

## **POLS/INST 184: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Fall 2015

Monday/Wednesday 1:00pm – 1:50pm

Lecture Center F, Room 003

### **INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. Katharine M. Floros

BSB 1170B

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office hours: Monday/Wednesday, 2-3

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

This course is designed to be an introduction to the political science subfield of international politics. No background or prerequisites are required. The course will cover the major theories in international relations, security and economic relations between states, and global challenges states face from the environment and non-state actors.

### **EVALUATION (3 cr):**

#### **10% Reading/Map Quizzes**

Throughout the semester, 6 quizzes will be given *during discussion sections* to test students' ability to identify states on regional maps. All together, these quizzes will be worth 10% of the final grade.

#### **10% Discussion Section Participation**

Students should arrive in discussion section on time and prepared to discuss the topic indicated on the Discussion Section Syllabus for that day. Discussion sections are also an excellent opportunity to ask questions about lecture material that could not be answered in lecture and dig deeper into concepts covered in lecture. Students should bring any questions they have with them to discussion.

#### **40% Exams (each @ 20%)**

Students will be required to sit for two exams. The first exam is tentatively scheduled for **October 12** and will cover the material from the beginning of the term until the exam day. The final exam is scheduled for **December 7** and will cover the material from the first exam until end of the semester.

**40% Current Events Papers** – An instruction sheet may be found on Blackboard with more information about these assignments and students will spend one discussion section learning about these papers in more detail. **DO NOT MISS THIS VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSION SECTION (SEPTEMBER 11).**

**10% August paper (October 5)**

**15% September paper (November 2)**

**15% October Paper (December 2)**

## GRADES

90-100: A      80-89: B      70-79: C      60-69: D      <60: F

## GUIDELINES:

**1. Late papers:** Late papers will be penalized 1 letter grade per day including weekends and holidays, except in the case of a verified emergency or documented medical excuse. In order for the penalty for tardiness to be waived, you must contact the instructor or TA **before** the due date. No exceptions! We WILL NOT accept papers via e-mail as a general rule.

**2. Academic Integrity:** The University expects students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Any of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own and according to university and class rules. Any attempt to gain an advantage not given to all students is considered dishonest whether or not it is successful. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, including but are not limited to failing this course. For additional information, see the Student Code of Conduct at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/docs/Student%20Disciplinary%20Policy%202011-12%20Final-1.pdf>

- There is **NO** instance or circumstance in which cutting and pasting from any material into an assignment is acceptable.
- Citations
  - When student is providing a direct quote from a resource, the author, date, and *page number* of the quote should be included in the citation. The direct quote should also be enclosed in parentheses.
  - Paraphrasing involves taking an author's words and putting them into our own words. Using a thesaurus to change a few words is **NOT** paraphrasing but may constitute plagiarism.
  - Class lecture is **NEVER** to be cited. Go back to the readings on which the lecture is based for the citation.

**3. Special provisions:** Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY). Accommodation letters should be provided to the professor as early in the semester as possible.

**4. Grade disputes:** Students must wait 24 hours after receiving a grade or graded work before approaching the professor about the grade. If a student cannot understand the comments on a paper or exam, s/he may approach the TA for clarification; however, if the student desires to challenge the grade, all challenges must be made *in writing* (typed) to the professor more than 24 hours after the grade was received. Students must be able to explain *in writing* why the grade deserves to be adjusted. Students should submit the written grade dispute along with the original graded work to the professor. The professor reserves the right to either raise or lower the grade, based on her assessment of the material. TAs should not be bothered with grade disputes.

## REQUIRED READINGS

- Jackson, Robert J. 2013. *Global Politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## OTHER STUDENTS IN THE CLASS:

If you have any questions about assignments, deadlines, or other matters in the class, you may wish to contact other students before contacting the instructor or teaching assistant. Use the following space to collect information from other students in the class.

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(name)	(phone #)	(e-mail)
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(name)	(phone #)	(e-mail)
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## READING SCHEDULE:

	Date	Topic	Reading	Exams
<b>1</b>	Aug. 24	Class introduction		
	Aug. 26	Building Blocks of IR	Jackson, Ch. 1	
<b>2</b>	Aug. 31	World History	Jackson, Ch. 2	
	Sept. 2			
<b>3</b>	Sept. 7	<b>No class – Labor Day holiday</b>		
	Sept. 9	Theories	Jackson, Ch. 3	
<b>4</b> Sept. 14				
<b>5</b>	Sept. 16	States in the Global System	Jackson, Ch. 5	
	Sept. 21			
<b>6</b>	Sept. 23	State Power & Decision making	Jackson, Ch. 4	
	Sept. 28			
<b>7</b>	Sept. 30	International Organizations	Jackson, Ch. 6	<b>August current events paper due</b>
	Oct. 5			
<b>8</b>	Oct. 7	NGOs & MNCs	Jackson, Ch. 7	
	Oct. 12			<b>Mid-term exam</b>
Oct. 14	International War	Jackson, Ch. 9		
<b>9</b> Oct. 19				
<b>10</b>	Oct. 21	Politics of Identity	Jackson, Ch. 8	
	Oct. 26	Civil Wars	Jackson, Ch. 10	
Oct. 28				

<b>11</b>	Nov. 2	Terrorism	Jackson, Ch. 11	<b>September current events paper due</b>
	Nov. 4	International Political Economy	Jackson, Ch. 12	
<b>12</b>	Nov. 9			
	Nov. 11	Global Inequality	Jackson, Ch. 13	
<b>13</b>	Nov. 16			
	Nov. 18	Global Environment	Jackson, Ch. 15	
<b>14</b>	Nov. 23			
	Nov. 25	Catch up day		
<b>15</b>	Nov. 30	Human Rights	Jackson, Ch. 14	<b>October current events paper due</b>
	Dec. 2			
	<b>Mon., Dec. 7 1:00 – 3:00 PM</b>			<b>Final exam</b>