POSC 170-00: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & WORLD POLITICS

Syllabus

Monday and Wednesday: 9:50a.m – 11:00a.m
Friday: 9:40a.m – 10:40a.m
January 6 – March 12, 2014

Willis 203
The Department of Political Science
Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Tun Myint
Willis 403
Office Hours: MW 11:00a.m – 12:00 noon and T 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., and by appointment.
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COURSE GOALS

How will America’s energy independent status affect international relations and world politics? What does “the rise of China” mean to international relations and world politics? How can we understand the rise of violent non-state actors? How can we theorize the influence of non-violent non-state actors in world politics? How does WikiLeaks challenge states and statecentric international politics? How are multinational corporations influential in shaping world politics? Can universal peace be attained? Can nuclear-free world polity be achieved? Should the whole world be democratic? Can poverty be eradicated? Are human rights universal? How can humanity address the issues of global environmental changes? Is climate change a national security threat? What does globalization mean to you? How do your daily livelihoods influence international relations and world politics? How do the contents of your breakfast define international relations? These enduring questions are a source of motivation for the international relations scholars. As such, we will examine how the theories of international relations and world politics provide conceptual and theoretical tools to understand these questions.

This course introduces students to the practices and theories that explain and predict the origin, dynamics, and the future of international relations and world politics. Mainstream theories of international relations (IR) and world politics focus on explaining and predicting statecentric world politics. While the dominant theories of IR are powerful in explaining the origin and dynamics of world politics as long as states are central players, they are insufficient in explaining and predicting both the statecentric (monocentric) world politics and multi-actor-centric (polycentric) world politics.

In this course, it is important then to consider the subject of international relations and world politics from both monocentric and polycentric theories and concepts. With this premise, the
course’s goals are: (1) to understand historical background of mainstream theories of international relations and world politics; (2) to analyze the validity and insufficiencies of the mainstream scholarship in explaining and predicting the phenomena of world politics; and (3) to prepare students for the challenges in the practice of world politics and to advance the scholarship of theory building on evolving world politics and international relations. To achieve these goals, the course will follow the outline below.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1: SOCIETY OF STATES
WEEK 2: THEORETICAL LENS
WEEK 3: EPISTEMIC AND ONTOLOGICAL CHALLENGES
WEEK 4: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES
WEEK 5: INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL SOCIETY
WEEK 6: NON-STATE ACTORS
WEEK 7: DYNAMICS OF WORLD POLITICS
WEEK 8: POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE
WEEK 9: FINDINGS FROM TEAM RESEARCH
WEEK 10: CONCLUSION

Required Texts:


In addition to some chapters of this text, there will be e-reserve readings at the library and Course folder. I may also use visual materials such as movies, news clippings, and documentary videos that will serve as illustrations to the theories, concepts, and puzzles we struggle with in the course. Occasional handouts will accompany the flow of discussion.

In addition to above materials, you are required to read your colleagues’ critical thinking essay that is described in assignment #3 below.

IMPORTANT: This is a provisional syllabus and subject to change depending on the ebb and flow of the course and surrounding worlds.
ASSIGNMENTS, EXPECTATIONS, AND GRADE

There are five components for the course assignments. These five components will be used to evaluate your performance in this course. The percentage of each assignment for your final grade is in parentheses. The details are as follow:

(1) Participation (20%): Your participation in this course begins with reading assigned materials before the day of class for which readings are assigned. Raising questions, reflecting on lectures and your colleagues’ discussion in class are all counted as participation. This course will be conducted mostly in interactive lecture style. There will also be group-led and group-based discussion sessions. What this means is that you will have many opportunities to participate during the lecture. To be an effective participant, paying attention to current day world affairs and thinking about them along with the readings will be important. This requires you to read news in hard and soft media. Visiting local, national, and international news websites regularly and seeking news on world politics will be helpful. Bring news reports and cases from these sources to class discussion. In sum, to be a good standing citizen of this course, you are required to: (1) have good attendance; (2) read assigned materials before the class; (3) have timely notification and communication with me when you have to be absent or if you need to request an extension for assignments with personal reasons; (4) exercise self-respect and responsibility as a student for the success in learning mission of this course and Carleton College as a whole; and (5) exercise your intellectual freedom in class discussions and assignments for the course. Your participation in the group project described in the assignment #4 below is worth 5% of the total course grade. Thus your participation grade is a combination of participation in the course (15%) and participation in the group project (5%).

