

POLS 1500: Themes in Global Politics

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Ross rossa@ohio.edu

Location:

Bentley 240

Office: Bentley Annex 255

Meeting times: Tu/Th 1:30–2:50

Office hours: Tu 3–4; W 9–11

Course Description

This course introduces students to major themes, issues, and cases in the study of global politics. We address the variety of actors, rules, and institutions involved in addressing global challenges such as war, terrorism, human rights, climate change, and financial crises. Through readings, lectures, and discussions, students consider a variety of orthodox and critical perspectives on issues such as humanitarian intervention, drone strikes, nuclear non-proliferation, financial crises, global warming, and the rights of refugees. The course offers both a primer on global politics and a gateway to more specialized political science courses in international relations and comparative politics.

Learning Outcomes

Students should complete the course with an ability to:

1. Recall and define basic concepts in the study of global politics;
2. Identify and compare different perspectives on key global political challenges;
3. Evaluate competing policy proposals and institutional practices in global affairs;
4. Apply theoretical frameworks from political science to analyze global challenges.

Assignments

Attendance: I expect all students to arrive at class on-time and having already completed the readings assigned for that day. You may miss some classes according to the attendance policy below. As long as you do not miss more than the allowed classes, your attendance will not bring down your overall course grade—it could bring it up, but not down. I will use two tools for recording attendance: (1) a seating chart and (2) sign-in via TopHat. The seating chart helps me learn names and makes the large classroom experience a little less anonymous. TopHat sign-in will be available for 2-3 minutes at the beginning of class and is required in order to receive attendance credit. If you forget your Top Hat-enabled device, the only way to be marked present for the day is to see the TA or me immediately after class is over. I will not grant attendance credit retroactively via email or otherwise.

In-class writing: You will complete a small number of in-class writing assignments; these will give you an opportunity to respond to, and solidify your understanding of, course materials. These assignments will be graded on a credit/no-credit basis, will be offered in class only, and cannot be made up if you miss class that

day. When calculating your grade, I will omit the two lowest-scoring in-class writing assignments.

Reading quizzes: There will be nine almost-weekly quizzes available on Blackboard during the 24-hour period prior to the classes marked with a * on the reading schedule. You may complete as many of these as you like; I will count your top seven scores. Each quiz consists of a small number of multiple-choice questions and covers both/all readings for the week. A portion of quiz questions will be used on the exams.

Exams: There are three exams for this course: **Sep. 25, Oct. 30 Nov. 1, and Dec. 11**. The first exam is worth 20% of your course grade, the other two 25%. These exams will draw from lectures and readings. The final exam will be held during the final exam slot for this class (Tues., Dec. 11, at 12:20 pm) but will not be cumulative.

Critical response paper: You will write a one-page (double-spaced) critical response to a film, documentary, or on-campus event/talk related to this course. Guidelines and a list of eligible materials will be posted on Blackboard, and you will submit the assignment via Blackboard by midnight **Sunday, Dec. 2**.

Grades: If you have concerns about your grade, please come to office hours as early as possible in the semester. Please note that you will not have a graded assignment in advance of the deadline for a course drop without WP/WF. I use this grading scale: A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = <60. Overall grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance	5%
In-class writing	5%
Reading quizzes	15%
First exam	20%
Second exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Critical response	5%

Course Policies

Attendance: I strongly encourage students to attend class: research has shown that missing even a few classes can significantly impact students' performance on exams. Having made that clear, I will allow all students to miss *up to four classes* due to minor illness, car trouble, student conferences, athletics events, family obligations, university events, or the like. This policy means that I will not accept excuse letters or other documentation to erase an absence; classes missed will count toward your allowed absences. I recommend saving these absences in case you get sick later in the quarter. Starting with the fifth missed class, your attendance grade will be reduced for each class missed. If you miss nine or more classes, you will get zero for your attendance grade. Students must sign in via TopHat to receive attendance credit. Students are responsible for all course materials covered and announcements made during missed classes. If you are missing class due to major, on-going health problems (physical or mental), please discuss the situation with me as early as possible.

Exam attendance: I will schedule a make-up exam only in cases of a "legitimate absence" as described in the Undergraduate Catalog and only if you notify me, with proper documentation, in advance of the exam date. Except in

documented cases of emergency the morning of the exam day, students who miss an exam and do not contact me in advance of the scheduled exam time will receive a grade of zero for that exam. The date of the final exam is fixed by the Registrar's Office, and no early or late exams will be offered to accommodate travel plans or scheduling conflicts. If you are not available during class time on one or more of the exam dates, you should not take this course.

Office hours: Office hours (listed on p. 1) are designated blocks of time for consultation with students. You do not need an appointment to come to office hours; they are first-come, first-served. Please feel free to stop by to discuss your progress in this course, the Political Science major, or general educational and career plans.

