

*P SC 3550 – Spring 2018*  
*Non-State Actors in World Politics*

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Time: MW 1:30 – 2:45  
Location: Dale Hall, 107  
Office Hours: R 2:30 – 4:30  
*and by appointment.*

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## **Course Description**

Non-state actors have come to play an increasingly prominent role on the world stage. Many of the most significant issues in international politics today concern not only states, but also multinational corporations, international non-governmental organizations, and transnational terrorist groups. This course will evaluate the political relevance of these actors, and the particular challenges they pose in a world long dominated by nation states. We will consider questions concerning the political interests of non-state actors, as well as their influence on social, political, and economic outcomes. We will draw from a range of both popular and scholarly thought, and evaluate current research aimed at understanding these phenomena.

## **Course Goals**

Students who apply themselves should leave this course with a deeper understanding of contemporary world politics and the actors who engage in it, and a more refined skillset with which to objectively evaluate patterns in global economy, activism, policy, and violence. There are two key benefits to meeting this goal. First, it will arm you with knowledge about some of the most salient issues facing your generation. Second, it will familiarize you with the tools that we employ as social scientists to locate, analyze, and interpret evidence. I believe you will find this combination to be highly relevant for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers in law, business, finance, academics, humanitarianism, social organization and activism, policy and politics, among others.

## **Learning Outcomes**

A college education is not merely about exposure to ideas and memorization of facts (though these things certainly play a part). It's about honing your ability to *do* things; and not just anything, but the types of things that require higher-order thinking and reflection. This is only possible through practice. Here are some of the key things you will gain practice doing in this course:

- Appraising and critiquing theory and argument on the basis of reason and logic
- Constructing a logical argument and formulating hypotheses
- Analyzing and interpreting evidence
- Communicating knowledge and information effectively

## Texts and Materials

There are four **required** books:

- (1) Susan Strange. 1996. *The Retreat of the State: The Diffusion of Power in the World Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- (2) John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge. 2003. *The Company: A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea*. New York: Random House.
- (3) Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- (4) Eli Berman. 2009. *Radical, Religious and Violent: The New Economics of Terrorism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

You may buy or borrow or rent these books, new or used, in electronic or paper format, and from the campus bookstore or a different source. All that matters is that you find a way to read the assigned material. Articles and other materials will also be assigned throughout the course. This content will be available on Canvas, downloadable from the **Files** page or linked, as appropriate. While I certainly will not add any more required books to the syllabus, I reserve the right to add other required (freely-available) content over the course of the semester. You will be made aware of this when I do.

Though not required, subscribing to a newspaper or news magazine can help you keep up with current events. Along with being a smart habit to get into, this could also help you succeed in this course (and others) by making it easier to relate to the topics we will be discussing. A few **recommended** sources for both general and world politics-specific news and commentary:

- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/>)
- The Wall Street Journal (<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>)
- The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/>)
- Foreign Policy (<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/>)
- Foreign Affairs (<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>)

In addition, academic political science blogs can provide useful insights into specific, often timely topics. A few worth following are:

- The Monkey Cage (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/>)
- The Duck of Minerva (<http://www.whiteoliphant.com/duckofminerva/>)
- Political Violence at a Glance (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>)
- Project Syndicate (<http://www.project-syndicate.org/>)
- The Quantitative Peace (<http://www.quantitativepeace.com/>)

## Assessment

*1. In-Class Exercises (15%):* Though I will not keep attendance, there will be several in-class exercises assigned over the semester. I do not have a set number of these, nor a specific timeline, and they will not be announced in advance. However, figure they will occur frequently enough that missing class on a regular basis will have a detrimental effect on your grade, while only missing a class here or there will have little or no noticeable effect on your final grade.

- Scored on a 0 – 2 scale. 0 = Absent; 1 = Weak; 2 = Strong
- Will typically require you to respond to material covered in class that day.
- Please remember to bring pen and paper, and to write neatly!

*2. Short Assignments (15%):* You will be required to complete five “short assignments” over the course of the semester (each worth 3% of your final grade).

- Scored on a 0 – 3 scale, with 0 being the lowest possible score and 3 the highest
- The nature of the assignment is variable, but it will usually reflect the readings assigned for the given week.
- ~ 1 page in length.
- Due by class time of the day listed (submitted via Canvas). Late submissions will not be accepted.

*3. Unit Projects (15% each, 45% total):* There are three projects – one for each of the three major units (Commerce; Activism; Violence). Each project is worth 15% of your final grade. The nature of the projects will vary, but a written paper will be required.

- Project 1 is due **Feb. 21**; Project 2 is due **March 28**; Project 3 is due **April 30**.
- 10 points will be taken from the top each day the project is late.
- Additional information will be given on each of these projects, what I am expecting, and how to do them. So don't let them scare you.

