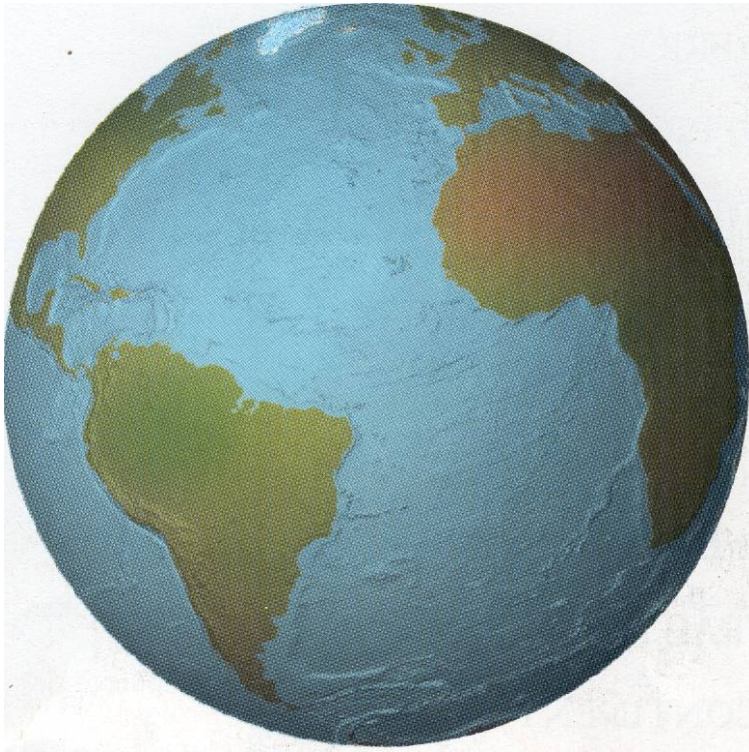


*WELCOME TO YOUR COURSE ON
Contemporary World Affairs: GLOBAL
POLITICS, A WORLD OF CONFLICT
AND COOPERATION!*



“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)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Political Science 7 Section# 1751 Fall/14

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

Instructor: Olga Shewfelt

Office: B4-104 (first floor)

Office Tel: (310) 287-4223

E-mail: shewfeo@wlaac.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, from 11:01 AM-11:36 a.m. in the classroom after class or at my office.

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 chapter or page number)**
 2. Lectures, case studies, first sources (documents) and selected articles from various magazines, newspaper and web links.
 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>
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Week of **Concepts & Theories**

- 9/02** **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
- 9/09** **International Security & Power Politics: The School of Realpolitik.**
The International System Today. 9/11. The West & the Middle East “G” Chapter 2
- 9/16** **International Security & Power Politics continues.**
- 9/23** **International Political Economy (IPE)**
Trade Theories, International Trade Regimes & globalization. “G” Chapter 8
- 9/30** **IPE continues.**
- 10/02** **Exam 1**

ECONOMIC REGIONS AND CULTURAL BLOCKS

- 10/07** **Supranationalism: The European Union.**
History. Membership. Economic & Political Power. Institutions. “G” Chapter 10.
- 10/14** **The New Asia: China & India**
Economic Development & Political conflicts. “G” Chapter 13
- 10/21** **The Americas: The United States, NAFTA & The FTAA**
History: Winners & Losers. “G” Ch. 13 p. 589-590 & handout.
- 10/28** **Exam II**
- 11/01** **Veteran’s Day Observation. College Closed.**

WORLD POLITICS

- 11/04** **The North-South Gap**
The state of the global North and South & their relations. “G” Chapter 12
- 11/11** **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
- 11/18** **The Environment: resources & population. “G” Chapter 11**
- 11/21** *Last day to drop classes with a “W”.*
- 11/25** **Exam III**
- 11/27-28** **Thanksgiving. College Closed.**
- 11/29-30** **Non Instructional Day. College closed.**
- 12/02** **Foreign Policy & World Leadership : U.S. foreign policy Post 9/11. The War on Terror, and the Bush & Obama’s Doctrines. “G” Chapter 4 & handouts**
- 12/09** **Foreign Policy and World Leadership continues.**
- 12/16** **Final Paper and oral presentations due at 10:15 am!**

Tuesday, December 16, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. FINAL PAPER and oral presentations DUE! This paper is worth 30% of your final course grade. Failure to submit your paper on the due date will result in obtaining an “F” letter grade. There will be in class presentations of your papers . Everyone must attend! Even if

you send your paper electronically or in person, failure to attend and present your paper will result in a deduction of 20% of your final paper grade.

