

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Political Science 7: CONTEMPORARY WORLD AFFAIRS

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Durukan

Days: TTH. 8:55-10:30 am.

Section: 16649

Location: Room 1001

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Office Hours:

Phone: (818) 364-7600 EXT. 7675

Add Deadline:

Drop Deadlines: Sept. (w/o penalty); Nov. (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:

[Essentials of International Relations, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by Karen Mingst, Heather Elko McKibben, and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft](#)

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.

Attendance: 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.

Cheating- unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.
- failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof
- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own.

First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the

disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.

Recording devices in the classroom- Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor. (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more)

Reasonable Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them.

### 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 250 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 .....Presentations of these papers will be also start on..... 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.

Performance Evaluation:

Grades are based on the following:

Tests : 200 points each (400 total)

Final Exam : 250

Group Paper : 300 points

Participation & Attendance: 50 points

Total : 1000 points

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)

VERY IMPORTANT RULE!

Grades will not be affected by the political views or comments of the students. Please remember that our FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION is provided and protected by the American constitution. That being said to show **RESPECT** for your fellow students' beliefs, views, and ideas is the number one priority! Disrespectful comments, foul language, verbal attacks **ARE NOT** permitted. I reserve the right to drop student that engage in these kinds of behavior

Aug. 27, T	Introduction
Aug. 29, Th	What is Politics? What is International Relations?
Sept. 3, T	Ch. 1 – Approaches to International Relations
Sept. 5, Th	Ch. 1 (continued)
Sept. 10, T	Ch. 2- Historical Context
Sept. 12, Th	Ch. 2 (continued)
Sept. 17, T	Ch. 3- IR Theories
Sept. 19, Th	Ch. 3 (continued)
Sept. 24, T	Test # 1
Sept. 26, Th	Ch. 4- Levels of Analysis
Oct. 1, T	Ch. 4 (continued)
Oct. 3, Th	Ch. 5- The State and Tools of State Craft
Oct. 8, T	Ch. 5 (continued)
Oct. 10, Th	Ch. 6- War and Security
Oct. 5 T	Ch. 6 (continued)

Oct. 17, Th	Test 2
Oct. 22, T	Paper Workshop
Oct. 24, Th	Ch. 7- International Cooperation and International Law
Oct. 29, T	Ch. 7 (continued)
October 31 Th	Ch. 9- Historical Context
Nov. 5, T	Ch. 9- (continued)
Nov. 7, Th	Ch. 10- Human Rights
Nov. 12, T	Ch. 10 (continued)
Nov. 14, Th	Paper Workshop
Nov. 19, T	Ch. 11- Migration, Global Health, and Environment
Nov. 21, Th	Ch. 11 (continued)
Nov. 26, T	
Nov. 28 Th	Student Presentations
Dec. 3 T	Student Presentations
Dec. 5, Th,	Final Review
Dec. 10, Tuesday, 10 am-12 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