*4. Final Exam (25%):* There will be a comprehensive take-home final exam due finals week. It will consist largely of essay questions, though it may include some other question types, too. 15 points will be taken from the top if it is late; submissions more than 24 hours late will not be accepted.

## Final Grades

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

## **Policies and Other Information**

1. Avoid Disruptions: If you arrive late or leave early (not advised), enter the room quietly. Turn your cell phones and other devices to silent. While I understand that many of you are capable “multi-taskers,” I ask that you refrain from using social media, texting/chatting with friends, etc... during class time. This can be disruptive to the people around you.

2. Technology: That said, I **do** encourage you to bring your laptop or tablet to class. Along with being useful learning and note-taking tools, we may also have some class activities that will be easier to do if you have your devices with you.

3. Make-up / Late Submissions: No late submissions will be accepted for the “short assignments.” Ten points will be deducted from “unit projects” each day they are late. Fifteen points will be deducted from the final exam if it is late; a score of 0 will be given if it is more than 24 hours late. No exceptions to these rules. Please be mindful of due dates and times.

4. Citation Style: Use the American Political Science Association (APSA) guidelines for formatting citations and references. Bibliographies **do not** count toward page limits, where applicable.

5. Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. All work submitted to this course must be original. Sources must be properly cited. Major written assignments (including the final exam) will be submitted through Turnitin.com on Canvas. This is a program that will find copied work from published sources, the internet, and other work by students. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade (F) for the assignment or even the course, and may be reported for further disciplinary measures. If you wish to use work from another class, you **must** obtain permission from both instructors. Doing so without permission will be considered cheating. Please consult the [Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity](#) if you have any questions.

6. Disability Accommodation: OU provides a wide range of assistance to enrolled students with physical, learning, or other disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#).

7. Religious Holidays: It is the policy of the university to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see the instructor immediately if you will need to miss class any time during the semester.

8. Contacting the Instructor: The best way to get in touch with me is through email. Of course, you can also come see me during office hours, or by appointment if necessary.

## Course Schedule

You are expected to have done the reading *by the day/week it is assigned*. While the readings from the required books are fixed, I reserve the right to add (freely accessible) articles and other reading materials to the syllabus over the course of the semester. If any such changes are made, they will be done in advance and you will be informed.

### I. (Re-)Conceptualizing World Politics

#### **Week 1 (Jan. 17)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Syllabus
- Assignments Due: None

#### **Week 2 (Jan. 22, 24)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Strange: Preface; Chs. 1 – 3
- Assignments Due: None

#### **Week 3 (Jan. 29, 31)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Matthews: “Power Shift” (Canvas)
  - Strange: Chs. 5 & 6
  - M&W: Introduction
  - K&S: Preface
- Assignments Due:
  - Short Assignment # 1, Jan. 29

### II. Transnational Production & Commerce

#### **Week 4 (Feb. 5, 7)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - M&W: Chs. 1 – 7
  - Roach: “Primer on MNCs” (Canvas)
- Assignments Due: None

#### **Week 5 (Feb. 12, 14)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - M&W: Ch.8
  - Strange: Ch. 4
  - Jensen: “Political Regimes and FDI” (Canvas)
- Assignments Due:
  - Short Assignment # 2, Feb. 14

**Week 6 (Feb. 19, 21)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - de Soysa & Oneal: “Boon or Bane?” (Canvas)
- Assignments Due:
  - **Project 1, Feb. 21**

**Week 7 (Feb. 26, 28)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - M&W: Conclusion
  - TBD
- Assignments Due: None

III. Transnational Mobilization & Activism

**Week 8 (March 5, 7)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - K&S: Chs.1 & 2
- Assignments Due:
  - **Short Assignment # 3, March 5**

**Week 9 (March 12, 14)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - K&S: Chs. 3 – 5
- Assignments Due:
  - **Short Assignment # 4, March 12**

**Week 10 (March 19, 21)**

- Weekly Readings Due: None
- Assignments Due: None

**Week 11 (March 26, 28)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - K&S: Chs. 3 – 5
  - TBD
- Assignments Due:
  - **Project 2, March 28**

**Week 12 (April 2, 4)**

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - K&S: Ch.6
  - RRR: “NGO Human Rights Reporting” (Canvas)
- Assignments Due: None

## IV. Transnational Violence & Crime

### *Week 13 (April 9, 11)*

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Strange: Ch. 8
  - TBD
- Assignments Due: None

### *Week 14 (April 16, 18)*

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Berman: Chs. 1 – 4
- Assignments Due:
  - Short Assignment # 5, April 16

### *Week 15 (April 23, 25)*

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Berman: Chs. 5 – 8
- Assignments Due: None

### *Week 16 (April 30; May 2)*

- Weekly Readings Due:
  - Slaughter: “The Real New World Order” (Canvas)
- Assignments Due:
  - Project 3, April 30

### *Finals Week:*

- Take-Home Exam, TBD