

POS 120
Introduction to World Politics
Honors Spring 2009

Dr. Lamkin
Office O5-134
Phone 623.845.3218

Email: william.lamkin@gmail.maricopa.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Prior to September 11, most Americans felt that they could confidently and comfortably ignore international politics. The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union signaled the start of an era in which the U.S. could dramatically **cut** defense spending and yet be assured of **heightened security**. Nonetheless, within the last fifteen years the world in which the U.S. must live and act has undergone a sweeping, historic and often chaotic transformation. The Soviet Union collapsed ending the Cold War and fracturing the old Czarist\Leninist Empire into 15 new, and often quite unstable, sovereign states. China has surpassed Russia and Asia's preeminent military power and will soon surpass Japan as Asia's preeminent economy. East and West Germany were reunited and through the European Union major progress has been made towards creating the world's largest economy out of 24 nation states.

To the surprise of many the end of the Cold War has done little to heighten the prospects of world peace. Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has fought a major war in the Persian Gulf, engaged in major military/humanitarian operations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and most recently Kosovo. However, it was only after the recent terrorist attacks that most Americans have seriously considered the dangers of the post Cold War world. In my estimation the United States faces the most serious challenge to our security and way since the early days of the Cold War, and yet, most Americans are totally unprepared to evaluate the choices we must make in the coming months and years.

Though public opinion often plays a powerful role in shaping and constraining America's foreign policy, America's college educated opinion leaders rely far too heavily on the TV evening 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 a greater 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 international politics and to play a more responsible leadership role in our nation's future.

Required Texts:

National Security for a New Era: Globalization and Geopolitics, Snow 2nd edition
Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How it Changed the World, Mead

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 600 points in this class. There will be three 100 point unit tests. All tests will be take-home. There will be two 100 point essays. The final sixth of your grade (100 points) will be based upon your preparation and participation in Friday seminars. You will need at least 510 points to earn an A (85%), 435 to earn a B (72.5%), 360 to earn a C (60%), and 300 to earn a D (50%).

Reading and Testing Schedule:

Unit #1

Snow: Chapters 1-4

Take home test due: February 20

Unit #2

Snow: Chapters 5-8

Take home test due: April 3

Unit #3

Snow: Chapters 9-13

Last take home exam due during finals (Wednesday May 13)

Extra Credit

Beginning with the first week of February and continuing through the final week of April, you can earn 30 points extra credit by reading two articles a day from the Christian Science Monitor. Each day one of the articles should focus on a country other than the United States. After reading the articles, you are to either cut them out of your paper or photocopy them. During the final week of class, you are to hand in the evidence of your semester's reading in order to receive your 30 points.

Friday Seminars:

Beginning Friday January 30 and ending May 8, class time will be devoted to the discussion of the following assigned reading. I expect all students to be prepared every week to come to seminar to ask questions, discuss and analyze the assigned reading. For the most part your participation grade will be determined in Friday seminars. In general I expect students to have completed the assigned reading and for everyone to be ready to participate.

- January 30:** Mark Steyn, "It's the demography stupid" The New Criterion, Jan. 2006
Roger Kimball, "After the suicide of the West" The New Criterion, Jan.06
- February 6:** Mead, pp. 3-29
- February 13:** Mead, pp. 30-55
- February 20:** Mead pp. 56-98
- February 27:** to be announced
- March 6:** to be announced
- March 13:** to be announced
- March 27:** Mead pp. 99-131
- April 3:** Mead pp. 132-173
- April 10:** Mead pp. 174-217
- April 17:** Mead pp. 218-263
- April 24:** Mead pp. 264-309
- May 1:** Mead pp 310-334
- May 8:** to be announced