTERS: The use of laptops, tablets, iPads and other electronic devices is prohibited during class without permission of the instructor.

5) Academic Honesty: Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to the WIU Student
Academic Integrity Policy at http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php. It is your responsibility to follow this policy; please ask me if you have questions.

6) ADA Statement: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

7) Student rights and responsibilities: http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php

8) COURSE GRADE - The course grade will be based on the following point totals:

466-500: A
450-465: A-
433-449: B+
416-432: B
400-415: B-
383-399: C+
366-382: C
350-365: C-
333-349: D+
316-332: D
300-315: D-
Below 300: F

III. CLASS SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 - Introduction to the Course

Aug. 26- Sept. 4 – Core Concepts and the Development of the International System
- Jackson, pp. 14-15; plus chapters 2 and 5

Sept. 7 – Labor Day – No Class Meeting

Sept. 9 – 11: Current Issues: The “Rise of China”
- Western Online readings

Sept. 14-18: Current Issues: Nuclear Proliferation and Iran
- Jackson, pp. 105-108; 258-271.
- Western Online readings

***** SEPT. 21 - EXAM # 1 *****

Sept. 23-25 - Theories in International Relations
- Jackson, pp. 56-67
- Western Online reading
Sept. 28-30 - States and Governments: Foreign Policy
- Jackson, chapters 4, plus 211-220

Oct. 2 - Non-State Actors
- Jackson, chapter 7

***** OCT. 2 - First paper due *****

Oct. 5-12 - International Law and Organization
- Jackson, pp. 153-171; 178-187

***** OCT. 14 - EXAM # 2 *****

Oct. 19 – Explaining War and Peace
- Jackson, pp. 247-258

Oct. 21- – Civil war and state failure
- Jackson, pp. 283-296

Oct. 23 – The Case of Rwanda
- Western Online readings

Oct. 26 – UN Peacekeeping and The Responsibility to Protect
- Jackson, pp. 171-178
- Western Online readings

Oct. 28-30 – Terrorism
- Jackson, chapter 11

Nov. 2-11 – Afghanistan, Iraq and the Conflicts of the Middle East
- Jackson, pp. 296-323
- Western Online readings

***** Nov. 13 - EXAM # 3 *****

Nov. 16-20 – The Politics of the Global Economy
- Jackson, chapter 12

Nov. 30- Dec. 4 - Global Inequality and Development
- Jackson, chapter 13

Dec. 7-11 – Global Environmental Issues
- Jackson, pp. 470-494
- Western Online readings

FINAL EXAM - Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 10 am