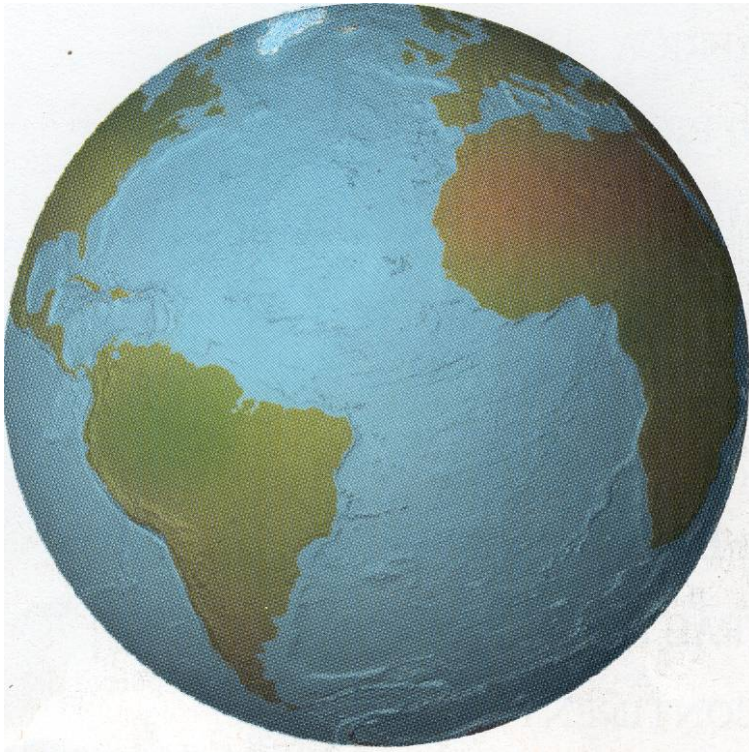


*WELCOME TO YOUR COURSE ON
Contemporary World Affairs: GLOBAL
POLITICS, A WORLD OF CONFLICT
AND COOPERATION!*



“The introduction to the study of international relations in our time is an introduction to the art and science of the survival of mankind”

Karl Deutch (1912-1992)

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/

<http://www.ipso.org/awards/karl-deutsch>

<http://www.templetonprize.org/abouttheprize.html>

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

CONTEMPORARY WORLD AFFAIRS

Political Science 7 Section# 1736 Fall Semester 2015

T-TH 9:35-11AM Room: General Classrooms (GC 420)

Instructor: Olga Shewfelt

Office: B4-102

Office Tel: (310) 287-4223

E-mail: shewfeo@wla.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, from 11:01 AM-11:36 a.m. in the classroom after class or at my office. If this time is not convenient for you, please talk to me after class, or email me in advance to see when we may schedule another time.

Course Materials:

1. Goldstein, S. Joshua: *International Relations*, 10th edition . Longman, New York, 2013-2014 (For instructions on weekly reading materials this book would be referred to as “G.” followed by a chapter number)
2. Lectures, case studies, first sources (documents) and selected articles from various magazines, newspapers and international organizations.
3. Updated political map of the world: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-political-map.htm>
4. CIA Factbook at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
5. U.N. Charter at : <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>
6. International Monetary Fund: <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>
7. World Trade Organization: <https://www.wto.org/>
8. World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

Week of **Concepts & Theories**

- 9/01** **Understanding International Relations. International Politics in a globalized world. Conflict & cooperation among nations & institutions.**
International Systems, actors and Theories. The Cold & Post Cold War “G” Ch. 1
- 9/08** **International Security & Power Politics: The School of Realpolitik.**
The International System Today. 9/11. The West & the Middle East “G” Chapter 2
- 9/15** **International Political Economy (IPE)**
Trade Theories, International Trade Regimes & globalization. “G” Chapter 8
- 9/22** **IPE continues.**

9/29 Exam 1

ECONOMIC REGIONS AND CULTURAL BLOCKS

10/6 Supra-nationalism: The European Union.
History. Membership. Economic & Political Power. Institutions. “G” Chapter 10.

10 /13 The New Asia: China & India
Economic Development & Political conflicts. “G” Chapter 13

10/20 The New Asia continues.

10/27 The Americas: The United States, NAFTA & The FTAA
History: Winners & Losers. “G” Ch. 13 p. 589-590 & handout.

11/03 Exam II

WORLD POLITICS

11/10 The Global North-South Gap. “G” Chapter 12

11/17 Diplomacy , International Law & Organizations
International Law Sources. UN history, goals & institutions.
The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights violations in the global world. “G” Chapter 7

11/20 *Last day to drop classes with a “W”.*

11/24 The Environment: resources & population. “G” Chapter 11

11/26 THANKSGIVING. College Closed.

12/1 EXAM 3

12/8 International Conflict. Theories and Causes of War.
G. Chapter 5

12/15 FINAL PAPER. NO EXTENSIONS WHATSOEVER!
10:15 am- 12:15 pm. GC 420

Course Student Learning Objectives:

1) **Critical Thinking & Communications skills:**

The student will be able to differentiate and describe which are the current main actors in world politics such as the Nation-states, IGOs, NGOs, MNCs and other non governmental groups such as terrorist organizations.

Every topic in this course requires a great deal of reading, analysis and comprehension of complex world issues. The student will be able to understand the difference between facts and opinions and between logical arguments and propaganda. The student will be able to list and describe which are the main actors in international relations, which are the global institutions established by the United States in the Bretton Woods Agreement and give examples of other international organizations.

