

Political Science 2401 Global Issues

Spring 2017 (CRN: 13566)

Tues Thurs 1:00-2:15 pm

Class Location: Langdale 300

Instructor: Professor Rebekah Dowd
Email: rdowd2@gsu.edu

Office Hours: Mon 3-4pm, Thurs, 10-10:45 am (or by appointment)
Office Location: Langdale Building - 9th floor, Office 929

Course Description:

This course introduces students to current issues in international politics and the global community. We will look at the impact that international interdependence has created within the political, economic, social, health and environmental issue arenas. It is assumed students have limited prior knowledge of the topics, therefore this course allows students to develop an operational understanding of the types of common world problems, and policies that have been created to address these issues. The first part of the semester sets the foundation by explaining the structure of the international stage and its key actors. The second part of the semester delves into the international economy, food security, and shared health risks. The third part of the semester completes the picture by analyzing some of today's emerging challenges, including human rights, environmental policies, and changing political conditions.

Course Promises:

I will do my utmost to ensure your successful completion of this course, by providing comprehensive class experiences and supportive materials. I will also be available during office hours and via email to answer your questions. If you fully utilize the materials and support offered, at the end of this course, you will have achieved the following **Course Learning Objectives**.

Students should be able to:

- Identify key components of the contemporary international system.
- Discuss state sovereignty in the international system.
- Explain the existence and utility of international law, including identification of international judicial bodies and their functions.
- Understand the main organs of the United Nations and their functions.
- Identify at least one major regional IGO (EU, AU, OAS, ASEAN, etc.) in the international system and explain its goals and current status towards achieving those goals.
- Describe what an NGO is and identify the goals of major NGOs.
- Explain what a weapon of mass destruction is, present differing perspectives on policies and international treaties and regimes aimed at preventing the proliferation of such weapons, and articulate the position of those states that are trying to acquire such weapons.
- Define terrorism, present differing arguments seeking to explain the motivation of terrorists, and distinguish between terrorism and other forms of non-conventional warfare.
- Articulate the concept of human rights, including the history of the growth of human rights, and the major international treaties and conventions relating to human rights.
- Discuss the major environmental issues facing the international system, as well as efforts made to deal with these issues, and the positions and controversies surrounding environmental issues.
- Display knowledge of the diversity of living standards in the world, as well as the main arguments on health and food security, along with development and development strategies.
- Describe the flow of finances and technology in the international system, including the main characteristics of international trade, and the impact of such trade on economic development and standards of living.
- Explain multinational corporations and their operations in developing countries.

- Understand and identify the major issues involved in ongoing international conflicts.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend class; it counts toward your grade.
- Read the assigned texts; they lay the groundwork for what we do and discuss during class-time.
- Take the quizzes and exams. I use these to help me know how successfully I’m communicating the material during the lectures and assess your progress during the course.
- You will have the option to produce either an online presentation or a 3-page written paper for extra credit. This will allow you to articulate what you’ve learned in a comprehensive manner.

Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Attendance – 10%

Map Quizzes – 10%

Reading Quizzes – 10%

RCII Quizzes – 10%

Exam 1 – 25%

Exam 2 - 25%

Online Cumulative Exam – 10%

Optional Extra Credit Presentation or Paper – potential 10 points

Grading Scale:

A+	98-100	B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D	60-69
A	94-97	B	84-87	C	74-77	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B-	80-83	C-	70-73		

Attendance:

I will take this during each class. Show up, because I will cover content during the class that is NOT covered in the assigned readings. You need to be present, otherwise you will miss vital concepts. Exams will include a combination of material covered in the readings, during lectures, and in classes. You get two missed classes without penalty. Otherwise, please provide a documented excuse for your absence. Attendance contributes 10% of your total class grade.

Map Quizzes:

You will have a better understanding of the relationships between states if you know where they are located. Each of the three map quizzes will cover one or two regions at a time, involve labeling a blank map, and will be given online on iCollege. Study maps will be posted in Brightspace prior to each quiz. Each quiz will only be open for 72 hours and will not be reopened for making up the quiz, if you miss it during the dates it is open. Each quiz will require accurate labeling of approximately twenty countries and is worth 3.3% of the total class grade. In total, the map quizzes comprise 10% of your total class grade.

Reading Quizzes:

Complete the assigned readings for that date BEFORE coming to class. The reading quizzes will reflect the content of the assigned texts. The reading quizzes will be offered online, and be timed. You may use your book, but because they are timed you won’t have enough time to look up the answers. You must read the material and be familiar with it to pass the reading quizzes. There will be approximately three of these during the semester, with 10 multiple choice questions in each quiz. Each quiz will be opened for 72 hours only, during the time of the semester that the material is assigned to be read. Each reading quiz counts for 3.3% of your total class grade. You may not make up reading quizzes if you miss them. The reading quizzes added together comprise 10% of your total class grade.

