

POLS 228 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, Spring 2021

Instructor: Vincent Auger

Email: VA-Auger@wiu.edu

Virtual Office Hours: Tue 4-5 pm; Wed 11 am- 1pm; Thurs 3-4 pm

(I will be responding to emails and discussion board posts in real time during these hours;

I will try to reply to emails and posts sent at other times within 24 hours)

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. This course is designed to help you to understand and to analyze the importance of international relations, both as students of political science and as citizens. During this semester, 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 importance in global politics today.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and POLICIES

1) COURSE MATERIALS:

There is one book assigned for the course: Richard Haass, *The World: A Brief Introduction* (Penguin Press, 2020). Either the hard copy or the e-book version may be used.

We will also use materials from the website *World 101*, which is designed to complement the Haass book. For the course modules that use this website, a PowerPoint slide with the link to the specific module for that part of the course will be posted on **Western Online** with any other assigned readings.

There will also be additional materials (reading guides, PowerPoint slides, perhaps a short video) posted on **Western Online**. These are also required materials for the course and should be reviewed as you proceed through each section (or “module”) of the course.

2) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: There will be **three exams** on the readings and power point slides. Exams will have a mix of shorter and longer essay-type questions. Exams will be worth 100 points each.

There will also be a **final essay**, also worth 100 points.

Dates for submitting the exams and the paper are indicated in the course schedule (below). Exams and the paper may be submitted before the deadlines if you choose.

3) 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.

4) 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.

5) Title IX: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, have been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

6) Student rights and responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

7) COURSE GRADE: Final course grades will be based on the following point totals:

380-400: A
360-379: A-
348-359: B+
332-347: B
320-331: B-
308-319: C+
292-307: C
280-291: C-
268-279: D+
252-267: D
240-251: D-
Below 240: F

III. CLASS SCHEDULE: The course is divided into 4 modules. Each module (or each sub-module, in the case of the first three modules) will have a variety of material: a reading guide, assigned reading from the Haass book, additional readings posted on Western Online, and a set of power point slides equivalent to what I would discuss in class if we were meeting in-person. There is an exam or paper at the end of each module.

The dates listed at the beginning of each module are designed to help you stay on track to complete the course work (a suggested timeframe for completing each sub-module is after the title of the sub-module); some of you may be interested in completing the course more quickly, which is certainly permitted. I would suggest that you arrange your schedule so that you can dedicate at least 4-5 hours each week to reading and reviewing the course materials. Some students may need less time, others may need more, depending on how quickly you read and whether you already have some knowledge of some of the subject matter. Weeks when exams are due will likely require additional time.

MODULE 1: Foundations: Concepts, History, Theory (Jan. 19-Feb. 17)

a) *Studying International Relations -- Core Issues and Concepts (Jan.19-25)*

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

- Haass, Preface (pp. xv-xxii), Introduction to Part IV and “Sovereignty, Self-determination and Balance of Power” (pp. 253-263 in the print version of the book)

Western Online readings:

- *World 101: Building Blocks* (link to the website on a PowerPoint slide)
- S. Walt, “Countries Should Mind Their Own Business”
- R. Cohen, “Brexit’s Silver Lining for Europe”

b) *The State System – Historical Development and Current Status (Jan.26-Feb.8)*

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

- Haass, Part I, “The Essential History” (pp. 3-57); and “The Liberal World Order” (pp. 296-303)

Western Online readings:

- J. Hickel, “How Britain Stole \$45 Trillion from India”
- H. Kundnani, “What is the Liberal International Order?”
- R. Baker, “Challenging the Inevitability of the Liberal World Order”
- S. Patrick, “Hold Those Obituaries for the Liberal World Order”
- L.H. Loong, “The Endangered Asian Century”
- R. Mitter, “The World China Wants”

c) *Theories and International Relations – Tools for Explanation (Feb.9-15)*

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

Western Online readings:

- “Contending Perspectives: How to Think about International Relations Theoretically”
- J. Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories”
- S. Walt, “Everyone Misunderstands the Reason for the US-China Cold War”
- S. Patrick, “The Case for Ecological Realism”

******* EXAM # 1 DUE by Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 4 pm *******

MODULE 2: Global Institutions and Transnational Issues (Feb. 18-Mar. 19)

a) International Law and the United Nations (Feb. 18-Mar. 1)

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

- Haass, “International Society” (pp. 270-279)

Western Online readings:

- *World 101: Global Governance* (Lessons 1, 2, and 3, as listed on the left side of the page)

- S. Sengupta, “What Is the United Nations? Its History, Its Goals and Its Relevance”
- S. Patrick, “Why Is No One Talking About UNSC Reform Anymore?”
- S. Patrick, “10 Hard Realities About the UN on Its Troubled 75th Anniversary”
- H. Larsen, “Balancing China at the United Nations”

b) Transnational Challenges (Mar. 2-17)

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

- Haass: “Climate Change,” “Migration,” “The Internet, Cyberspace, and Cybersecurity,” and “Global Health” (pp. 183-214)

Western Online readings:

- *World 101: Climate Change*
- *World 101: Migration*
- *World 101: Cyberspace and Cybersecurity*
- *World 101: World Health Organization*

- M. Adow, “The Climate Debt: What the West owes the Rest”
- Twohey, Collins and Thomas, “With First Dibs on Vaccines, Rich Countries Have ‘Cleared the Shelves’”
- E. Rauhala and L. Kuo, “Politics frustrate WHO mission to search for origins of coronavirus in China”

******* EXAM # 2 DUE by Friday, March 19 at 4 pm *******

MODULE 3: Security and Economic Issues (Mar. 22-Apr. 16)

a) Security Issues (Mar. 22-31)

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

- Haass: “Alliances and Coalitions” (pp. 264-269); “Terrorism and Counterterrorism” and “Nuclear Proliferation” (pp. 166-182); “War Between Countries” & “Internal Instability and War Within Countries” (280-295)

Western Online readings:

- *World 101: Nuclear Proliferation*
- *World 101: Conflict*
- J. Gettleman and S.L. Myers, “China and India Brawl at 14,000 Feet Along the Border”
- K. Rudd, “Beware the Guns of August – in Asia”

b) Globalization and International Political Economy (Apr. 1-14)

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides

- Haass: “Globalization” (pp. 159-165); “Trade and Investment,” “Currency and Monetary Policy,” and “Development” (pp. 215-250)

Western Online readings:

- *World 101: Globalization*
- *World 101: Trade*
- *World 101: Monetary Policy and Currencies*
- *World 101: 50 Years of Global Development*
- *World 101: The World Bank and the IMF*
- *World 101: The World Trade Organization*

- J. Hickel, “It is time to decolonize the World Bank and the IMF”
- A. Blinder, “The Free Trade Paradox”
- D. Rodrik, “Globalization’s Wrong Turn”

- L. Moreno, “Latin America’s Lost Decades”
- D. Paquette, “The pandemic dealt a blow to global trade and revived an old dream: Self-reliance”
- Villegas, Faiola, and Wroughton, “As spending climbs and revenue falls, the coronavirus forces a global reckoning”

******* EXAM # 3 DUE by Friday April 16 at 4 pm *******

MODULE 4: What Future for the International System? (Apr. 19-May 5)

- Reading Guide and Essay Instructions

Western Online readings:

- R. Haass, "How a World Order Ends"
- J. Lind and W. Wohlforth, "The Future of the Liberal Order Is Conservative"
- G. John Ikenberry, "The Next Liberal Order"
- Yan Xuetong, "The Age of Uneasy Peace"

(No power point slides for this module)

******* FINAL ESSAY DUE: Wednesday May 5 at 4 pm *******