

University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Department of Political Science
Fall 2010
Ross Hall 215, MWF 10:00-10:50 am

Professor Rebecca Glazier
Stabler Hall 603K
Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00, 2:00-3:00
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POLS 4340 International Relations

Course Syllabus



Description: This course teaches students the major theoretical perspectives on the study of international relations and requires them to critically evaluate these perspectives and apply them to past and current problems in the international realm. Through this study, students will address questions regarding the nature of the international system, why and how states fight, what globalization holds in store for states and individuals, and whether global governance is possible.

Course goals: In this course, students are expected to gain substantive knowledge about international relations through the study of facts and cases, as well as to gain transferrable skills. At the end of this course, students should be able to compare and evaluate international relations perspectives, international organizations, civil and international wars, and to identify the incentives and philosophies underlying the political behaviors of individuals and states. Students will also improve their writing and researching skills, use logic and evidence to build and/or question arguments, and gain experience working in groups, conducting negotiations, and presenting complex information.

Required readings:

- Perspectives on International Relations: Power, Institutions, Ideas, 2nd Edition. Henry R. Nau, CQ Press, 2009.
- Global Issues: Selections from *CQ Researcher*, 2010 Edition.
- Major daily news source
- Other readings posted online

Course assignments and grading standards: Letter grades will be based on the traditional scale (90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, 70-79 is a C, 60-69 is a D, and below 60 is an F)). There will be no opportunities for extra credit. Course assignments and their percentage of the total grade are as follows:

- Participation, including pop quizzes: 10%
- Midterm: 20%
- Presentation: 15%
- Research Paper: 25%
- Final: 30%

Expectations: Students are expected to attend all lectures on time, have the assigned readings completed by the beginning of class each day, participate in class discussions, activities, and simulations, and ask questions. Students are expected to be respectful in their interactions with the professor and with their fellow students. Cell phones should be turned off and the owner of any cell phone that rings will be required to bring treats for the rest of the class.

Email policy:

The best way to get a hold of me is through email. If you want to receive a reply, please make sure to 1) put a reasonably informative subject in the subject line, 2) address the email to Dr. or Professor Glazier, and 3) close with your name. Please feel free to ask me any questions about the course, but out of courtesy please check the syllabus and the course website to see if the answer is already available. If you want to make any special arrangements or for any reason want me to remember something, please send it in an email. If I don't have it in email, it never happened.

Exam Format: Both the midterm and the final exam will be closed book and closed note, in-class, timed exams. You will need bluebooks for both of these exams. If you anticipate being unable to take the exam during the scheduled time, be sure that you are familiar with the make-up exam policy listed below. We will also have periodic "pop quizzes" in this course. The point of the pop quizzes is to make sure you are keeping up with the reading and coming to class regularly. The pop quizzes will be a surprise (hence the "pop" in the name) and cannot be made up

Missed exams: The exam dates are indicated in the class schedule and your paper due date will be assigned to you shortly. If this class does not fit into your schedule, then you should consider taking it at a later date. No make-up exams will be given except in cases of serious, documented emergencies. The documentation must have contact information that allows me to call and verify your story. Vacations, birthdays, or hangovers do not qualify as emergencies. Note that what qualifies as a valid excuse is at the discretion of the instructor, so you should make arrangements in advance if at all possible. Failure to comply with this requirement will lead to an "F" for the exam. Students taking a make-up exam will not be given the same exam assigned to the rest of the class, and the format of the make-up exams may vary.

Paper submission:

The research paper must be submitted through Blackboard using the Safe Assign tool on the homepage of the course Blackboard site. **Every student will have a different paper due date, depending on the topic you select.** You will have a chance to select your topic—and your paper due date—at the beginning of the course. Look for the “Research Paper Topic” sign-up sheet in class. All papers will be run through plagiarism screening software, which will compare the material used to online sources, library books, and papers submitted by other students. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please read the plagiarism handout very carefully, as well as the cheating policy described below. Plagiarism excuses that are based in ignorance are not acceptable. Read the plagiarism policy. Late papers will be docked 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late. If a paper is 10 days late or more, it will not be read and will automatically receive an “F.” A “practice paper” submission is currently set up on the course Blackboard page. You should submit any past research paper (really, any paper at all will work, but a research paper is best) using the Safe Assign tool to make sure you are familiar with it. Submitting a practice paper is worth 2 bonus points, which will be added to your presentation score.

