

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Political Science 7: CONTEMPORARY WORLD AFFAIRS

Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Durukan

Days: W. 1:50-5:00 pm.

Section: 0434

Location: Room 1001

E-Mail Address: durukae@lamission.edu

Office Hours: M-12- 1pm; T-12-1:50pm; W-12-1pm; Th-7:50-8:50 am Room: INST 25

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Add Deadline: Feb.21

Drop Deadlines: Feb.23 (w/o penalty); May 11 (w/W)

Course Description and Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts, ideas, trends, and events of the current global affairs. In order to achieve this goal, we will explore international actors, institutions, and the systems that shape contemporary international relations. We are going to first look at the historical perspective that helps us construct international affairs theories. Second, an exploration of state security and statecraft will take place. In doing that we are going to explore some basic concepts such as power, diplomacy, and war. This will be followed by an analysis of international security issues, including the role of international organizations, global armament, and international terrorism. Next, we are going to examine the relationship between global economy and global affairs. Finally, we are going to turn our focus on issues of identity and civil society.

Course Materials:

There is only one required book for the course which can be purchased at the Mission College Bookstore:

International Relations and World Politics by Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi

Students are also expected to follow current events. Ways to do so include following a daily newspaper, for instance the Los Angeles Times, a weekly news magazine, like

The Economist, Time or Newsweek; watching a TV news program covering international political news such as "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" at 6 p.m. and BBC news at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Channel 28; and finally, listening to public radio on 89.3 or 89.9FM. You can also have access to most of these papers, magazines, and news programs on the internet.

### Expectations:

Students are expected to attend the class regularly and also participate in discussions. I reserve the right to drop you from the course in the case of excessive absence. No video or audio recording is allowed without permission.

Plagiarism is punished by dropping you from the class. Plagiarism can be defined as presenting someone else's work as one's own work, in general terms. The submission of work that is not a product of the student's own effort is dishonest and subject to severe disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the college.

Students are responsible for finding class notes of the day they are not able to attend.

### Course Requirements:

#### *Readings and Exams*

Students should come to class prepared, which means all the assigned readings must be completed before the class.

There will be three tests and a final exam. Each test will be worth of 200 points and final is worth of 300 points. Only the best two test scores will be counted towards your class grade. You will be responsible for both your book and the lecture notes. You can make up for the tests you have missed. However, you will have to wait until May, the date when all the make-up tests will be given. Also, bear in mind that make-ups will be given only if you have missed a test for a legitimate reason. So I strongly advise that students e-mail prior to the exam. Just not showing up at the exam day is not acceptable.

#### *Team Paper and Presentation*

A ten-page team paper analyzing an international issue from a given theoretical perspective is to be written and presented by groups of 2. More specific information about this paper will be provided later during the semester. Groups are required to

submit the topic of their choice by March for approval. Finding partners, getting together and brainstorming is strongly recommended to come up with good ideas for your team project.

All the papers are due on May . Presentations of these papers will be also start on Dec. 1. Before the presentation, each team should provide a one-page paper with the names of the group members, the topic, and an outline of the presentation.

*Extra Credit: Optional Internship*

Students may select to do internship with a political official or a candidate of their choice. LAMC does not favor, promote, nor endorse one political office/official/candidate over another. If you decide opt for this assignment, you are required to write a three-page reflection paper explaining your internship and how this experience has helped you understand the political process better.

Performance Evaluation:

Grades are based on the following:

Tests	: 200 points each (400 total)
Final Exam	: 300
Group Paper	: 250 points
Participation & Attendance:	50 points
<u>Total</u>	: <u>1000 points</u>

A : 1000-900 points (Outstanding work)

B : 899- 800 points (Above average)

C : 799- 700 points (Average work, meets basic requirements)

D : 699-600 points (Below average, but passing)

F : 599-0 points (Unsatisfactory, fails to meet basic requirements)

Miscellaneous:

Grades will not be affected by the political views or comments of the students. To show respect for your fellow students' beliefs, views, and ideas is the number one priority!

## Lecture Schedule

Feb. 12 W	Introduction What is Politics? What is Government? Types of Governments.
Feb. 19, W	Trends, Actors, and Concepts (Ch. 1) Current Events
Feb. 26	International Law (Ch. 2)
March 5	I. R. in Historical Perspective (Ch.3)
Feb. 12	I.R. Theories (Ch. 4)
March 19	Test #1
March 26	Power: Interests, Objectives & Capabilities of States (Ch. 5)
April 2	Diplomacy (Ch. 6)
April 16	Paper Workshop
April 23	War (Ch. 7)
April 30	Test # 2
May 7	International Cooperation (Ch. 8)
May 14	Global Armament (Ch. 9)

May 21	International Terrorism (ch. 10)
May 28	Test # 3 Religion, Nationalism,& Conflicting Identities (Ch. 15)
June 4	Student Presentations
June 11, 3 pm.	Final

At the end of the semester you will be able to

1. Identify the actors participating in world affairs (state, international organizations, non-governmental organizations)
2. Distinguish between contemporary global trends, including globalization, crises of authority, economic integration, and terrorism
3. Explain the three theoretical perspectives (realism, liberalism, and economic structuralism) used to analyze international affairs