POS 120 (990 and 400)

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS

SPRING 2016 ONLINE COURSE

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This is strictly an online course using both First Class and Blackboard. All notes, assignments, and tests are distributed online, and our discussions will take place online. You will need access to a computer and computer skills that include using e-mail, accessing websites and turning on and rebooting the computer. You will not require high speed Internet.
You will need access to Blackboard, PowerPoint, Quicktime, and MSWord.

This course introduces students to international relations. It is an extensive survey of key political perspectives, trends, and events involving world politics since 1945. The course begins by stressing broad concepts and theories about the nature of world politics. It includes close examination of two great thinkers: Niccolo Machiavelli and Karl von Clausewitz. The course then explores a wide range of issues affecting global politics and concludes by discussing the war against terrorism and the future of American foreign policy.

Requirements: Use Blackboard to view the 14 Weekly Lectures.

Please respond to the Weekly Journal on Blackboard, even if you post only a sentence or two. This is my only way to know if you are alive, alert, and making progress in the course. A total of 14 questions will be posted, but you are only required to answer TEN (10) of them.

There will be four map tests using the Rand McNally Atlas of International Politics. You MUST PURCHASE this book, or you will be unable to complete these graded requirements. (Please do NOT try to use any other atlas, because the questions are too detailed and too specific.)
There are two Quizzes and a Final Examination. They will be conducted as timed, open-book exercises. You may access them during each of the assigned weeks using Blackboard.

Finally, you are expected to post five short essays on the Discussion Board, both to declare your own opinions and to respond to the views of another student. The professor’s evaluation of your messages will constitute a large part of your grade. Your contributions to these discussions are crucial. They will contribute significantly to the success of this class for all of us.

**Grading:**

These requirements will be graded as follows:

- Participation in Weekly Journal: 5 points
- 5 Discussion Questions x 4 points each = 20
- 4 Map Tests x 10 points each = 40
- 2 Quizzes x 10 points each = 20
- 1 Final Examination 15 points

100 points

The Weekly Journal and the Discussion questions are graded on the basis of the following criteria: Understanding of course concepts; logic; clarity; grammar; syntax; spelling; and punctuation.

**Disabilities:** If you need accommodation for a disability, please contact Ann Smith, Coordinator for Students with Disabilities, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, or e-mail her at ann_smith@umit.maine.edu

**Readings:** We have four assigned books (some of which are small). You can obtain them from the bookstore on the Orono campus. Its telephone is 207-581-1700, and its fax 207-581-1132.

The books are:


You are strongly encouraged to follow current international news from *The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist,* and *The Christian Science Monitor.* A number of web sites and other online sources will be strongly recommended during specific sessions of the course.

**Week 1 (Jan 18-24):** Overview of course concepts and requirements. The nature of international politics. Contending theories about international relations. Take 1st Map Test using Blackboard. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Feb. 1).


Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Week 2 (Jan 25-31):** The Melian dialogue from Thucydides. Machiavelli, the Italian Renaissance, and political conflict. Is it wiser for the Prince to be loved or feared?

*Post 1st Essay:* What is your personal perspective on world politics? Are you a Realist, a Liberal, a Marxist, a Constructivist, or a Feminist? Answer the question in two or at most three paragraphs. Begin by presenting your view of world politics and then comment on a message from one of the other members of the class. Be substantive. Make use of our Nau textbook, citing specific pages to support your essay. Pay attention to using correct grammar, syntax, punctuation, and style. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Feb 8).

*Read:* Machiavelli, Chs. 1 and 2; scan remainder.

Nau, *Perspectives,* Chapter 1, pp. 25-79.

Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Week 3 (Feb 1-7):** The Treaty of Westphalia and the rise of the modern state system. The French Revolution, Napoleon, Clausewitz, and the Clausewitzean legacy for later political leaders.

*Post 2nd Essay:* Access this website: https://www.camdenconference.org/2013-conference/ Open Camcast. Listen to the presentation by Larry Pope in Camden, Maine, in February of 2013, entitled, "U.S. Policies and Prospects in a Turbulent Middle East." In your view, does Mr. Pope sound mostly like a Realist, or mostly like a Liberal/Idealist? Why? Answer the question in two or at most three paragraphs. Begin by presenting your own views and then comment on a message from one of the other members of the class. Discuss three (3) concrete examples from this speech to support your assessment. Be substantive. Cite specific pages in Nau’s textbook to support your argument. Pay attention to using correct grammar, syntax, punctuation, and style. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Feb. 15).

*Read:* Clausewitz, Chs. 1 and 2; scan remainder.

Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Week 4 (Feb 8-14):** Historical dynamics and patterns in world politics. Understanding state behavior: democracy, autocracy, and ideology. Foreign policy decision making.
Take Quiz No. 1, using Blackboard. It covers the material in Weeks 1-3. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Feb. 22).


Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.


Take 2nd Map Test using Blackboard. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Feb. 29).


Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Week 6 (Feb 22-28):** The Global North and the Global South. Power and affluence vs. economic development and mass suffering. Non-state actors in global politics. The United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization.

