

PS205, Syllabus, 2018

Instructor: Doug Clark

Office: SSH-206

Hours: 11:30-12:30 T/R (or by appointment)

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"Don't speak to us of laws....we carry swords"

Pompeius Magnus (Pompey)

"The most casual observer of the international scene can see that the problem of world order has not been solved." *Inis Claude*

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the study of the relations among states and peoples in the contemporary world---or more to the point, **we are interested in understanding how the world works.** We will examine the place of war and violence in world politics, the role of non-state actors, the impact of the global human rights revolution, and the nature of transnational and sub-national challenges to the sovereign state-based system in which we live.

Basically, the aim of PS205 is to develop **generalized understandings** of how the world works. The goal is not just to understand the cause of a particular war, but of wars in general; it is not merely an attempt to understand how an organization like the UN might successfully resolve a particular conflict, but also what circumstances and strategies are most likely to promote peace in general. As a student, acquiring a general understanding of how the world works is crucial because it will help you make sense of the mass of information about world events that is reported daily and because it will provide you with a set of concepts, tools, and ways of thinking that you can apply to the global developments you will encounter throughout your life.

Intended course outcomes boil down to students building an understanding of the central place of **security as a human value.** This course explores the threats to and policies and practices of national, international, and human security with the basic proposition that **security at all levels is elusive.**

Text and Resources:

A WORLD IN DISARRAY by Richard Haass

HUMAN AND NATIONAL SECURITY by Reveron and Mahoney-Norris

Global Information Sources:

Public Radio International, [The World](#)

The Guardian--[World Briefing](#)

Translated Foreign News: [Watching America](#)

PBS [NewsHour](#)

In addition to the textbook, regular reading assignments will be from a variety of journals, websites, and authors listed at the [Readings and Assignments](#) link.

Methods of Instruction and Evaluation:

Each of us, in order to understand "what in the world is going on," needs to look, listen, and discuss. This is what you should expect to do this quarter. This means the readings and class meetings are important and necessary. **Please do the reading when it is assigned. Please do not miss a class meeting!!!!**

Class time will be taken up with discussions, videos, class presentations and lectures. In general, you will be evaluated on the basis of your commitment to the course as demonstrated by your **participation.**

Grades Will Be Based On:

6 in-class Quizzes @ 10 points each = 60 points

2 Geopolitical R&Ds @ 50 points = 80 points

3 Discussion Papers @ 20 points each = 60 points

2 Security Workshops @ 50 points each = 100 points

Take-Home Final Exam = 100 points

400 total possible points---A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%

Late Assignments: All written assignments are take-homes. They should be turned in on time. I will not accept papers that are more than three (3) class meetings late. Within this time-frame, late papers will lose 40% of their value. Discussion papers are the exception to this rule and they must be presented in class on the due date---**no late discussion papers will be accepted.** I will try to return on-time papers within two class meetings. For late papers, I make no promises. If your attendance is good and your papers on time, you may re-write papers (*excepting discussion papers*) to improve your grade. Of course, there will be no penalty if you are late due to circumstances beyond your control.

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(for further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>)