2) The student will be able to distinguish and analyze the main political socio-economic forces that dominate world politics today. From liberal capitalist global markets, to regional blocks, Theories of International Relations, global environmental challenges, the North-South Gap and international conflict. This course objective will be graded in the mid-term paper and the final exam.

3) **Global citizenship .**

a) **Civic Responsibility. “Think globally, act locally”** The mid-term paper is designed to encourage the development of a level of awareness and possible participation of each student in an international topic/issue or organization of his/her choice.

b) **Cultural Diversity.** Each student in the class brings a cultural background provides a rich example of the variety of cultures and sub-cultures that co-exist in Los Angeles and the world. In addition, the students will be able to differentiate the various value systems and theories that inform the discipline of International Relations /and its analysis of specific issues in world politics and the formulation of policy solutions.

c) **Ethics:** Topics ranging from human rights and poverty to environmental disasters, require that the student goes beyond the learning of facts, theories, and international law, to examine the cultural, economic/ & political values upon which political & economic decisions are made. The student is encouraged to think and formulate ethical alternatives for the resolution of these problems. This aspect of the course is addressed in class discussions and in the conclusion of the position/research paper.

Grade System:

a) **Exams: 3 in-class written exams: 65% of the course grade**

b) **Class Participation: 10%**

c) **Final Paper: 25% of the course grade.**

3 Exams: 65% of your total course grade.

Exam I & Exam 2 are worth each 20% of your final course grade. The final exam is worth 25%. Each exam has 3 sections: Multiple Choice (25 questions(2pts each=50 points). Fill-in-section, 5 questions=(2 pts each=10 points) and an Essay Section(2 essays-each worth 20 pts= 40 pts). These 3 sections add to a total of 100 points, or an “A” letter grade for each exam. Be sure to bring a scantron form 882E (100 questions) and a “blue book” to your test.

Final Paper

Your final grade is a 10-12 page paper. It is worth 25% of your total course grade.

The student will choose a topic on contemporary world affairs or on the work of a particular international organization and will take a position on it. I will give you a written rubric with detailed instructions for your paper. Your paper is due on 12/15/15 NO EXTENSIONS! There will also be short (5-7 minutes) oral presentations of your paper. You need to present your paper or at least be present during the final paper presentations of your classmates to get full credit for our paper. If you submit your paper yet failed to attend the final paper presentations, your paper grade would have a 20% deduction.

Class participation

It is strongly recommended and encouraged! It is 10% of your total course grade! It includes your class preparation and participation in class discussions (questions, & comments) and up to 3 short (2-3 pages) homework assignments submitted on due dates during the semester. You must be participating in the class in the manner described above in order to obtain the maximum percentage of this grade. There is NO make up work for this part of your grade.

Grade Breakdown:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 100%A+ | 88-89%B+ |
| 94-99%..... A | 84-87%.....B |
| 90-93%.....A- | 80-83%.....B- |
| 78-79%.....C+ | 68-69%.....D+ |
| 74-77%.....C | 64-67%.....D |
| 70-73%.....C- | 60-63%.....D- |
| | 59% and below F |

Note: Final course grades will be solid letter grades. No minus or pluses are accepted at the office of admissions and records. Therefore, your final course grade will be the result of computing the percentage value of each one of the 3 exams and the Term Paper. These four grades will make 90% of your final course grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will be determined by the level of your class participation. See the definition of this portion of your grade in the paragraph above the grade breakdown.

Make Up Exam

Due to the benefits for your course learning and our compressed semester schedule, it is critical that you take your exams at the schedule dates. In the rare event that you don't take an exam on the scheduled date, you may take a make-up exam provided that you present a valid excuse before or immediately after the scheduled exam. **YOU MUST** schedule a new exam immediately after the missed exam, and no later than one week from the date of the scheduled regular exam. If you do not take the make up exam at the agreed upon date and time, your missed exam will be graded with a letter "F". *With the exception of a certified medical emergency for which you provide written evidence, you can only schedule ONE make up exam in this course.*

Attendance

Good attendance is proven to be an essential part of your academic success. I keep strict records of attendance. It is your obligation to attend class and be current with class materials and exams. If you choose to drop this class and you do not want a "W" in your records, you must do so officially with the office of Admissions by 9/11/15. The deadline to drop with a "W" is 11/20/15. If you don't drop the class officially, you may remain listed as a student in this class even if you are not attending the class, and will be given an "F" as a final course grade. If you fail to attend 3 classes, you will be dropped out from the class. 3 late arrivals or early departures will be considered as one absence.

Course Materials

It consists of the assigned chapters in both books, plus study questions, handouts, videos and lectures. The student is responsible for keeping track of all course materials and studying them for every exam.

Student Conduct

You are expected to abide by the norms of the LACCD Board of Trustees and the California Education Code. (See West Catalog and class schedule). Student use of electronic devices during class, or voice taping and/or video taping of my lectures are not permitted unless there is a written request for accommodation of DSP students, or the use of these devices is directed by the instructor as part of a learning exercise.

Academic Honor Code

Each student understands and honors the value of academic integrity in all his/her academic endeavors including tests, quizzes, written assignments and final paper. Cheating and plagiarism in a particular test or written assignment will result in an "F" grade for that particular assignment and any other appropriate disciplinary actions related to student conduct.

Communication with Instructor

The best way to contact me is after class during my office hours listed on the first page of this syllabus. However, you can also send me an email to shewfeo@wlaac.edu, or call and leave a message in my office.

Last, ONLY in case of an emergency contact me at my cell phone at (213) 392-0489.