Post 3rd Essay: In your opinion, how should the United Nations be reformed, if at all? Answer the question in two or at most three paragraphs. Begin by presenting your own views and then comment on a message from one of the other members of the class. Be substantive. Cite specific pages in Nau’s textbook to support your argument. Pay attention to using correct grammar, syntax, punctuation, and style. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Mar. 7).


Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Week 7 (Feb 29-Mar 6):** Humanitarian Challenges and protection of human rights.

Take 3rd Map Test using Blackboard. This requirement **must be completed** by Mar. 28.


Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Spring Recess (Mar 7-20)**

**Week 8 (Mar 21-27):** Globalization and the prospects for global governance. The growing influence of non-state actors. Global refugee crisis; law; the politics of gender.

Post 4th Essay: View the film, *Life is Beautiful*, at this address:


It will NOT work on portable devices.

Then answer this question: How did Hitler’s Holocaust of the Jews affect international relations in the 20th and 21st centuries? Answer the question in two or at most three paragraphs. Begin by presenting your own views and then comment on a message from one of the other members of the class. Be substantive. Cite specific pages in the required Nau textbook. Pay attention to using correct grammar, syntax, punctuation, and style. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Mar. 30).

**Week 9 (Mar 28-Apr 3):** Theories about fiscal policy and monetary policy. Money and markets in the global economy.
Take 4th Map Test using Blackboard. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Apr. 11).

**Week 10 (Apr 4-10):** Population and resource pressures on the global environment. Demography, ecology, and environmentalism.
Take Quiz No. 2, using Blackboard. It covers the material in Weeks 4-9. This requirement **must be completed** in the next two weeks (that is, by Apr. 18).
Answer the question in the Weekly Journal.

**Week 11 (Apr 11-17):** The transformation of armed conflict. Military power, coercive diplomacy, and war. The new international terrorism.
Post 5th Essay: To be announced

**Week 12 (Apr 18-24):** The realist road to international security. Alliances, arms control, and the balance of power.

**Week 13 (Apr 25-May 1):** The liberal road to international security. Multinational organizations, non-governmental organizations, economic development, and the rule of law. The politics of gender.

**Week 14 (May 2-8):** Course Conclusions and Farewell

**Examination Week: (May 9-13):** Take Final Examination using Blackboard. It covers ONLY the material in Weeks 10-14. This requirement **must be completed** during this week (that is, BEFORE May 14).

**End of Course**

Academic integrity policy: As a student at a distance, you should know that violations of student academic integrity policy include any actions that attempt to promote or enhance
the academic standing of any student by dishonest means (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or academic misconduct). Students may be accused, charged, and penalized for any violations as appropriate. If you have any questions about the academic integrity process, please contact the Student Services Coordinator.

“Introduction to World Politics” satisfies the University of Maine’s General Education requirements for Western Cultural Tradition and Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By completing this course, students will be able to:
1. Understand and apply different perspectives on world politics, including Realism, Liberalism/Idealism, Marxism-Leninism, Constructivism, and Feminism.
2. Discuss major theories about international politics, including the views of Thucydides, Machiavelli, Clausewitz, Kant, Wilson, Huntington, and Kissinger.
3. Understand the reasons for the collapse of communism, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the Warsaw Treaty Organization.
4. Explain the dynamics of the Cold War, especially the arms race between the U.S. and the USSR; the Cuban Missile Crisis; disarmament and arms control agreements; and regional conflicts in the Middle East and East Asia.
5. Weigh the arguments for and against outside intervention in regional conflicts, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Darfur (Sudan).
6. Discuss the impact (both positive and negative) of permitting additional countries to join NATO and the European Union.
7. Compare the global North with the global South, taking into account the end of colonialism.
8. Explain why so many countries in the global South suffer from widespread corruption and ethnic conflicts.
9. Analyze why democracies have fallen, dictatorships have arisen, and states have failed in some parts of the world.
10. Appreciate why some countries have succeeded more than others in reforming their political and economic systems.
11. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations in light of its goals.
12. Discuss the prospects for China and Russia as potential super-power rivals of the U.S.
13. Reflect upon the nature of modern conflict, especially terrorism and counter-terrorism.
14. Evaluate efforts to eliminate or civilize war and to improve the human condition on a global scale.
15. Discuss the impact of culture, language, ethnic loyalty, and religion on world politics.
16. Consider the importance of law as a tool of state power and a force for stability in world politics.

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Ann Smith, Director of Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.
**Academic honesty (plagiarism, etc.):** Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism and all forms of misrepresentation in academic work, and is unacceptable at The University of Maine. As stated in the University of Maine’s online undergraduate “Student Handbook,” plagiarism (the submission of another’s work without appropriate attribution) and cheating are violations of The University of Maine Student Conduct Code. An instructor who has probable cause or reason to believe a student has cheated may act upon such evidence, and should report the case to the supervising faculty member or the Department Chair for appropriate action.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus may be revised from time to time, especially in the event of an extended disruption of normal academic activities. In that event, I will provide you with a new syllabus superseding this one.

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**Policy on Sexual Discrimination**

**Sexual Discrimination Reporting**
The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Professor Holman fully supports this policy and wants this course to be as successful as possible for all students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is **required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Behaviors that can be “sexual discrimination” include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

**Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?**
The university can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

**What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?**
An employee from the Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution’s obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution’s ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe,
nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution’s response.

The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.
For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/