

PS205 Syllabus 2017

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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 global politics.** As such, it involves an examination of **three dimensions** of global affairs:

1. An **overview** or portrait of global politics, during the past century and especially since the Cold War. This is the **data** of international relations---the **who, what, and where** of global politics.
2. An **examination** of approaches and perspectives for understanding world politics. This is the **analysis** of international relations--the **why**. This involves becoming familiar with the basic concepts of international political/economy, diplomacy, geopolitics, and strategy and their relevance to current global affairs. Our focus is also on the difficulty of understanding events that we experience only vicariously and that we have been socialized to explain only within our conceptual comfort zone. Here, we apply the truism that "where you sit is what you see," and try to broaden our vision in spite of our limits.
3. An **exploration** of the post-Cold War issues (1989/2016) which dominate global politics today---above all, security issues....economic, political and military plus the topics that shape and underlie international conflict: ethnicity and global diversity, economic inequality and development, and human environmental sustainability. This focus gives substance to contemporary efforts to prescribe **preferred futures** as for examples the themes of *democratization, cultural autonomy, or globalization*. These are the **shoulds** and **coulds** of international relations analysis.

Basically, the objective of PS205 is to help you become independent thinkers, readers, writers and participants. I have chosen materials and activities to help you "join the discussion." When you have completed this course **you should be able to understand** the importance of **power** in politics, the **causes of conflicts** in the relations among nations, the changing nature of **war**, the growing pressure on **national sovereignty** as a result of increasing **interdependence** and **globalization** accompanied by the increasing salience of **environmental** and **human rights issues**. Most importantly, you should be able to formulate an agenda---a list of your own priorities as a knowledgeable citizen---for national and international political action.

Text and Resources:

HOW THE WORLD WORKS, by Russell Bova, 3rd edition

Global Information Sources:

Public Radio International, [The World](#)
 The Guardian--[World Briefing](#)
 Translated Foreign News: [Watching America](#)
 PBS NewsHour--[World](#)

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:

5 in-class Quizzes @ 10 points each = 50 points

1 Institutional Profile Report = 75 points

1 Report from Abroad = 75 points

3 Discussion Papers @ 20 points each = 60 points

Take-Home Final Exam = 100 points

360 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/>)