Email: Check your OU email regularly for announcements or other communications. You may contact me via email, but please try first to answer your question using the syllabus and the resources on Blackboard. I do my best to reply to student emails same or next day M-F, and Monday for messages sent Friday. If you want to discuss course themes and readings, or if you have a complex or sensitive question, please come to office hours.

Blackboard: I expect you to use the Blackboard system to access course materials. If you encounter a broken link, a missing content item, or something else I need to fix, please let me know as soon as possible (thank you in advance ☺). If you are having general problems with Bb, contact the Help Desk.

Devices in class: Please turn off the ringer on your phone *and* put it away during class time. Laptops, tablets, and other devices are not allowed during class. Research on the negative impact of multitasking is posted on Blackboard. I may, upon special request, make accommodations for students who have documented issues with accessibility.

Academic misconduct: Students in this course are expected to follow the University's standards of academic integrity and honesty and are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. One useful reference is here: <http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/academic/students.cfm>. A student caught cheating or plagiarizing may receive a grade deduction on the assignment, a failing grade for the assignment, or a failing grade for the class. You may also be reported to the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility for additional sanctions. Students may appeal academic sanctions through the grade appeal process.

Disability accommodations: Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

Syllabus changes: In the event of a flu epidemic or other campus emergency beyond the instructor's control, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Changes will be communicated in class and/or via email.

Course Topics and Readings

All readings are available in PDF on Blackboard; they are listed alphabetically under "Readings." Quizzes are available during the 24 hours prior to Thursday classes marked below with a *.

Date	Topic	Required reading
Section I: Introduction and Context		

Aug 28	Introduction	Read the entire syllabus carefully
Aug 30	Origins of global politics	Ballantyne and Burton, "Remaking the World"
Sep 4	Global politics from below	Young, "Subaltern Knowledge"
Section II: Actors in Global Politics		
Sep 6*	Maps of the world	Barnett, "The Pentagon's New Map," <i>Esquire</i> Monmonier, "Cartography: Distortions, World-views..."
Sep 11	Nations and nationalism	Appadurai, "Fear of Small Numbers"
Sep 13*	Global civil society	Carpenter, "The Politics of Advocacy"
Sep 18	Terrorists and terrorism	Mishra, "The Globalization of Rage" Devji, "The Terrorist as Humanitarian"
Sep 20	Review	Review reading assigned so far this semester
Sep 25	First exam	n/a
Section III: Global Governance		
Sep 27	Cooperation & governance	Avant, Finnemore, and Sell, "Who Governs the Globe?"
Oct 2	Responsibility to protect	Walzer, "Kosovo," <i>Arguing about War</i>
Oct 4*	Human rights	Ford, "Introduction," <i>Human Rights Down to Earth</i>
Oct 9	Refugees	Bazon, "Stateless," <i>New York Times Magazine</i>
Oct 11*	Refugees (cont'd)	Amnesty International, "I Want A Safe Place" [report on Syria] In-class film: <i>Salam Neighbor</i> (2016)
Section IV: Global Security		
Oct 16	Types and causes of war	Mueller, "The Obsolescence of Major War" Kaldor, "Introduction," <i>New and Old Wars</i>

Oct 18*	Nuclear weapons	Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense..."
Oct 23	Drones	Brooks, "The Secret War," <i>How Everything became War ...</i>
Oct 25*	Cyberwar	Deibert, "Stuxnet and the Argument for Clean War" Belam, "We're Living Through the First Cyberwar ..."
Oct 30	Review	Review reading assigned since the first exam
Nov 1	Second exam	n/a
Section V: Global Political Economy		
Nov 6	To be announced	No additional reading
Nov 8	Globalization	Friedman, "The World Is Flat" Ghemawat, "Why the World Isn't Flat"
Nov 13*	Trade	Stiglitz, "Making Trade Fair" Mishra, "Trump's A Lonely Trade Warrior, But Not Alone"
Nov 15	Financial crisis	Blyth, "A Primer on Austerity, Debt, and Morality Plays"
Nov 20*	Climate change	Kolbert, "Enter the Anthropocene" Hulme, "(Still) Disagreeing about Climate Change..."
Section VI: Global Citizenship?		
Nov 27	Media and global politics	Moeller, "A Hierarchy of Innocence: The Media's Use of Children in the Telling of International News"
Nov 29*	Public- and e-diplomacy	Owen, "Diplomacy Unbound," <i>Disruptive Power...</i>
Dec 4	Social media politics	Gladwell, "Small Change: Why the Revolution Won't Be Tweeted" Brooking and Singer, "How Twitter is Changing Modern Warfare"
Dec 6	Review	Review reading assigned since the second exam