

P SC 4093 – Fall 2017
Senior Capstone (“The Politics of Globalization”)

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Time: M 3:30-6:20
Location: Physical Science Center, 222
Office Hours: W 3:00 – 5:00
and by appointment.

Course Description

“Globalization” – the process by which countries are becoming increasingly integrated along economic, social, and political lines – has galvanized renewed debate about the nature of world politics. In this capstone course, we will read and discuss scholarship on a wide variety of topics relating to the causes and consequences of “globalization.” Along with acquiring substantive knowledge on this subject, students will learn techniques for effective social science research and writing. Students will be expected to produce a substantial independent research project over the course of the semester, which will be presented to the class at the end of the term.

Course Objectives

The primary purpose of the Capstone in Political Science is to provide students an opportunity to apply the theoretical, analytical, and empirical tools they have learned in their major coursework. Students will demonstrate their mastery of these tools by developing and executing a major research project. This project should be based around a question that the student finds interesting. Although the major theme of the course is “globalization,” the actual subject matter should be broad enough that all students find it relatable to the content learned in previous political science classes. Students are strongly encouraged to draw from the knowledge they have already accumulated when developing their research projects.

Because the project is the centerpiece of this course, a significant amount of class time will be devoted to it. Students will be guided through the process of writing a research paper, and will become more familiar with the research methods that social scientists use. Students will also be given opportunities to present and receive feedback on their research. All students who apply themselves should leave this course with not only a better understanding of globalization and its effects on world politics, but also greater practice in constructing logical arguments, formulating hypotheses, analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, interpreting evidence, and communicating their ideas in writing and in speech.

Texts and Materials

There is one **required** book:

(1) Wendy Laura Belcher. 2009. *Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications, Inc.

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.

Assessment

1. Participation (25%): Active participation is crucial to seminar success, and you can only participate if you show up. So, although there isn't a strict attendance policy, failure to attend class on a regular basis will have a negative effect on your grade. In addition to attendance, there are two components of the participation grade:

- **Written Participation**: You are required to write a short brief in response to selected readings every week. These should be no more than a couple paragraphs in length, and may include critiques, questions, discussion points, etc.... Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **In-Class Participation**: You should come prepared to engage in class discussion. These discussions will typically revolve around the assigned readings and the broader debates they contribute to. This demands that you actually do the reading prior to class.

2. Exercises (25%): You will be required to complete a handful of assigned exercises over the course of the semester. Some of these will be in-class, others due as homework. While these will not typically be too demanding, they are important because they will help you hone the basic research skills you will need for the final research project.

- Scored on a 0-2 scale. 0 = Incomplete; 1 = Weak; 2 = Strong
- In-class exercises will not necessarily be announced in advance. Barring a valid excuse, you will not receive credit for an exercise if you are absent.
- Take-home exercises will be assigned the week before they are due. Instructions will be posted on Canvas, and completed assignments should be submitted to Canvas. Late submissions will not be accepted.

3. Research Project (50% in Total): You will be required to develop and execute an original research project. This should be centered around a question that you find interesting. Detailed instructions will be provided early in the semester. The graded components of the research project are as follows:

- **Presentations (20% total, 10% each)**: You will give two presentations. The first will be on Oct. 16, and will present your project idea and outline. The second will be on November 27, and will present the results of your finished research project. Barring a valid excuse, you will not receive credit if you are absent.
- **Final Paper (30%)**: 15-25 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1" margins. Due November 27. 10 points deducted each day it is late.

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: Barring a valid excuse for absence, no make-ups permitted for in-class assignments or project presentations. No late submissions accepted for weekly reading briefs or take-home exercises. 10 points will be deducted from the project papers each day they are 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. The final research paper will be submitted through Turnitin.com on D2L. 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*. 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.

August 21

- *Introduction*
 - Syllabus

August 28

- *Studying (World) Politics*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Bull, “Classical Approach”
 - Singer, “Insight Without Evidence”
 - Bremer, Regan and Clark, “Building a Science of World Politics”
- *Primer on Academic Writing*
 - Belcher, Ch. 1

September 11

- *Schools of Thought in International Relations*
 - Written Response due for any TWO of the following:
 - Wohlforth, “Realism”
 - Stein, “Neoliberal Institutionalism”
 - Hurd, “Constructivism”
 - Moravcsik, “The New Liberalism”
- *Starting Your Research Paper*
 - Belcher, Ch. 2

September 18

- *Theory & Argument*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Epstein, “Model Thinking”
 - Wagner, “Who’s Afraid of Rational Choice?”
- *Advancing Your Argument*
 - Belcher, Ch. 3

September 25

- *What is “Globalization”?*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Dreher et al., “Measuring Globalization” (Chs. 1-3)

- *Knowing Your Audience*
 - Belcher, Ch. 4

October 2

- *Globalization & Power*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Keohane and Nye, “Power and Interdependence in the Information Age”
 - Matthews, “Power Shift”
- *Reviewing the Related Literature*
 - Belcher, Ch. 5

October 9

- *Globalization & Conflict*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld”
 - Bussmann and Schneider, “When Globalization Turns Violent” **OR** Lee and Mitchell, “FDI and Territorial Disputes”
- *Strengthening Your Structure*
 - Belcher, Ch. 6

October 16

- 1st Presentation! (Project Outline)

October 23

- *Globalization & Inequality*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Friedman, “It’s a Flat World”
 - Economist, “Rich Man, Poor Man”
 - O’Keef and Li, “Modernization vs. Dependency”
- *Presenting Your Evidence*
 - Belcher, Ch. 7

October 30

- *Globalization & National Autonomy*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Drezner, “Globalization and Policy Convergence”
 - Rodrik, “Open Economies Have Bigger Governments” **OR** Rudra, “Decline of the Welfare State”
- *Opening and Concluding Your Paper*
 - Belcher, Ch. 8

November 6

- *Globalization & Human Rights*
 - Written Response due for:
 - Richards et al., “Money with a Mean Streak” **OR** Mosley and Uno, “Racing to the Bottom or Climbing to the Top?”
 - Hafner-Burton, “Sticks and Stones” **OR** Murdie and Peksen, “WRO Shaming and Respect for Women’s Rights”
- *Using Feedback*
 - Belcher, Ch. 9

November 13

- *Globalization, Sustainability, & Governance*
 - Written Response due for any TWO of the following:
 - McMichael, “Globalization, Climate Change and Human Health”
 - Gleditsch, “Climate Change and Conflict”
 - Meyer, “World Environmental Regime”
 - Slaughter, “The *Real* New World Order”
 - Drezner, “Global Governance of the Internet”
- *Editing*
 - Belcher, Ch. 10

November 20

- *Catch-up & Workshopping*
 - No Written Response due
- *Wrapping Up Your Paper*
 - Belcher, Ch. 11

November 27

- *Final Draft*
 - Final Paper due by start of class!
- *2nd Presentation!* (Final Paper)

December 4

- *Presentations, continued*
- *Conclusions*