

POS 120
Introduction to World Politics
Fall 2009

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"extreme intolerance within one stream of Islam...is not a position with which Americans can bargain or negotiate. With it there is no common ground-not even respect for life-on which to begin a dialogue. It can only be destroyed or utterly isolated." 9/11 Commission Report

"It may be that as a free society as we have known it carries in itself the forces of its own destruction, that once freedom has been achieved it is taken for granted and ceases to be valued, and that the free growth of ideas which is the essence of a free society will bring about the destruction of the foundations on which it depends."

Friedrich Hayek

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Prior to September 11, most Americans felt that they could confidently and comfortably ignore international politics. It was widely believed that the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War signaled the start of an era in international relations in which the U.S. could dramatically cut defense spending and yet be assured of heightened national security. However, the post Cold War international environment has proved to be both more chaotic and dangerous than most anticipated. The collapse of Soviet Union in 1991 fractured the old Czarist\Leninist Empire into 15 new, and often quite unstable, sovereign states. By the beginning of the 21st century, China surpassed both Russia and Japan as Asia's preeminent military and economic power. The collapse of communism made it possible for East and West Germany to be reunited and for states like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to become democracies. The European Union expanded to 27 states, and while not politically united, constitutes the largest free trade area in the world.

To the surprise and disappointment of many, the end of the Cold War has done little to heighten the prospects of world peace. Between the end of the Cold War, but prior to 9/11, the U.S. has fought a major war in the Persian Gulf, engaged in major military/humanitarian operations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo. After 9/11 under the leadership of George W. Bush, the U.S. used national security arguments to justify major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In the most recent presidential election a majority of Americans rejected this more "muscular military" approach to combating terrorism. Today the United States faces the most serious economic and national security challenges since the late 1940's. However, Americans are deeply divided regarding the nature of the challenges we face as a people and the appropriate tactics and strategies to be used in American foreign policy.

Though public opinion often plays a powerful role in shaping and constraining America's foreign policy, even college educated Americans are ill-prepared evaluate our foreign policy options. Almost all opinion leaders rely far too heavily on the TV news for information and analysis of international politics. The primary aim of this course will be to supply each student with the intellectual and historic perspective necessary for a

deeper understanding of both the political and economic dimensions of international affairs. One of the goals of this course is to make you aware of some of the alternatives to the evening news, which provide greater detail and depth of international coverage. It is my hope that a challenging combination of required reading and lecture\discussion will provide each of you with a better capacity to understand and analyze the political choices facing the U.S. It is my hope that this will empower each of you to play a more responsible leadership role in making future foreign policy choices.

Required Texts:

National Security for a New Era: Globalization and Geopolitics After Iraq, 3rd edition, Donald M. Snow

Office Hours:

M, W, F, 9-10, T, R 10-11 or by appointment

Attendance, Grades, Exams:

Research conducted by the college and my own experience teaching here at Glendale both indicate that an inability to regularly **attend** class and to **complete** the required reading almost always leads to a disappointing, if not a failing, grade. Be honest with yourself, if because of work or social obligations, you do not have the time to attend class and to complete the assigned reading, this may not be the class for you.

I will take attendance as required by the State of Arizona for the first 45 days of the semester. Anyone missing more than 3 classes without notifying me of your desire to remain in the class will be dropped by the 45th day. After the 45th day I will stop taking attendance and if it is your desire to drop the class **you** must take the initiative.

It will be possible to earn 400 points in this class. There will be three 50 point unit tests over the semester. There will be 150 points worth of homework. There will be a 100 point final exam. You will need at least 340 points to earn an A (85%), 290 to earn a B (72.5%), 240 to earn a C (60%), and 200 to earn a D (50%).

I do not give make up exams!! If you cannot take an exam for **any** reason, you must notify me **prior** to the exam. If you notify me ahead of time, we will attempt to reschedule your exam. If this proves to be impossible, you will be allowed to take the next exam for double points. When you fail to notify me ahead of time, you will take the next unit exam for double points minus 10.

Reading and Testing Schedule:

Unit #1

Chapters 1,2,3,4

Unit #1 Exam: September 25

Unit #2

Chapters 5,6,7,8

Unit #2 Exam: October 30

Unit #3

Chapters 9,10,11,12,13

Unit #3 Exam: December 11

Extra Credit

You can earn **20 points** extra credit by reading two articles a day that focus on international political or economic matters. Beginning the first week of September through the last day of November, you can earn **20 points** extra credit by reading two articles a day posted at <http://www.realclearpolitics.com>. Every day at least one article should come from “Real Clear World”. You can take your second daily article from “Real Clear World” or from anywhere else on the Real Clear Politics website as long as it has a clear foreign policy focus. Once you have read the article print the **1st page only** of each, organize them by week and hand them in December. For anyone who doesn’t have daily access to the Internet at home you can use the computers in the Library for this assignment.

I strongly recommend <http://www.realclearpolitics.com/> as an excellent internet source for political information, analysis and commentary. The website as a whole provides daily, high quality commentary and analysis of both politics and economics from both top quality liberal and conservative sources. “Real Clear World” provides daily access to the best English language newspapers and news magazines outside of the United States. During the first week of December, you are to hand in the evidence of your semester’s reading organized by week in order to receive your 20 points.