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POL 102 Introduction to World Politics

As the world is globalizing, much discussion centers on the prospects for a new world order in this new millennium. Agitated talks about possible global transformation continues in the scholarly and policy making community and are fueled by the hope that enduring peace between states will emerge. However, these hopes ride alongside the fear that terrorism and violence might prove to be the century's dominant characteristic. After the end of the cold war, many people set their sights on the promise of a stable global future, and many dreaded the instability of emerging unipolarity. Expectations of a peaceful era were then abruptly brought to an end through the horrific events of 11 September 2001. Visions of world politics shifted immediately as a new mood of doom and gloom set in about the prospect that conflict rather than peace would reign in the time to come.

Our age does not have a name yet. Certainly, we are in the post-cold war, post-twentieth-century, post-September 11th phase. Yet, as scholars have pointed out, these labels do not adequately describe the period of transition through which the world is now moving. We do not yet possess sufficient confidence about the likely characteristics of the future to predict how later generations will classify the defining characteristics of world affairs in our present period of history. However, we certainly hope that it will not be the "era of terrorism." Perhaps there will never be a succinct name like the *cold-war era* because there will be no single issue that will dominate the global politics agenda. Perhaps our time will simply be the era of globalization with manifold manifestations.

Indeed, the effects of globalization and the evolution of international politics brought not only new questions about security to the forefront of the international agenda. Equally important are economic questions, environmental questions, questions about international law, world government, human rights, poverty, development and hunger, gender issues, and nationalism to name a few. Taken together these issues and the many questions they bring along provide us with an important opportunity to step back and engage in a critical look at world politics. Such is the task of our textbook for this course:

John Bailey, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (2014) *The Globalization of World Politics* (6th Edition). Oxford University Press.

This book contains contributions from well-known scholars concerned with world politics in general, and globalization and the evolution of international politics in particular. Unless otherwise marked in the course schedule below, all readings, although they are written by different authors, are from this book.

Classroom Courtesy

No computers are allowed in the classroom. Members of the class will be expected to exhibit appropriate behavior to the instructor and each other. Most importantly, students are required to give to others the respect and consideration they would wish for themselves. At its best, a university operates as a marketplace of ideas, where open discussion permits students to digest and evaluate information. Students must realize that while it is permissible to question a competing point of view, it is never appropriate to allow the conversation to degenerate into personal attacks. It is also expected that students will exhibit good manners, listen when others are talking, and generally behave in a

professional manner. Students who behave inappropriately may be asked to leave the classroom and/or will have points deducted from their final grades.

Academic Honesty

Cheating on a test or other assignment will result in an automatic loss of all points for that assignment and possibly an F for the entire course. Cheating includes looking at notes/readings during closed-book tests. Cheating also includes copying any part of a classmate's work or plagiarism of any kind. If you have any questions concerning what constitutes cheating and/or plagiarism, please consult with me.

Accommodation Requests

The Student Office for Accessibility Resources is committed to helping qualified students with disabilities achieve their academic goals by providing reasonable academic accommodations under appropriate circumstances. If you have a disability and anticipate the need for an accommodation in order to participate in this class, please register with the Student Office for Accessibility Resources. They will assist you in getting the resources you may need to participate fully in this class. You can contact the SOAR office at 864.294.2320 or at soar@furman.edu. You can find additional information and request academic accommodations at the SOAR webpage.

Resources in the Center for Academic Success (CAS; LIB 002)

The Writing & Media Lab (WML) is staffed by student Consultants who are trained to help you improve your writing and multimodal communication skills. The consultation process is non-directive and intended to allow students to maintain ownership of their work. In addition to helping with the nuts and bolts, WML Consultants also support you in developing your own ideas thoughtfully and critically, whether you're writing an essay or planning a video or other multimedia project. You may drop into the WML during its regular hours (LIB 002; 9 AM to 10 PM) or visit wml.furman.edu to make an appointment online.

Peer Tutors are available free of charge for many classes and may be requested by dropping by CAS (LIB 002) or online here: www.furman.edu/CAS. Tutors are typically recommended by faculty and have performed well in the class.

Professional Academic Assistance Staff in CAS can provide students assistance with time management, study skills, and organizational skills.

The Writing and ESL Specialist provides professional writing support as well as support for students whose primary language is not English.

Course Assignments

Before I introduce the specific course requirements, I want to emphasize that you will be expected to demonstrate good writing abilities. A clear writing style is an absolute prerequisite for you to be able to communicate your substantive points and arguments effectively. It is also very important that you proofread your papers for grammar and style. Once you have finished, let it sit for a few hours and then revisit it. This way you are more likely to detect errors and correct them in time before the due date.

Here are the course assignments for our class. Please note that the descriptions provide you with guidelines; I will give you more details as we approach the specific due dates. All writing assignments have to be typed, 1 1/2 spaced, 12 point font New Times Roman with 1 inch margins.

1. Reflective Essay (15 points)

This course, if it is successful, is likely to challenge many of your most deeply held beliefs about international politics. This essay assignment asks you to state your beliefs and perspectives at the beginning of the semester, so that you can chronicle this mini “intellectual journey.” This essay requires no research at all, just some serious thinking. You are explain **your personal beliefs on questions such as:** How do you see the world? What are the most pressing issues? What influenced your beliefs and perspectives? Etc. Even though this will be a personal and subjective essay, what you are writing should be comprehensible, plausible and logical. Clear logical writing and reasoning are a must. This essay is to be 3-4 pages long.