(2) Active reading questions (ARQs, 5%): Every Friday, you will receive active reading questions related to the following week’s readings. There will be three sets of active reading questions per week – for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday respectively. You are required to answer three sets of active reading questions during the term. Your answer must be submitted to the entire class by 5:00 p.m. on the day before the class by sending to: posc170-00-w14@lists.carleton.edu. You should select at least one ARQ before and after the mid-term. You cannot select a set of questions for the readings that had been discussed in class. For example, if you select to respond to a set of questions for Wednesday, January 15, your responses to those questions have to be submitted to class listserv by mid-night on Tuesday, January 14. Do not wait to answer ARQs until week nine.

(3) Critical thinking essay (20%): Each student is required to complete one critical thinking essay during the term. The due date for the essay is to be self-assigned on Wednesday, January 8 when I will have a sign-up sheet. For this essay, you can pick a topic out of my suggested list in Appendix A. Please be advised that the topics in the Appendix A are broad and you should consult with me if you are unsure about the focus for your thesis statement. You can also come up with your own topic and consult with me before writing the essay. The goal of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to engage theories and concepts you learned from the assigned readings, interactive lectures, and the discussion of current world politics. This essay must be a thesis driven or argumentative piece with a clear statement of position or a well defined thesis. I encourage you to be specific in argument and illustration with examples drawn from credible sources including those from your life experiences and worldviews. The length of the essay should be between 1800 and 2000 words. Your essay
must be submitted to the listserv of the class on your self-selected due date by 5:00 p.m. The address for the listserv is: posc170-00-w14@lists.carleton.edu. I may also use your essay for the illustrations and discussion in class as appropriate. You are required to read these essays and treat them as assigned readings for the course. See Appendix B for the guideline, expectation, and grading rubric for the essay.

(4) Group Project (35%): A group of four to five students will select one of eight case studies that will be discussed in throughout the term. These eight cases will be introduced to the class on the first day of class when I ask you to fill out my survey for your interest in taking the course. The group members will collaborate in each process of the project which includes: (1) selection of topics and generating research questions; (2) outlining group paper; (3) drafting the first version of group paper; (4) writing the final draft of group paper; (5) conducting group presentation in class; and (6) writing final polished paper for the term. The groups will be established by January 17. The paper should be between 6000 and 8000 words on double spaced pages. More details about the process and assignment guidelines for the project will be distributed by January 17 after we have established groups. The extensive outline of the group paper is due on February 4 at 5:00 p.m. (5 points). The first draft of the group paper is due on February 18 (5 points). The final draft of the group paper is due at noon on March 2. (10 points). You will submit the final polished version of the group paper on March 17 at noon (15 points). The hard copy of final paper which includes a cover page with the title, names of group members, and date is required to be submitted to me. At the end of the course, you will evaluate the participation of your group members throughout the project. I will use your evaluation of your group members as advisory opinion to assess 5% of their course participation grade for the course which is explained in assignment #1 above.

(5) Group Presentation (20%): Each group will present the findings in class on March 7, 10 and 12. Each group is required to submit powerpoint slides before the day of presentation to me by email. Your presentation is evaluated based on: (1) control of contents as you select what to present from a research paper to powerpoints in a given time slot; (2) control of language and narrative; (3) eye-contact and connection with the audience; (4) professionalism, professional posture, and level of confidence; (5) organization of the presentation and narrative; (6) appearance of powerpoint slides and visual aid; (7) quality of connection, collaboration, and coherence among presenters; (8) level of authority you project by using credible sources and evidences; (9) connection between your paper and presentation; and (10) your creativity to motivate your audience and making your presentation humanly interesting. Based on your team presentation and my reading of your final draft of the paper, I will provide written comment on your final draft submitted to me on March 2. Your presentation and my comments should prepare you to write the final-polished paper which is due at noon on March 17.

