

P SC 2503 – Fall 2017
Global Politics

Dr. Colin Barry
Office: Dale Hall Tower, 227
E-mail: cbarry@ou.edu

Time: MW 1:30-2:45
Location: Gould Hall, 150
Office Hours: W 3:00 – 5:00
and by appointment.

Course Description

Global Politics is a survey course designed to serve as an introduction to the political science subfield of international relations (IR). The primary purpose is to acquaint students with the key concepts and principles in the study of world politics, which will prepare them for higher level courses in IR and political science generally. Students will learn about the origins and structure of the modern international system, and will begin to delve into some of the major issues that persist in this system. These include war and peace, international economic relations, and political and economic development, among others. We will also consider the theoretical and methodological tools social scientists employ to study these phenomena.

Course Goals

All students who apply themselves should leave this course with a general understanding of world politics, and a more refined skill set with which to objectively evaluate political events. These are simple but important goals. The first is largely about content, and it is crucial content to know if you are to be a good, informed citizen of this increasingly interconnected world. The second is largely about how you process information and evidence and speaks to your ability to reason in an enlightened way. This payoff goes beyond knowledge about politics, by helping you to be more thoughtful, creative, and productive – important traits to have as you transition into professional careers and life after college.

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, which is why professors assign papers, projects, etc... Here are some of the key things you will gain practice doing in this course:

- Explaining international politics using sound theory and logic
- Identifying patterns in political events and matching them with theory
- Appraising and critiquing theory and argument
- Constructing a logical argument and formulating hypotheses
- Analyzing data and interpreting evidence

Texts and Materials

There are three **required** books:

(1) Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (3rd edition). New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

(2) Daniel Drezner. 2011. *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

(3) Robert Bates. 2011. *Prosperity & Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

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.whiteoliphaunt.com/duckofminerva/>)
- Political Violence at a Glance (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>)
- The Quantitative Peace (<http://www.quantitativepeace.com/>)

Assessment

1. Short Assignments (30%): You will be required to complete ten “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.
- In each case, the assignment will be posted at least 5 days in advance, and will be due by class time on the day listed (submitted via Canvas). Late submissions will not be accepted.
- The nature of the assignment is variable, but it will usually reflect the topic and readings covered during the week. While it may demand some thought, it will typically require no more than a paragraph or two of writing (or some equivalent thereof) to complete.

2. Geography Quizzes (10%): Knowing political geography is fundamental to understanding world politics. Most meaningful exchanges among states in the international arena – including wars – are between neighbors. Having a sense of what regions look like is thus important.

- There will be 5 short geography quizzes throughout the semester.
- The dates for the quizzes will not be announced in advance, but will take place in the following order: (1) Europe; (2) the Americas; (3) East Asia and Oceania; (4) West and South Asia; and (5) Africa.
- On Canvas you will find regional study guides. You will need to learn the location of twelve states within each region (highlighted in yellow). On the quiz, you will be asked to identify ten of these twelve states.
- The quizzes will be given at the start of a class meeting, so be on time
- No make-ups will be given, and those who are late will not receive extra time
- The lowest of your 5 grades will be dropped

3. Response Paper (10%): I will provide writing prompts for the Drezner and Bates books, respectively. You are required to select and respond to one of them in an essay.

- 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1” margins)
- Submitted through Canvas by class time of the day the book is assigned to be due
- 10 points will be taken from the top each day it is late

4. Hypothesis-Testing Project (20%): This is an original research project requiring you to conduct a study on an issue-area in world politics that you are interested in. Specifically, you will need to formulate a hypothesis regarding two variables, explain why you believe the relationship exists, collect the data for at least 30 countries, present the relationship between the variables, and discuss whether or not the hypothesis was supported.

- 4-5 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1” margins)
- Submitted through Canvas by the start of class on **Nov. 20.**
- 10 points will be taken from the top each day these are late. Additional information will be given on this project, what I am expecting, and how to do it. So don’t let it scare you.

5. Final Exam (30%): There will be a comprehensive take-home final exam due **Dec. 13.** It will consist largely of short-answer and essay questions, though it may include some other question types, too. 15 points will be taken from the top if it late; no late exams accepted after 24 hours.

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 Facebook, Pinterest, 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 make-ups permitted for the geography quizzes. No late submissions accepted for the short assignments. 10 points will be deducted from the response and hypothesis-testing papers for each day they are late. 15 points from the final exam; not accepted after 24 hours. 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. 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. **Assignments and due dates are highlighted in yellow**; **the class will not meet on days that are recorded in red**.

Topic 1 (Aug. 21, 23, 28, 30): What is World Politics? Why, and How, Do We Study It?

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Introduction
 - FLS: Ch. 1
 - Tilly, “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime”
- Assignments Due:
 - **Short Assignment # 1, Aug. 30**

Topic 2 (Sept. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18): Grand Theories of World Politics

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 2
 - Drezner book
- Assignments Due:
 - **Drezner Response Paper, Sept. 11**

Topic 3 (Sept. 20, 25, 27): Military Conflict and Cooperation Between States

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 3
 - FLS: Ch. 5
- Assignments Due:
 - **Short Assignment # 2 (Library Research Project), Sept. 20**
 - **Short Assignment # 3, September 27**

Topic 4 (Oct. 2, 4, 9): Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 4
- Assignments Due:
 - **Short Assignment # 4, Oct. 9**

Topic 5 (Oct. 11, 16, 18): Transnational Violence and War

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 6
 - Fearon, “Iraq’s Civil War”
- Assignments Due:
 - Short Assignment # 5, Oct. 16

Topic 6 (Oct. 23, 25, 30): The Politics of Economic Globalization

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 7
 - FLS: Ch. 8, Foreign Direct Investment & Migrants (365-375 in 3rd ed.)
 - Scheve & Slaughter, “A New Deal for Globalization”
- Assignments Due:
 - Short Assignment # 6, Oct. 25

Topic 7 (Nov. 1, 6): Money and Debt in World Politics

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: The rest of Ch. 8
 - FLS: Ch. 9
- Assignments Due:
 - Short Assignment #7, Nov. 1

Topic 8 (Nov. 8, 13): Political and Economic Development

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 10
 - Sachs, “The Development Challenge”
 - Easterly, “Reviewing Two Decades of Debt Relief”
 - Bates book
- Assignments Due:
 - Bates Response Paper, Nov. 8

Topic 9 (Nov. 15, 20, 22): Global Governance

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 11
- Assignments Due:
 - Short Assignment # 8, Nov. 15
 - H-T Paper, Nov. 20

Topic 10 (Nov. 27, 29; Dec. 4, 6): Human Rights, Climate Change, and Conclusions

- Readings Due:
 - FLS: Ch. 12

- FLS: Ch. 13
- FLS: Ch. 14
- Assignments Due:
 - Short Assignment # 9, **Nov. 27**
 - Short Assignment #10, **Dec. 4**

Finals Week: Take-Home Exam

- Exam Due by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday **December 13**