

POLS 228 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, Fall 2021

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Office Hours: Tue, Thurs 12:30-1:30 pm; Wed 11 am- 1pm

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 required book: Richard Haass, ***The World: A Brief Introduction***.
- We will also use materials from the website ***World 101*** (<https://world101.cfr.org/>). The website contains "modules" on various topics, broken down into individual "lessons." Unless otherwise indicated, when a module is assigned, you should read/watch all the lessons in that module. A PowerPoint slide with the link to the specific ***World 101*** modules for each part of the course will be posted on **Western Online** with any other assigned readings.
- (There is an "assessment" at the end of each module on the ***World 101*** website. They are NOT part of your grade; they are on the website as a type of "self-test" to allow you to see how well you understand the material in that lesson.)
- There will also be additional materials (readings, reading guides, PowerPoint slides) posted on **Western Online**. These are also required materials for the course.

2) Class Attendance: The following procedures are required by the University:

- a) all persons **must wear face coverings** in the classroom (see the University Policy at: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_facecovering.php)
- b) faculty conducting on-campus classes must **Maintain a seating chart and take attendance** in all class sessions.

Given the many uncertainties associated with COVID-19, **classroom attendance is not required in the course**. While attendance will be taken as required by the University, students will not be penalized for not attending class. While I believe that there are many advantages to

in-person learning, if you are feeling ill in any way, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or are uncomfortable with being in the classroom, please do not come to class. The course is designed so that the readings (other than the Haass book), reading guides and power point slides are all accessible through Western Online; all exams will also be posted to that site. This also means that if in-person classes are suspended by the University for any reason, you will still have access to the materials necessary to complete the course.

3) WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: There will be **four take-home exams** on the material in the Haass book, the *World 101* modules, the Western Online readings and the power point slides. Exams will have a mix of shorter and longer essay-type questions (that is, they are not multiple-choice exams). Exams will be worth 100 points each. Dates for submitting the exams are indicated in the course schedule (below).

4) 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.

5) 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.

6) 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>.

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

8) 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. There is an exam at the end of each module.

MODULE 1: Foundations: Concepts, History, Theory (Aug. 23-Sept. 17)

a) Studying International Relations -- Core Issues and Concepts (Aug. 25-27)

- 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”
- M. Gordon, “Somaliland’s Moment of Reckoning”

b) The State System – Historical Development and Current Status (Aug. 30 – Sept. 13)

NOTE – No class meeting on Monday Aug. 30 – begin reading Haass Part I

- 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:

- *World 101: What Is Colonialism and How Did It Arise?* [Sept. 3]
- J. Hickel, “How Britain Stole \$45 Trillion from India” [Sept. 3]
- H. French, “Africa’s ‘Big State Crisis’ Has Deep Historical Roots” [Sept. 3]

- *World 101: Global Era* [Sept. 10]
- H. Kundnani, “What is the Liberal International Order?” [Sept. 10]

- R. Baker, “Challenging the Inevitability of the Liberal World Order” [Sept. 13]
- S. Patrick, “Hold Those Obituaries for the Liberal World Order” [Sept. 13]

c) Theories and International Relations – Tools for Explanation (Sept. 15-17)

- 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 Available on Friday, Sept 17 at noon; Due by Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 11:59 pm (no class meeting on Monday Sept. 20) *******

MODULE 2: Global Institutions and Transnational Issues (Sept. 22 – Oct. 15)

a) International Law and the United Nations (Sept. 22 - Oct.1)

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides
- Haass, “International Society” (pp. 270-279)

Western Online readings:

- *World 101: Global Governance* (Lessons 1-5, 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?”
- R. Gowan, “Learning to Live with a Limited Security Council”
- J. Hickel, “It is time to decolonize the World Bank and the IMF”

b) Transnational Challenges (Oct. 4-15) (no class meetings on Fri. Oct. 8 or Mon. Oct. 11)

- 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”
- L. Friedman, et.al., “Climate Change Is a ‘Hammer Hitting Us on the Head,’ Developing Nations Say”
- M. Fisher, “Constant but Camouflaged, Flurry of Cyberattacks Offers Glimpse of New Era”
- E. Taylor, “The Bad Guys Are Winning in the Fight Against Ransomware”

******* EXAM # 2 Available on Friday, Oct. 15 at noon; Due by Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 11:59 pm (no class meeting on Monday Oct. 18) *******

MODULE 3: Security and Economic Issues (Oct. 20 – Nov. 12)

a) Security Issues (Oct. 20 – Nov. 1)

- 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: Terrorism*
- *World 101: Nuclear Proliferation*
- *World 101: Conflict*
- J.S. Nye, Jr, “What Could Cause a US-China War?” [Oct. 29]
- E. Ashford, “Great-Power Competition is a Recipe for Disaster” [Oct. 29]
- J. Mueller, “War Is on the Rocks” [Oct. 29]
- A. Marc and B. Jones, “Events of last six months show fragile countries must remain priority for the US and its allies” [Nov. 1]
- V. Joos, “Haiti Can Solve Its Own Problems, if Foreign Powers Would Let It” [Nov. 1]

b) Globalization and International Political Economy (Nov. 3-12)

- 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: Global Development*
- A. Blinder, “The Free Trade Paradox”
- D. Rodrik, “Globalization’s Wrong Turn”
- A. Rappeport, “How the IMF plans to build a \$650 billion fund to fight the pandemic”
- D. Lynch, “A rate rise in the US might trigger big problems in the developing world”

******* EXAM # 3 Available on Friday, Nov. 12 at noon; Due by Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 11:59 pm (no class meeting on Monday Nov. 15) *******

MODULE 4: What Future for the International System? (Nov. 17 – Dec. 10)

- Reading Guide
- Power point slides
- R. Haass and C. Kupchan, “The New Concert of Powers” [Nov. 17]
- S. Patrick, “A Concert of Powers Is an Idea Whose Time Has Come – and Gone” [Nov. 17]
- *Global Trends 2040*, “Introduction” (pp. 1-13) [Nov. 19]
- *Global Trends 2040*, “Structural Forces” (pp. 14-65) [Nov. 29 – Dec. 3]
- *Global Trends 2040*, “Emerging Dynamics” (pp. 66-107) [Dec. 6-8]
- *Global Trends 2040*, “Scenarios for 2040” (pp. 108-119) [Dec. 10]

******* FOURTH EXAM DUE: Wednesday Dec. 15 by 11:59 pm *******