RCII Quizzes:

These quizzes are posted online, with a total of 12 quizzes during the term. The quizzes are based upon your use of an online database (Robinson Country Intelligence Index) which tracks governance, economics, business operations, and social factors within the international system. Use of the database and quizzes allow you to reinforce concepts you learn within the class, as well as improve your data and digital literacy skills. You are required to complete one quiz each week. Each quiz expires after the week ends and you will not be allowed to complete the quiz after it closes. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. The RCII quizzes comprise 10% of your total class grade.

To access the Robinson Country Intelligence Index (RCII) – you must subscribe online. Sign up information can be found here: <http://rcii.gsu.edu/>)

- a. When subscribing, enter the code – academic (case sensitive) – to get discounted student rate.
- b. In addition to subscribing, you must sign up/create an account in the RCII system. You must use the same email address you used to subscribe.

Note, for this course students must have adequate online access to take weekly quizzes in iCollege, as well as complete other coursework.

Note, technical excuses for being unable to successfully take quizzes will not be accepted. You must take the quizzes between the specified times/dates listed in the course outline below.

Exam 1:

This exam will likely be a multiple choice test. It will cover the the material presented prior to the exam and will be given during class. Exam 1 comprises 25% of your total class grade.

Exam 2:

This exam will likely be a multiple choice test. It will cover the material presented after Exam 1 and will be given during class. Exam 2 comprises 25% of your total class grade.

Online Cumulative Exam:

All students enrolled in Global Issues at GSU are required to take an online cumulative exam. This exam will be likely a multiple choice question format, approximately 20 questions. The content will cover all material introduced in the term.

OPTIONAL Extra Credit Presentation OR Written Paper:

You have the option of EITHER doing a presentation in class or a written paper.

Presentations: The presentations will be on assigned topics. If you choose to do a presentation, you must have it pre-approved via email request to the instructor by the date posted in the weekly schedule. Presentations can be either narrated Power Point/Prezi, or a self-produced video. All will be posted online and due prior to Exam 1 or Exam 2, on the date posted on the weekly schedule. A grading rubric for the presentation requirements will be posted online. If you choose to do a presentation, the presentation could add up to 10 points to your total class grade.

Paper – You may alternately choose to write an original research paper, selecting from a choice of topics that fall within the range of global issues we study in this course. The paper should be approximately three pages long, and based upon the class material, including lecture content and assigned readings. Any supplemental sources must be peer-recognized and cited using Chicago style. Each paper must be structured according to a rubric I will post on iCollege. You must have the paper pre-approved by sending an email to the instructor by the date posted in the weekly schedule. All papers will be submitted on the class iCollege page dropbox. If you submit it via email, it will not be accepted. No late papers received after your assigned date will receive credit. If you choose to write a paper, the paper could add up to 10 points to your total class grade.

You will NOT be allowed to do both a presentation and a written paper. You must choose EITHER a presentation or a written paper for extra credit potential.

iCollege:

Readings in addition to the textbook may be posted on Brightspace. All reading quizzes will be posted here as well. Occasionally, I may post additional links to relevant news stories or supplemental material. Get familiar with this tool, as I may also post class announcements and grades here.

Missed/Late Assignments and Exam Makeups:

If you miss class, it will be noticed when I take roll. You may miss two classes without receiving a penalty to your attendance grade. After that, any absences must be excused with a note from the university, a doctor, or professional medical or dental provider to validate the missed class. The reading quizzes will be open on iCollege for 72 hours near the date for the assigned readings and then will be closed in a sequential fashion. Exams will be offered once, during the class period for which it is scheduled. If you have an emergency that precludes you taking the exam on the scheduled date, you must produce a professional or medical note as mentioned above. You will have a small window of opportunity to schedule a makeup exam that *will be different from the exam given to the rest of the class, and will likely be more difficult, as it will probably be the honors level exam.* You must contact me by email within 48 hours of the missed exam with the documentation required to identify your legitimate emergency and make arrangements for the make-up exam. If you do not contact me within 48 hours of the missed exam, **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE UP THE EXAM, AND WILL THEREFORE RECEIVE A ZERO GRADE FOR THE EXAM.**

Communication:

Any emails I send to you will come to your GSU email account. If you prefer to use another email account such as Gmail, make sure you forward your GSU account to the preferred address. I will also post class announcements in iCollege, so check it regularly. If you need to contact me, use my GSU email address given on pg. 1 of the syllabus, and I will do my best to respond within 48 hours unless it is during a semester break.

Class Behavior:

Our class time will be planned in such a way to utilize every moment of the period in active learning. Respectful and courteous behavior will facilitate optimal learning, and will ensure that the flow of class time is not interrupted. Therefore, the university policy on disruptive behavior applies.

“Disruptive student behavior is student behavior in a classroom or other learning environment (to include both on and off-campus locations), which disrupts the educational process. Disruptive behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, leaving or entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class.”

Turn off all cellphones, and remove your headphones/earbuds. Laptops and mobile devices should not be used during class, unless needed for taking notes or during an in-class assignment. If you come to class and spend your time watching Netflix or YouTube, you have wasted my time and yours. ***If you are distracting either the instructor or other students with your use of technology, you will be asked to leave the class.*** Food may be prohibited in class as some students have life-threatening food allergies.

