COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course offers an interpretive survey of world (or comparative) politics. One of the basic questions it seeks to address is how societies and states organize to cope with internal diversity and global change. And, as you are no doubt aware, the transformations and challenges the world has experienced—especially in the past two decades or so—are immense. We will attempt to gain a better understanding of how nations grapple with domestic and international diversity in two primary ways. This first is to establish a base of knowledge regarding the problems and issues associated with states and nations, democratic and nondemocratic systems, economic growth, etc. The second is through a collaborative learning exercise which will enhance our knowledge of world politics at a more “granular” level. Therefore, it is not too much of an understatement to note that we will have much to consider, discuss, and do in the coming days and weeks!

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION: Class will three days a week (MWF) from 10:30-11:20 a.m. in JH 107. My office hours are Monday and Wednesday between 3:30-4:30, or by appointment. My office is Johns Hall 111B. My office phone is 294-3185; also feel free to contact me by e-mail (Cleve Fraser).

REQUIRED READINGS: The following textbooks are required for the course:


Other materials will be posted on this course’s Moodle portal.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your grade for this course will be determined on the basis of four exercises, dated and weighted as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam I</td>
<td>Monday, February 5</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam II</td>
<td>Monday, February 26</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Glocalization” presentations</td>
<td>April 9-April 20</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Saturday, April 28 (8:30-11:00 a.m.)</td>
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All exams will be short-answer essay. The last two exams will be cumulative, although questions will be skewed toward material not covered on previous exams.

In an increasingly globalized world, there seems to be two sometimes complementary and sometimes conflictual tendencies at work. On the one hand, the forces of globalization have expanded and deepened the connections between societies across the globe. On the other hand, these very same forces have had particular impacts on individuals and societies which have sometimes been beneficial, other times not. The nexus between the global and the local has been termed “glocalization.”
To take a “local” example, one might think about how the decision by BMW to locate a manufacturing facility in the Greenville-Spartanburg area has influenced not only the automaker’s bottom line, but the state of South Carolina, the upstate, and individuals and their families.

More specific information on this assignment will be forthcoming in the near future, and should be considered as an appendix to this document.

I am a technophile by nature—that is, I usually embrace and use the latest electronic gadgets. I suspect that many of you are technophiles too, but during our class time together please insure that all of your electronic communications devices are turned off for the duration of the class. The owner of a ringing PDA/cell phone will lose two (2) points per occurrence on his/her most proximate assignment.

With respect to the use of computers for note taking, let me point you to a summary of a recent study which may assist in making an informed decision on whether or not using computers improves a student’s classroom performance. Again, my preference is for old school pen and paper notation, but I recognize that there are valid reasons for employing computers and tablets to record information in this type of setting.

Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations should contact the SOAR Office in a timely manner prior to contacting me. The number is 294-2320. They are located in Room 202, Earle Infirmary.

**COURSE GRADE:** Your written examinations will be assigned both a numeric and alphabetic grade (out of 100 points). Here is the scale: 100-98=A+; 97-92=A; 91-90=A-; 89-88=B+; 87-82=B; 81-80=B-; 79-78=C+; 77-72=C; 71-70=C-; 69-68=D+; 67-62=D; 61-60=D-; 59 and below=F.

Your final grade will be determined by (a) converting your letter grades into the following numerical scale: A+=12; A=11; A-=10; B+=9; B=8; B-=7; C+=6; C=5; C-=4; D+=3; D=2; D-=1; F=0; (b) weighting each score by the percentage that each assignment counts toward your final grade, and then (c) summing the weighted values to arrive at a final score, which ranges from 12 (A+) to 0 (F).

**COURSE OUTLINE:** It will be your responsibility to utilize the time between our sessions to insure that you read and reflect on the material before the date which it will be considered. A final note: the instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the syllabus.

**January 8** Course Introduction

**January 10** Preliminary Questions in World (Comparative) Politics, Part 1

- Defining terms/concepts
- Considering the methods of studying world politics
- Thinking about the “science” in Political Science

**Readings:** O’Neil, chapter 1
January 12  Preliminary Questions in World Politics, Part 2

- Why study comparative politics?
- Thinking about the “science” in Political Science

Readings: O’Neil, chapter 1

January 15  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no class)

January 17  The State, Part 1
- States, regimes, and governments
- Origins of the modern state system

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 2 (pp. 31-46)

January 19  The State, Part 2
- Characteristics
- Types

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 2 (pp. 46-60)

January 22  Nations and national identity
- Societies and nations
- Implications of nations and nationalism

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 3 (pp. 63-77)

January 24  Political attitudes and ideology
- Attitudes and political culture
- Ideologies

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 3 (pp. 77-95)

January 26  Political Economy, Part 1
- Building blocks and policy choices

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 4 (pp. 97-110)

January 29  Political Economy, Party 2
- Types of systems

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 4 (pp. 110-126)
January 31  Political Economy, Part 3

- Liberalism and its discontents

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 4 (pp. 126-132)

February 2  Catch-up and review

February 5  Midterm Exam 1

February 7  Democracy, Part 1

- Definitions
- Origins
- Institutions

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 5 (pp. 135-150)

February 9  Democracy, Part 2

- Types of democratic systems

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 5 (pp. 150-170)

February 12  Authoritarianism, Part 1

- Definitions
- Impulses

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 6 (pp. 173-184)

February 14  Isms and authoritarianism

- Corporatism, liberalism, and Marxism

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 6 (pp. 184-191)

February 16  Authoritarianism, Part 2

- Types of authoritarian systems

  Readings: O’Neill, Chapter 6 (pp. 191-202)

February 19  Developed Democracies, Part 1

- Definitions and practice

  Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 8 (pp. 235-245)

February 21  The European Union
Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 8 (pp. 246-264)

February 23 Catch-up and review

February 26 Midterm Exam 2

February 28 Socialism and Communism
  - Theory
  - Practice

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 9 (pp. 267-285)

March 2 Issues in the Post-communist Era
  - Transformation and reform
  - The “wall inside people’s heads”

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 9 (pp. 285-303)

March 5 Spring Break (no class)

March 7 Spring Break (no class)

March 9 Spring Break (no class)

March 12 Issues of Development
  - Poverty and inequality
  - Uneven economic growth
  - Causes

Readings: O’Neill, Chapter 10 (pp.305-324)

March 14 Theories of Development and Modernization
  - Development/modernization
  - Dependency
  - Neo-liberalism

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 10 (pp. 324-337)

March 16 Political Violence
  - Definitions
  - Theories
  - Types
Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 7 (pp. 205-223)

March 19  Political Violence: motivations and responses
- Religion
- Responses

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 7 (pp. 223-232)

March 21  Globalization, Part 1
- Definition
- Types

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 11 (pp. 339-356)

March 23  Globalization, Part 2
- Recent?
- The way forward

Readings: O’Neil, Chapter 11 (pp. 356-367)

March 26  Globalization Redux
- Definitions
- Old or new?

Readings: Steger, Chapters 1 and 2

March 28  Globalization, Part 2
- Cheerleaders and discontents

Readings: Steger, Chapter 7

March 30  Easter Holiday (no class)

April 2  Easter Holiday (no class)

April 4  Aspects of Globalization, Part 1
- Political
- Economic

Readings: Steger, Chapters 3 and 4

April 6  Aspects of Globalization, Part 2
- Cultural
• Environmental

*Readings:* Steger, Chapters 5, 6, and 8

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