

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science POLS 1150

Introduction to World Politics and Globalization

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Credits 3
2. Lecture hours/week 3 lecture per week, no lab
3. Prerequisites none
4. Co-requisites none
5. MnTC goals
 - #5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - #8: Global Perspective
6. Description:

Develops a global perspective by exploring diverse global issues such as security, human rights, environment, economic development, foreign policies, character of globalization, interactions of nation-states and other actors, origins and effects of global capitalism, and changing effects on global affairs of technological innovations, international organizations, corporations, social movements and groups, and ideologies. Course provides tools for interpreting and evaluating global politics, and it furnishes background to pursue additional courses in World Politics.

DATES LAST REVISED: March 2015, July 2015, November 2017 [for Transfer Pathway submission].

DATES LAST REVIEWED: August 2018

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

Analyzing World Politics

- why study world politics? What are the questions?
- globalization and world politics
- states, the state system, and national power
- domestic politics in world politics: foreign policy
- explaining world politics: prominent theories

International Conflict and Cooperation

- war and security concerns
- arms, arms races, arms control
- internal violence and unconventional violence

- unconventional violence: guerrilla war, urban violence, global terror, and revolution
- the ethics of war
- international law, international organizations, global governance
- United Nations

International Political Economy

- global capitalism and globalization
- interdependence and collective goods
- international trade and finance
- political and economic integration
- economically developed regions versus developing regions
- international development

Global Challenges and Future Conditions

- population and demographic change
- urbanization
- resource scarcity (food, water, energy)
- environmental decay (deforestation, desertification)
- inequalities and poverty
- migration
- disease
- condition of women, children, and minorities
- crime and violence

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Assess global political institutions by using a variety of International Relations theories.
2. Assess global political processes by using a variety of International Relations theories.
3. Assess global political values and cultures by using a variety of International Relations theories.
4. Compare and contrast perspectives on international relations / world politics.
5. Reflect on or participate in the roles and responsibilities of global citizens.
6. Reflect critically on one's own values and opinions about global issues.
7. Explain the historical evolution of global political institutions, processes, and conditions, such as great-power rivalries and chronic poverty (MnTC goal 5b)
8. Assess how global political values, processes, institutions, and behaviors shape individual lives, public policies, and political, legal, economic, social, historical, and cultural conditions (MnTC goals 5a and 5c)

9. Illustrate how a variety of perspectives and motives – such as globalization, nationalism, capitalist competition, or world politics theories -- can differently explain political, legal, economic, social, historical, cultural, and religious conditions (MnTC goals 5c, 5d, and 8b)
10. Analyze and assess how comparative political, legal, economic, social, historical, cultural, and religious features influence the relationships among states and societies in the past, present, and future (MnTC goals 8a and 8b)
11. Address national and international conditions by engaging the comparative political, legal, economic, social, historical, cultural, and religious factors informing the situation and potential solutions (MnTC goal 8c)
12. Exercise and assess the roles, responsibilities, ethical features, and conflicts of active national and global citizenship (MnTC goal 8d)
13. Draw conclusions and implications for our lives, plans, careers, futures, and preferred national policies (such as career choice, family size, lifestyle, consumption and resource use, investment and retirement plans, and support for or resistance to human rights and inequalities) in a global, globalized context (MnTC goal 8b)
14. Describe and assess how current global conditions arose from historical conditions and past policies and from specific events, trends, dynamics and relationships (MnTC goals 5b and 8a)

METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING

May include diagnostic, formative, and summative versions of: answering questions on exams and quizzes; long-form writing (such as writing reactions to political events and conditions, evaluating public policy, advocating policy, writing research essays and political analyses); short-form writing (such as in-class essays, book reviews, reflective writing, opinion pieces, Letters to the Editor, or other brief commentary); submitting a writing portfolio; and participating in group activities, group projects, classroom discussion, classroom presentations, classroom activities, oral presentations, or debates.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: None

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about MnTC GOALS

From http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_mntc.php and links (viewed July 2015)

MnTC goals:

#5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Goal: To increase students' knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.

Students will be able to:

- a. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
- b. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
- c. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
- d. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

#8: Global Perspective

Goal: To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic, and political experiences.

Students will be able to:

- a. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
- c. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
- d. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.