POLS 2401: Introduction to Global Issues

Hana Medlin
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678-717-3491
Fall 2015 | Gainesville Campus - Strickland 167
Office Hours: Strickland 120 M/W 10:00AM-1:00PM
Friday 10:00-10:30AM
Section G5: M/W/F 8:00-8:50AM
Section G7: M/W/F 9:00-9:50AM

Course Overview

On its face, international relations may appear as chaotic. International relations encompasses such a wide range of topics that it can understandably feel overwhelming in the beginning- this is where our course comes into play. The purpose of this class is to provide students with an arsenal of tools in the form of theoretical frameworks and analytical skills. Developing an understanding of these concepts will cast light on why these incidents are relevant to us, and put the world into perspective.

We will begin the semester by exploring the various theories of international affairs and apply these theories to past and present events. These theories will be utilized as a lens to understand how particular events are sparked, how these events impact the state as a whole, and the ripple effect on the global community.

The concepts and themes we will cover include:
- International Relations (IR) theories: Liberalism, Realism, Constructivism
- Organizations, alliances, collective action and sovereignty
- Security and conflict
- Political economy
- Globalization and impact on environment
- Power and the role of the U.S. in world affairs
- Regional issues snapshot

** In an effort to maintain relevancy, current events will be discussed daily. Come prepared to engage in dialogue and stay up to speed on international events. **

Materials

Please note, eLearning (D2L) will be utilized for online discussions, and posting reading and other class material

Required books for this course:
- Additional articles will be assigned throughout the semester and posted on eLearning

If you need this document in another format, please email me at hana.medlin@ung.edu or call Andrew Eade directly at 706-864-1628

Class requirements and objectives

Students are expected to have read all assigned material prior to class. As mentioned above, students are also expected to stay plugged into international current events and domestic current events as they pertain to the U.S. involvement globally. Taking initiative to engage in quality dialogue enriches the class and benefits your participation grade. Understand that this class is set up to be an open arena for
ideas and speech. As intelligent adults you will be expected to show consideration for other students’ opinions. We will evaluate arguments based on merit in a respectful, thoughtful manner. If you are unable to abide by this code, please excuse yourself from the classroom.

Although commonsensical to most, some students require to see rules and good manners in writing. Using your phone and/or laptop during class for non-class related activities is not only rude, but also prohibited in the classroom. If you would rather not be involved in class, please excuse yourself from the classroom. If you do not have the couth to remove yourself, and I find you to be engaging in these disruptive activities, I will be forced to stop class and ask you to leave. You will gain much more by simply keeping yourself mentally and physically present in class.

Additionally, it is your responsibility to check your UNG email. All course communication will arrive through this email, as well as other UNG correspondence. It is also your responsibility to check eLearning for assignments, online discussions, and class materials. **Deadlines will be strictly adhered to** – you will be given ample time to complete the work and it is your responsibility to manage your time in a manner to meet these deadlines. If you have extenuating circumstances, such as an illness, you may submit documentation for an extension. Deadlines will be built into eLearning discussion boards and turnitin.com – **if you miss this deadline it will be an unfortunate zero for the assignment or test.** Internet connection failures, computer/laptop catastrophes or animals eating your paper are simply not valid excuses. Please keep yourself informed of the class schedule so these situations may be avoided.

After completing this course, students will have gained knowledge in not only global issues, but developed their analytical and critical thinking skills. Students will be able to critically evaluate information and differentiate fact from opinion, strong sources of information versus correlative information and gain a grasp on how to better build and write effective research projects. Students will build valuable group work etiquette and presentation skills, as well as an ability to view international issues from various angles and theoretical perspectives.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance for this class is not mandatory. Keep in mind that not all materials presented in class will be available on eLearning. As bright adults, you are aware that the more class you miss, the more information you miss. The more information you miss, the more you hurt your grade. Your grade, your choice.

Additionally, if you need to leave class early, please let me know before class. Make note that you will be distracting the class by leaving - respect your peers and keep the disruption to a minimum.

Please note roll will be taken during the first three weeks of the semester for UNG administrative purposes. You must sign into roll after the drop add week or you will be dropped from the course during enrollment verification.

**Assignments and Grading**

Exams: Three exams (including final), each worth 15%
Regional Issues Project: 15%
Common Assignment: 15%
Map Quizzes: 5%
Participation: Including class/group activities and online participation 20%

- Quizzes will be given if the class is not participating in class discussion or current events. Class participation = no quizzes!
- Instructions for the common writing assignment will be provided to you during class. Instructions on uploading assignments to Turnitin.com will also be provided. Please note the assignment is considered late if it is uploaded late. Give yourself plenty of time to upload the assignment so you are not penalized.

**Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
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**Policies**

Students are strongly encouraged to read through the supplemental syllabus section:
Academic Honesty: **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** If I find you to be plagiarizing steps will be initiated to apply the maximum consequence for plagiarism. Familiarize yourself with the University’s code of conduct regarding academic dishonesty. Be original and take pride in your work. You will only be cheating yourself out of learning, a grade and your sense of integrity. Keep in mind plagiarism comes in many shapes and sizes – copying and pasting directly from slides or websites is not original work! Please ask if you are unsure, citing is always the best practice when in doubt.