2. Four Examinations (10, 10, 15, 15 points)

The exams are take-home exams and they are based on our readings and class discussions. The dates for the exams are noted in the Course Outline below. On the given date the exam will be handed out in class and it will be due at the next class meeting.

3. Reflective Essay (15 points)

For this assignment you are to select the theme from our syllabus that impacted you most and you are to engage our reading materials and our class discussions about this theme. “To impact” does not necessarily mean that our reading materials and class discussion led to a change and revision of your previously held beliefs. It can equally mean that now you are even stronger in your previously held beliefs. The task of this class is not to convert you to different beliefs, but to compel continuous (self-)deliberation. It is crucial that you demonstrate in compelling how and why these themes impacted you. It is also very important that you make continuous reference to materials covering the particular themes and that you link them in logical and plausible ways to your thinking.

3. Class Attendance and Class Participation (20 points)

It is of crucial importance that you attend class and participate actively. You cannot achieve a satisfactory score in this category if you merely “sit in.” I expect the following from you:

- Preparation — your contributions demonstrate that you carefully read the assignment and engaged in it.
- Quality of Your Argument — your contributions are original, accurate and relevant to the subject matter under consideration and you reason by reference to proper evidence. Quality of Your Expression — your contribution is intelligible, concise, and addressed to your peers and the instructor.
- Contribution to the Process — knowledge is a cumulative achievement. Therefore, your contributions should demonstrate that you are listening to other students’ comments, take their ideas into consideration when responding, respect them, and criticize their arguments (not them!) constructively.
- Critical Thought — your contributions show critical awareness, do not reiterate conventional and/or common wisdom and avoid basic logical fallacies.
- Academic Openness — the etymology of the term “education” is latin (ex-ducere) and translates into “leading yourself *out* of yourself.” Be open for alternative and dissident arguments as this is very important for our intellectual maturation.

Unexcused absences will result in a loss of points towards your final grade (1 point per missed class). Excused absences are those that are accompanied by a written explanation, together with legitimate supporting documentation. For example, if you miss a class due to extracurricular activities, please provide a letter from the faculty member organizing the event; if for medical reasons, a letter from your doctor and so on.

Grading and Late Papers

Your final grade is a composition of all the items described above. Late papers are generally not tolerated and will lead to a deduction of 2 points per day on that particular assignment. Here is the grading scheme

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| 93-100 = A | 78-79 = C+ | 60-63 = D- |
| 90-93 = A- | 74-77 = C | Below 60 = F |
| 88-89 = B+ | 70-73 = C- | |
| 84-87 = B | 68-69 = D+ | |
| 80-83 = B- | 64-67 = D | |

Any student with a disability or special need should speak with me at the end of class the first day so that we can make any necessary arrangements or accommodations.

COURSE OUTLINE

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| 27 August (Tuesday): | First Day of Classes; Introduction to the course and syllabus. |
| 29 August (Thursday): | The Study of World Politics (no reading assignment). |
| 3 September (Tuesday): | Visit by Guest Scholar Eric Kaufmann. |
| 5 September (Thursday): | The Study of World Politics (no reading assignment). |
| 10 September (Tuesday): | Tim Dunne and Brian Schmidt: Realism. [Introspect. Essay Due] |
| 12 September (Thursday): | Realism, cont. |
| 17 September (Tuesday): | Tim Dunne: Liberalism |
| 19 September (Thursday): | Liberalism, cont. |
| 24 September (Tuesday): | Stephen Hobden and Richard Jones: Marxist Theories of International Relations. [First Take Home Exam Due] |
| 26 September (Thursday): | Marxist Theories of International Relations, cont. |
| 1 October (Tuesday): | Lecture on Constructivism (no reading assignment); Nationalism (Robber's Cave) |
| 3 October (Thursday): | Thomas Hobbes: Leviathan. |
| 8 October (Tuesday): | Paul Taylor and Devon Curtis: The United Nations. |

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| 10 October (Thursday): | Paul Taylor and Devon Curtis: The United Nations, cont. [Second Take Home Exam Due] |
| 15 October (Tuesday): | Fall Break |
| 17 October (Thursday): | Christian Reus-Smit: International Law. |
| 22 October (Tuesday): | Alex Bellamy and Nicholas Wheeler: Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics. |
| 24 October (Thursday): | Alex Bellamy and Nicholas Wheeler: Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics, cont. |
| 29 October (Tuesday): | Len Scott: International History, 1900-1999. |
| 31 October (Thursday): | Len Scott: International History, 1900-1999, cont. |
| 5 November (Tuesday): | tba. |
| 7 November (Thursday): | Simon Murden: Culture in World Affairs; The Clash of Civilizations |
| 12 November (Tuesday): | Edward Said on Orientalism [Third Take Home Exam Due] |
| 14 November (Thursday): | The Politics of the Middle East; reading material is tba. |
| 119 November (Tuesday): | The Politics of the Middle East |
| 21 November (Thursday): | Introduction to Islam, reading material is tba. |
| 26 November (Tuesday): | Introduction to Islam, cont |
| 3 December (Tuesday): | James Kiras: Terrorism and Globalization |
| 5 December (Thursday): | Film on Terrorism |
| 10 December (Tuesday): | Last Day of class: Concluding Reflections [Fourth Take Home Exam Due] |
| Final Exam Date: | [Reflective Essay Due] |