NOTE: All written assignments should be double-spaced pages with 12 point Times New Roman font and page numbers inserted properly. Your three responses to active reading questions and your critical thinking essay have to be submitted to class listserv address: posc170-00-w14@lists.carleton.edu
Schedule of Assignments and Due Dates

1/6  - Course survey
1/10 - Sign up for the due dates for the critical thinking essay assignment (graded)
1/17 - Distribute assignment details and guidelines for group project
1/20 - Library Research Guide Session at LIBE 306
1/24 - First team meeting should be conducted by today (team participation grade)
2/4  - The outline of group paper is due at 5:00p.m. (graded)

2/8 – 2/10 MID-TERM BREAK

2/16 - The first draft of group paper is due (graded in combination with the outline)
3/2  - The final draft of group paper is due (graded)
3/5  - Meetings with groups
3/7  - Group presentations … (graded)
3/10 - Group presentations … (graded)
3/12 - Group presentations … (graded)

3/16  - FINAL GROUP PAPER IS DUE at noon (graded)

COURSE CONDUCT

The key for you to be successful as a student and for me as a teacher in this course is timely and effective communication between you and me. In addition, Carleton offers numerous resources for you to excel in your learning. If you do not know them, do not be shy to ask. Make good use of resources on campus. For all writing assignments, I highly recommend you seeking the help of The Writing Center on campus even if you consider yourself to be the best writer in the world.

a. Attendance: Attendance for all classes is required for this course. If you need to be absent from the class, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance. When you are absent, it is to your benefit to borrow notes from your classmate or ask your classmates to learn what you missed. Your participation grade will be substantially affected if you are absent more than three classes without prior notification in person or without notification from the Wellness Center.

b. Plagiarism: I have zero tolerance for plagiarism. You have to cite sources of ideas, facts, and analyses including the opinion of classmates you read in their critical thinking essays. For example, if you take an idea from one of the critical thinking essays of your classmate, cite his or her essay. A summary of the College’s policy on plagiarism states: “At Carleton College, an act of academic dishonesty is therefore regarded as conflicting with the work and purpose of the entire College and not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor; all cases involving such dishonesty are referred for appropriate action to the Academic Standing Committee (ASC) via the Associate Dean of Students or the Associate Dean of the College.” For more information on Carleton’s policy on academic honesty, please consult http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/dos/handbook/academic_regs/?policy_id=21359
c. **Late assignments**: Assignments are due on the dates specified in this syllabus or in the assignment sheet. There will be half point reduction per late day for late work. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time due to illness or personal emergency, you can request an extension with the supporting documents such as a medical note from a doctor or the Wellness Center.

d. **Special needs**: If you require special accommodation due to a documented physical or medically classified different learning capacity, please come to see me or inform The Wellness Center during the first week of class or any time throughout the semester to discuss how I might best assist you in meeting the objectives and requirements of this course.

In addition, Carleton’s Coordinator of Disability Services has this statement:

> Carleton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services, Andy Christensen, at 222-4464 or anchrist@carleton.edu, to begin the process. Carleton faculty are strongly encouraged to wait for official notification of accommodations before modifying course requirements for students.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

**WEEK 1: SOCIETY OF STATES**

**January 6: Introduction to the Course**

This syllabus

**January 8: Sovereignty of States**


Part I: *Of Man*, pp. 183–239

**January 10: Realism and Evolution of International Society**


WEEK 2: THEORETICAL LENS

January 13: Liberalism and Globalization


January 15: Neo-Realism, Neo-Liberalism


January 17: Constructivism and Systemic Views


Case study: The rise of China

*Suggested Readings for Team Project:*


WEEK 3: EPISTEMIC AND ONTOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

January 20: Library Research Guide Section

NOTE: There will be no lecture. A superb librarian Danya Leebow will lead us to show secrets and superpower of grownups conducting research at Room LIBE306.
January 22: Polycentricity of World Politics


Chapter 3: Emptiness, Relativity, and Quantum Physics, pp. 43–69

Milton Friedman, “Free to Chose: The Power of Market” [no reading for this but will watch a video clip online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3N2sNnGwa4 It is an hour long and be prepared for that. Pay attention to Friedman’s description of political order in market society by thinking carefully about how and why he describes the social order behind the pencil.