1.00 Academic Dishonesty
The University of North Georgia recognizes honesty and integrity as being necessary to the academic functioning of the university. The following regulations are disseminated in the interest of protecting the equity and validity of the university’s grades and degrees, and to assist students in developing standards and attitudes appropriate to intellectual life.

.01 Receiving or giving assistance (cheating) in preparation of any graded assignment without prior authorization from the class instructor.

.02 Taking or attempting to take, or otherwise procure intellectual property in an unauthorized manner.

.03 Selling, giving, lending, or otherwise furnishing to any unauthorized person by a student enrolled in that course material which can be shown to contain the questions or answers to any examinations scheduled to be given at any subsequent date in any course of study.

.04 Plagiarism. Use of another person’s ideas or expressions without acknowledging the source. Themes, essays term papers, tests and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them. When direct quotations or paraphrase are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas of another are incorporated in the paper they must be appropriately acknowledged. All work of a student needs to be original or cited according to the instructor’s requirements or is otherwise considered plagiarism.

.05 Fabricating, forging, or falsifying of laboratory results or reports.

.06 Using work from other courses, or from previous assignments, for current assignment without permission from the instructor.

Resources

You are free to choose your news source for current events, but are strongly encouraged to peruse from at least two or three sources to build a fuller picture of events. You are also encouraged to choose from various mediums- newspapers, TV, radio, etc. My recommendation is spending 15 minutes a day scrolling through the news to have a grasp on what is happening in the world.

Examples: The Washington Post, BBC, euobserver, NPR, CNN, etc. You can also use a search engine to find news.

Class Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week One:</th>
<th>Introduction to International Relations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 17 - 21</td>
<td>Chpt 1 in Snarr &amp; Snarr (Snarr)</td>
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<td>Chpt 1 &amp; 2 in McWilliams &amp; Piotrowski (MP)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Two:</th>
<th>Continue: Introduction to IR and begin IR Theories</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24 - 28</td>
<td>Read Article: Richard Haass, &quot;The Unraveling: How to Respond to a Disordered World.” Foreign Affairs (Nov/Dec 2014)</td>
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<td>Chpt 3 &amp; 4 in MP</td>
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<th>Week Three:</th>
<th>Continue: IR Theories and begin Non-State Actors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31 - Sep 4</td>
<td>Read Chpt 5 &amp; 6 in MP</td>
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<td>Read Article: Michael T. Klare, &quot;Hard power, soft power and energy power.” Foreign Affairs (March 2015)</td>
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<th>Week Four:</th>
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<td>Sept 7th</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday – No Class!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 9 - 11</td>
<td>Non-State Actors and begin Nationalism</td>
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<td>Read Chpt 3 in Snarr</td>
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Chpt 7 & 8 in MP

Week Five: Sep 14 - 18  
Continue Nationalism  
**Map Quiz 1!**  
Chpt 9 & 10 in MP

Week Six: Sep 21 - 25  
Review and **Test**  
Study! Study! Study!

Week Seven: Sep 28 – Oct 2  
Conflict and Security  
Chpt 11 & 12 in MP  
Chpt 2 & 5 in Snarr

Week Eight: Oct 5 – 9  
Continue Security and begin Political Economy  
Chpt 13 & 14 in MP  
**Map Quiz 2!**  
Chpt 6 & 7 in Snarr

Week Nine: Oct 12 - 16  
Continue Political Economy and begin Methodology  
**Common Assignment Due Oct 15 by 12:00AM**  
Chpt 15 & 16 in MP  
Chpt 8 in Snarr

Week Ten: Oct 19 - 23  
Review and **Test**  
Study! Study! Study!

Week Eleven: Oct 26 - 30  
Globalization and Environment  
**Map Quiz 3!**  
Chpt 17 & 18 in MP  
Chpt 13 - 15 in Snarr

Week Twelve: Nov 2 - 6  
Policy Making and Negotiations in IA  
Chpt 19 & 20 in MP  
Chpt 9 & 10 in Snarr

Week Thirteen: Nov 9 - 13  
Humanitarian Intervention and International Law  
**Map Quiz 4!**  
Chpt 21 & 22 in MP  
Chpt 4, 11 & 12 in Snarr

Week Fourteen: Nov 16 - 20  
**Regional Issues Presentations**

Week Fifteen: Nov 23 - 27  
Thanksgiving Break – No class!  
Relax 😊

Week Sixteen: Nov 30 - Dec 4  
Conclusion and Review – last week of class  
Chpt 23 in MP  
Chpt 16 in Snarr

Final Exams: 8:00-8:50AM Class: December 11th 8:00-10:00AM  
9:00-9:50AM Class: December 7th 8:00-10:00AM

This schedule is subject to change depending on material covered in class