Academic Dishonesty:

When students cheat, it reduces the value of the degree earned by honest, hard-working students. Therefore, I have a ZERO TOLERANCE level for plagiarism and cheating. Appropriate guidelines will be given prior to any writing assignments on how to properly cite and credit outside sources. Use any and all means of acknowledging your sources when you produce work. I hate to be forced to assign a zero grade for a student simply because they forgot

to use quotations and cite references. Cheating off others' work for exams will not be tolerated, nor will giving unauthorized help to another student during testing periods; you will both receive a zero for the assignment/exam. Violations of these rules are grounds for receiving an "F" in this course.

Policy on Disabilities:

If you have a qualified disability, please notify the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. We will work together to ensure that you have the accommodations you need for assignments and testing. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

Policy on Incompletes/Withdrawals:

For **GSU Policy on incompletes**, please see: http://registrar.gsu.edu/files/2013/05/incomplete_policy_and_form.pdf, and for **GSU Policy** on hardship withdrawals, please see: <http://registrar.gsu.edu/registration/withdrawals/> It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to manage your decision to stay in a class, or withdraw. If you feel you must withdraw, follow the complete GSU policy to avoid a penalty to your GPA.

Required Readings/Materials:

- *Introducing Global Issues*, edited by Michael T. Snarr & D. Neil Snarr, Sixth Edition, 2016, Reinner. ISBN-: **978-1-62637-546-8**. It is available through the university bookstore, and from various sources online.
- An atlas will be posted on iCollege; you will need these to study for the map quizzes.
- Handouts maybe be given to you in class and/or readings posted on iCollege; these will vary by week and may contain content that will be reflected in the exams, so don't skip these.

Weekly Course Outline

Section 1: International Political Structure, Major Actors, Security

Week 1: January 9-14

Introduction/Nature of the International System – TB Chapter 1
Global Security Issues – TB Chapter 2
RCII Quiz 1

Week 2: January 15-21

Nationalism and Identity – TB Chapter 4
Actors on the Global Stage – Additional Reading Online
RCII Quiz 2

Week 3: January 22-28

Why Go to War? – TB Chapter 3
International Organizations, with focus on UN – Additional Readings Online
1st Map Quiz – only open from January 26-29
RCII Quiz 3

Week 4: January 29-February 4

European Union – Additional Readings Online
NATO – Additional Readings Online
1st Reading Quiz Online – only open from February 2-5
RCII Quiz 4

Section 2: Finance, Inequality, and Health

Week 5: February 5-11

International Political Economy - TB Chapter 9
Trade and Globalization – TB Chapter 10, 13
RCII Quiz 5

Deadline for Approval of Presentation 1 or Written Paper – Tuesday, February 7

Week 6: February 12-18

Poverty and Inequality – TB Chapter 11
Health and Food Security – TB Chapters 7, 8
RCII Quiz 6

Week 7: February 19-25

Population Growth and Migration Issues – TB Chapter 12 – Review for Exam 1 (Tuesday session)
Presentation Topics 1: Post online by midnight, Tuesday, February 21

Exam 1: Thursday, February 23

RCII Quiz 7

Week 8: February 26-March 4

Conflict over Natural Resources – TB Chapter 6
Special Topics – Additional Readings Online
RCII Quiz 8

2nd Reading Quiz Online – only open from March 2 to 5

Semester Midpoint is February 28 – Last day to Withdraw

DUE DATE FOR WRITTEN PAPERS from TOPIC 1 LIST – Sunday, March 5 by Midnight

Section 3: Human Rights, the Environment, and Political Change

Week 9: March 5-11

Human Rights – TB Chapter 5
International Law – Additional Readings Online
2nd Map Quiz Online – open March 9-12
RCII Quiz 9

Week 10: March 12-18

Spring Break

Week 11: March 19-25

Refugee Crises – Additional Readings Online
The Role of NGOs - Additional Readings Online
RCII Quiz 10

Week 12: March 26-April 1

The Environment and Climate Policy – TB Chapter 15
Sustainable Development – TB Chapter 14
3rd Map Quiz Online – open March 31- April 2
RCII Quiz 11

Week 13: April 2-8

Shifting Power Balances – Additional Readings Online
Terrorism – Additional Readings Online
RCII Quiz 12

Week 14: April 9-15

Special Request Topics
3rd and Final Reading Quiz Online – open April 13-16
Deadline for Approval of Presentation or Written Paper – Tuesday, April 11

Week 15: April 16-22

Special Request Topics
Online Cumulative Examination – April 20-23

Week 16: April 22-29

Presentation Day 2: post Online Sunday, April 23
Exam 2 (Tuesday, April 25, 10:45-13:15 PM)
DUE DATE FOR WRITTEN PAPERS from TOPIC LIST 2– Thursday, April 27 by Midnight

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary, therefore changes to this syllabus may occur after the semester begins. If this is necessary, I will post an updated syllabus on the class page on iCollege, and/or inform you of the changed syllabus during class.