January 24: Assessing Epistemic Challenges


Michael Cox, “From the cold war to the world economic crisis,” The Globalization of World Politics p. 68-79.

WEEK 4: STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

January 27: Theorizing Globalization(s)


James C. Scott “Vernaculars Cross-Dressed as Universals: Globalization as North Atlantic Hegemony,”
http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1229&context=macintl

January 29: The United Nations in the World Politics


Case study: The Case of United Nations handling Burma issue

Suggested Readings for Group Project:


January 31: International Law


February 2: Movie screening at LIBE 305 at 7:30p.m.

On Our Watch

WEEK 5: INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL SOCIETY

February 3: What is security and for whom?


February 5: National Security and Human Security

February 7: Humanitarian Interventions in World Politics


Case study: Reconstruction of Haiti and international community after Earthquake, Watch this: http://www.democracynow.org/2010/2/16/haiti_the_politics_of_rebuilding_a

FEBRUARY 8-10 MID-TERM BREAK

WEEK 6: NON-STATE ACTORS

February 12: Nuclear Weapons


Start treaty handouts


Case Study: The Obama Administration’s approach to nuclear weapons (handouts)

Watch Obama’s Prague Speech:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYcAr0ZDSLg

Watch U.S.A – Russia Signing of START treaty (optional): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSrOmTqsFiE

Press conference on START (optional): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjUXuFfU7UU
February 14: Global Regulatory Regimes?


**Case Study:** Nam Theun 2 Dam Lao P.D.R. See: www.namtheun2.com

February 16: Documentary Screening at LIBE 305 at 7:30 p.m

*Blood Diamonds (Diamonds of War)*

WEEK 7: DYNAMICS OF WORLD POLITICS

**February 17: The Influence of Non-State Actors**


**Case Study:** The Kimberley Process on diamond trade

**February 19: WikiLeaks, Social Media and Diplomacy**


Ewen MacAskill., “Columbia students told job prospects harmed if they access WikiLeaks cables” guardian.co.uk, Sunday 5 December 2010 20.17 GMT.

**February 21: Environmental Issues**


**Case study:** The International Water Tribunal in the Rhine [no readings].
WEEK 8: POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE

February 24:  Group writing [I will be in Singapore for an invited presentation]

February 26:  Group writing [I will be in Singapore for an invited presentation]

February 28:  Democracy Deficit in the World Politics


WEEK 9: DEMOCRACY & GLOBALIZATION

March 3:  Is Democracy a Universal value?


March 5:  The End of Dictators?


Case Study:  Myanmar democratic reform

March 7:  Group Presentations

WEEK 10:  YOUR FINDINGS

March 10:  Group Presentations
March 12: Group Presentations & Conclusion

March 17: Final group paper is due by noon.
Appendix A

Potential Topics for Critical Thinking Essay

The following topics are intended to make you think about your own topic and thus they are broad. These topics can be narrowed down to your point of interest. You are encouraged to consult with me before deciding your topic.

1. Should WikiLeaks be banned?
2. Realism and neorealism explain and predict world politics more accurately than liberalism and neoliberalism.
3. Would eradicating dictatorships around the world make the world safer? Why or why not?
4. Can a nuclear-free world be achieved?
5. Is climate change a national security threat to United States?
6. Is Obama a realist or liberal according to his Nobel Prize speech and subsequent policies?
7. Democracy is (is not) a universal value.
8. Human rights are (or are not) a universal value.
9. Is the rise of China a threat to the world OR is it a positive sign for the world. Why?
10. Are multinational corporations more powerful than states in today’s world? In what sense and why?
11. Globalization reduces diversity of [culture, language, and commodities] OR the opposite.
12. Security dilemma in international arena does not exist in global era OR does continue to exist. Why or why not?
13. Should responsibility to protect (R2P) citizens become an international law?
14. What would realists say about the case of Doe v. Unocal?
15. How do Thomas Hobbes and Dalai Lama describe nature of individual and the nature of associations among individuals? How are states formed in each thought? Who do you think have more explanatory power and why?
16. What make Internet and social media influential in world politics today and why?
17. What are the sources of ‘legitimacy’ of non-state actors in world politics while state’s source of legitimacy rest in the theory of sovereignty that Hobbes explained in Leviathan? In other words, what make you think that they should be legitimate players in world politics?
18. Why should you care about poverty in a country like Cambodia or Uganda? What theoretical lenses we study in class support your position?
19. Why and how did Eurocentric models of state become a model for nation-states around the world?
20. How do Doe v. Unocal case and the case of Blood Diamonds promote corporate social responsibility (CSR)? Do you see them as a model for CSR? Why or why not?
Appendix B