Cheating policy: Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously in this course. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, unauthorized collaboration on an assignment, and plagiarism. The professor is REQUIRED to report any academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students, and students caught cheating will receive an F for the assignment and may receive an F for the course. In order to ensure that you understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please thoroughly review the plagiarism handout provided and read the complete description of the UALR policy on academic dishonesty, which is available in the student handbook at www.ualr.edu/www/handbook/student_rights.html. Claiming to not know the definition of plagiarism is not an excuse for plagiarism.

Disability statement: It is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students should contact the Disability Resource Center, telephone 501-569-3143 (v/tty), in order to set up accommodations at least 2 weeks before the exam or assignment for which they are seeking accommodation. For more information, visit the DRC website at www.ualr.edu/disability.

Contested grades: If you believe a grade is inaccurate, you must wait at least 24 hours before coming to speak with the professor. If there is a math mistake or an overlooked an answer, please let me know and I will correct it. However, if you are actually contesting your grade, you must write a letter that explains why you believe a mistake in grading was made. Grades on exams or papers can only be contested within two weeks of when they are handed back. Course grades can only be contested within 60 days of the end of the quarter.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Week One: Introduction and Perspectives

Readings: Nau Introduction and Chapter 1; Online article “Soft Rock Power”

Week Two: Perspectives Continued

Readings: Nau Chapter 1; Online article “The Melian Dialogue”

No class on Friday, September 3rd; Dr. Glazier is presenting research at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

No class on Monday, September 6th; Labor Day

Week Three: Applying the Perspectives to WWI

Readings: Nau Chapter 3; Online article “Sinking Globalization”

Week Four: Applying the Perspectives to WWII

Readings: Nau Chapter 4; Global Issue Chapter 15: Rewriting History; Online article “The 1930s and the Origins of the Second World War”

Week Five: The Cold War

Readings: Nau Chapter 5; Global Issues Chapter 5: Nuclear Disarmament; Online article “The Unknown War”

Week Six: Humanitarian Intervention

Readings: Nau Chapter 6; Global Issues Chapter 14: Aiding Refugees; Online article “The Cost of Korean Reunification”

Week Seven: Terrorism

Readings: Nau Chapter 7; Global Issues Chapter 4: Terrorism and the Internet

Midterm Exam on Friday, October 8

Week Eight: Democracy and Terrorism

Readings: Global Issues Chapter 7: The Troubled Horn of Africa; Online articles “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”; “How Baida Wanted to Die”

Week Nine: International Political Economy and Globalization

Readings: Nau Chapter 8: “Introduction” pp. 227-278; “Beggar-Thy-Neighbor Policies” pp. 286-287; “Complex Interdependence and Financial Crises” pp. 306-309; “Washington Consensus” p. 317; Nau Chapter 9: pp. 321-328; Global Issues Chapter 11: The Future of Globalization

Week Ten: Surviving in a Globalizing World

Readings: Nau Chapter 11; Global Issues Chapter 9: Evaluating Microfinance

Week Eleven: International Relations and the Environment

Readings: Nau Chapter 14; Global Issues Chapter 16: Climate Change

No class on Friday, November 5th; Dr. Glazier will be presenting research at the International Studies Association-Midwest Annual Conference in St. Louis

Week Twelve: Global Civil Society

Readings: Nau Chapter 15; Global Issues Chapter 13: Women's Rights; Online article "Under Debate: Female Circumcision"

Week Thirteen: Global Governance

Readings: Nau Chapter 16; Global Issues Chapter 2: U.S. Policy on Iran; Online article "Sovereignty"

Week Fourteen: Collective Action

Readings: Online article "Minilateralism"

No class on Friday, November 26; Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen: Modern Problems in IR

Readings: Nau Conclusion; Global Issues Chapter 12: US-China Relations; Global Issues Chapter 1: Afghanistan Dilemma; to-be-determined current article on Afghanistan posted online

Final Exam on Wednesday, December 8th 10:30 am to 12:30 pm