

## **POLS 228 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, Spring 2016**

**Instructor:** Vincent Auger    **Email:** VA-Auger@wiu.edu

**Office Hours** (Morgan 426): M,W 1-2; Thurs 10-12; or by appointment.

### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

The current international system is characterized by growing interdependence among states and peoples, but also by many sharp divisions and conflicts. Many theories about the nature of relations among states are being questioned and reevaluated for their continuing relevance. This course is designed to help you to understand and to participate in that reevaluation, both as students of political science and as citizens. To accomplish this, the course surveys a wide range of theoretical perspectives and substantive issues. During this course we will: 1) consider several ways of explaining what occurs in international relations; 2) deepen our understanding of the historical origins and current dynamics of the contemporary international system; 3) analyze the nature of the evolving international system and specific issues of enduring importance in global politics today. This course will also provide you with opportunities to sharpen your analytical abilities, and to exercise and improve your oral and written communications skills.

### **II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and POLICIES**

1) **COURSE READINGS**: You should complete the readings during the portion of the course for which they are assigned. This will help you understand the lectures, and will also make classroom discussion more productive and interesting.

Required textbook: *Global Politics in the 21st Century*, by Robert J. Jackson (2013)

Other course readings will be posted on the **Western Online** site. I also encourage you to follow current developments in world politics.

2) **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**: There will be **four exams** on the readings and lectures. Exams will have short-answer and essay questions. Missed exams may not normally be made up. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

You will write **two short papers**; one will be an assigned topic, the other on a topic of your choice. The assignment instructions will be available on Western Online. Each paper will be worth 50 points. You may earn extra credit by writing a third paper.

3) **ATTENDANCE POLICY**: Please arrive on time and remain in the classroom until class is ended. Attendance will be monitored with a sign-up sheet which will be circulated in class. It is **YOUR** responsibility to be sure that you have signed the attendance list. You may miss class **three times** during the semester without incurring a grade penalty. Each additional **unexcused** absence will result in a **5 point deduction** from your total points in the course.

4) **LAPTOP COMPUTERS**: The use of laptops, tablets, iPads and other electronic devices is **prohibited** during class without permission of the instructor.

5) **Academic Honesty**: Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to the WIU Student

Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>. It is your responsibility to follow this policy; please ask me if you have questions.

**6) ADA Statement:** In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, [disability@wiu.edu](mailto:disability@wiu.edu) or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

**7) Student rights and responsibilities:** <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

**8) COURSE GRADE** - The course grade will be based on the following point totals:

466-500: A  
450-465: A-  
433-449: B+  
416-432: B  
400-415: B-  
383-399: C+  
366-382: C  
350-365: C-  
333-349: D+  
316-332: D  
300-315: D-  
Below 300: F

### **III. CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Jan. 20: Introduction to the Course**

**Jan. 22: The State System -- Core Concepts**

- Jackson, pp. 89-96, 211-220.

**Jan. 25 – Feb. 8: The State System – Historical Development**

- Jackson, chapters 2 and 5

- Western Online readings

**\*\*\*\*\* FEB. 10 - EXAM # 1 \*\*\*\*\***

**NO CLASS MEETING, FEB. 12**

**Feb. 15, 17: Actors in Global Politics**

- Jackson, pp. 96-112; and chapter 7

**Feb. 19, 22: International Law and Human Rights**

- Jackson, pp. 153-165; 441-460

**\*\*\*\*\* FEB. 24 - First paper due \*\*\*\*\***

**- Western Online reading: Pew Research Report on Free Expression**

**Feb. 26, 29, Mar. 2: International Organization**

**- Jackson, pp. 165-171; 178-187**

**Mar. 4, 7: Theories in International Relations**

**- Jackson, pp. 56-67**

**- Western Online reading**

**\*\*\*\*\* MAR. 9 - EXAM # 2 \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK\*\*\*\*\***

**Mar. 21: Explaining War and Peace**

**- Jackson, pp. 247-258**

**Mar. 23: Civil war and state failure**

**- Jackson, pp. 283-296**

**Mar. 25 – The Case of Rwanda**

**- Western Online readings**

**Mar. 28, 30 – UN Peacekeeping and The Responsibility to Protect**

**- Jackson, pp. 171-178**

**- Western Online readings**

**Apr. 1, 4: Terrorism**

**- Jackson, chapter 11**

**Apr. 6-13: Current Conflicts of the Middle East**

**- Jackson, pp. 294-323**

**- Western Online readings**

**\*\*\*\*\* APR. 15 - EXAM # 3 \*\*\*\*\***

**Apr. 18-22: The Politics of the Global Economy**

**- Jackson, chapter 12**

**Apr. 25-29: Global Inequality and Development**

**- Jackson, chapter 13**

**May 2-6: Global Environmental Issues**

**- Jackson, pp. 470-494**

**- Western Online readings**

**FINAL EXAM - Monday, May 9 at 10 am**