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 which are their main functions today, as well as what are the three main theories that explain international relations. This course objective is assessed in 3 exams that are worth 60% of the course grade.

2) The student will be able to distinguish and analyze the main political socio-economic forces that dominate world politics today. This course objective will be graded in the final research paper for this course which is worth 30% of this course grade.

3) Global citizenship .This (3-part) student course outcome is assessed in conjunction with the above SLOs.

a) **Civic Responsibility.** “Think globally, act locally” The final paper in this class is designed to encourage the participation of each student in an international organization of their choice. This provides the student with a concrete opportunity to participate in an organization that works on issues of international scope, yet with national or local implications. Examples are the work done by Amnesty International, Green Peace, or Oxfam America in the areas of human rights, the environment and economic development. The student may also choose to do research on a private multinational corporation/business or Inter-governmental organization IGO’s as long as a connection is made between the selected topic and its implications for the United States. Students may also choose to establish a new campus organization that addresses issues of international scope and document how they did this work. This encourages the development of civic responsibility through research, understanding and a level of participation in global politics.

b) **Cultural Diversity.** Each student’s cultural background provides all students with the first exposure to the variety of cultures and sub-cultures that form the particular group of students taking this course. Furthermore, a student will be able to differentiate the various complex assumptions/value systems and theories that shape the discipline of International Relations in analyzing specific issues in world politics and observing these diverse views in the identification of the issue and the formulation of solutions or prediction of outcomes. The student is encouraged to become aware of the necessity of comparing and contrasting different points of views in order to arrive to a better understanding of the issue at hand. Students are encouraged to present and evaluate the differences among these main perspectives in class discussions and in short homework essays.

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 and economic/ political values upon which political & economic decisions are made. The student is encouraged to think and formulate potential ethical alternatives for the resolution of these problems. This aspect of the course is addressed in class discussions/participation and in the conclusion of the final position/research paper.

Grade System: 3 in-class written exams: 60% of the course grade
Final Position Research Paper: 30%. Of the course grade.
Class Participation 10%.

Exams (3 exams):

Each exam is worth 20% of your course grade. Each exam has 3 sections: Multiple Choice (25 questions (2pts each=50 points). Be sure to bring a scantron form 882E(100 questions) for this section of your test. The second section is a fill-in section with 5 questions (2 pts) each. The third and last section is an Essay Section (2 essays (each worth 20 pts= 40 pts). For a total of 100 pts.

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 total course average from the 3 exams and the PPP will be calculated as 90% of your grade, and up to 10% will be added for class participation. The result of this computing operation will be your final course grade.

Final Position Research Paper (10-15 pages paper).This is a very important part of your course learning and grade. It is worth 30% of your total course grade. The student will choose an international topic and will take a position on it. The topic may be a specific nation-state issue, an international governmental organization (IGO), a non-governmental organization (NGO) or a corporation. I will give you a written rubric with detailed instructions for your paper by 10/7/14.

You need to present a 10 -15 page written essay of your research and position on this topic on Tuesday, December 16, 014. You need to let me know in writing your paper's topic by 10/14/14 and turn in your project draft on 12/02/14 if you wish me to review it and give you my feedback. Projects are due on Tuesday, December 16, , 2014 at 10:15 a.m. There will be class presentations of the projects on that final exam day from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Anyone who turns in the paper but misses the class presentations will have 20% deducted from his/her project grade. **NO EXEMPTIONS !**

Make Up Exams:

If you failed to 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".

Class participation: It is strongly recommended and encouraged! It is 10% of your total course grade! It includes but is not limited to your class preparation and participation in class discussions,(questions, & comments) and up to 3 short homework assignments during the semester.

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 9/12/14. The deadline to drop with a “W” is 11/21/14. 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 Material:

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.