Guidelines and Grading Rubric for Critical Thinking Essay

Direction: Each student is required to complete one critical thinking essay during the term. The due date for the essay is to be self-assigned on January 9 when I will have a sign-up sheet. You can pick the topic out of my suggested list in Appendix A. You can also come up with your own topic and consult with me before writing the essay. The goal of the essay is to give you the opportunity to engage theories and concepts you learned from the assigned readings, lectures, and the discussion of current world politics. **This essay must be a thesis driven or argumentative piece with a clear statement of position or thesis.** You have to be specific in arguments and illustrations with examples including those from your life experiences and worldviews. The length of the essay should be between 1800 and 2000 words including the title of the essay. Page numbers must be inserted. References must be listed in MLA, Chicago, or Harvard style. **Your essay must be submitted to the listserv of the class on self-selected due date by 5:00p.m.** The address for the listserv is: posc170-00-w14@lists.carleton.edu I may also use your essay for the illustrations and discussion in class as appropriate.

The following is the rubric I use for evaluating your essay. My expectation is nothing more and nothing less than the guidelines provided in the first column and the explanation I extended in the second column. Please allow yourself to meet with me if you are unclear about these expectations.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded areas/guidelines</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A clear thesis or position statement</td>
<td>Do you clearly state your thesis statement in the first paragraph of the essay? Are questions provided if the essay is driven by questions? Do you state your position clearly if you argue for a position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity and organization</td>
<td>Does your essay have the title and organization of ideas that follow nicely one after another? For example, you can provide the outline of your essay in the second paragraph after introducing your thesis or position statement in the first paragraph. You can say “In this essay, I will first clarify my position on realist argument for security dilemma. Second, I will apply realist assumptions behind security dilemma to explain why my position is pertinent. Third, I will provide examples, data, and evidences supporting my position. Fourth, I will consider counterpoints. And finally, I conclude by arguing that my position is very valid due to…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate language and control of errors</td>
<td>Do you proofread and correct errors? Do you control the use of weasel words? “A weasel word and phrases aim at creating an impression that something specific and meaningful has been said, when in fact only a vague or ambiguous claim has been communicated.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of the concepts from the readings and class discussions</td>
<td>Do you show that you can apply concepts and theories you learned from the class readings and discussion into your essay? Are you specific in applying the concepts and theories from the readings?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical thinking &amp; creativity</td>
<td>Do you deconstruct and challenge or validate assumptions behind theoretical concepts you apply in your essay? Do you expect counterpoints? Do you critically examine direct counterpoints to your thesis or positions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of concrete evidence or illustrations</td>
<td>Do you provide concrete examples? Do you illustrate your ideas and arguments using or citing credible sources of quantitative and qualitative measurements, historical events, and facts?</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL Point</td>
<td>Your grade points will be indicated here.</td>
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## Appendix C

### Guidelines and Grading Rubric for Group Presentation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Areas/Guidelines</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control of contents</td>
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<td>Control of language and narrative</td>
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<td>Eye-contact and connection with the audience</td>
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<td>Professionalism, posture, and level of confidence on the topic</td>
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<td>Organization of presentation and narrative</td>
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<td>Appearance of slides and visual aid</td>
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<td>Quality of connection, collaboration, and coherence among presenters</td>
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<td>Level of authority presented by the use of credible resources and evidences</td>
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<td>Connection between the paper and presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creativity to motivate audience and to keep the audience attention</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL POINTS</td>
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