



PSC 116G: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Contemporary Challenges for a Globalized World

Spring 2021

Instructor: Prof. Marc Hutchison

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Virtual Office (WebEx): <https://rhody.webex.com/meet/mlhutchuri.edu>

Lecture Brightspace Page: <https://brightspace.uri.edu/d2l/home/129989>

Online Class Resources:

- [Lecture Brightspace Page](#) – Course Materials, Video Lectures w/Slides, Power Point Slides (no video), Weekly Lecture Quizzes
- [Recitation Brightspace Page](#) (see recitation syllabus for site address) – Recitation Readings & Videos, Discussion Forums, Course Exams, Paper and Report instructions, Extra-credit Sheets

Teaching Assistants: Shawn Fennell, Josh Grunske, Rebecca Lister, Tosin Salau, Rebecca Sock, and Nik Thommes. *Please refer to your recitation section's Brightspace page and syllabus for contact information and office hours.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The globalized world presents large challenges to current and future policymakers tasked with solving problems in an increasingly complex political environment. This course is organized around four modules related to contemporary international policy problems in the globalized world: 1) Political Organizational Challenges in a Globalized World; 2) War and Political Violence; 3) International Cooperation and Economic Globalization; 4) Global Inequality and Environmental Degradation. Within each module, we examine critical questions and address ethical challenges associated with these topic issues. The approach for this course is two-fold: First, we examine the fundamental concepts and theories underlying some of the primary political challenges in the world today. Second, we explore the historical and contemporary roots of different global challenges using in-depth case studies and short writing assignments. This course capitalizes on the large class dynamic to replicate some of the fundamental challenges to collective action found in our globalized world with over 200 countries while also offering a smaller classroom experience within the individual recitation sections. Topics that you will explore this semester include political violence and war, international terrorism, foreign policy decision-making processes, global trade and finance, international organizations and international law, global poverty, and global environmental challenges.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COURSE GOALS

My goals as an instructor in this course are simple and straightforward. In this class, I want to:

- Improve your knowledge and understanding about the world around you and its contemporary political challenges affecting your lives.
- Develop your basic skills in analytical thinking, policy analysis, and applying your knowledge about international politics in other subjects that you might study at URI.
- Treat everyone fairly and consistently throughout the class.

This course fully satisfies the following general education requirement outcomes: **Social and Behavioral Sciences (A2)**, **Global Responsibilities (C2)**, and **Grand Challenge (G1)**. It is also one of the required courses for a Political Science major and minor as well as the International Relations minor. By the end of this course, here are some of the things you should be able to do:

- Use your knowledge of patterns in global politics to interact appropriately with people from other countries and regions of the world.
- Identify core concepts and leading theories in international politics.
- Apply core concepts, theories, and level of analysis needed to best explain historical patterns and current trends in global politics.
- Recognize the ethical challenges associated with different aspects of international politics.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

TEXTBOOK

International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs. 4th Edition. By Paul D'Anieri.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT

To successfully complete this course, you will need access to a computer with reliable, high-speed Internet access and appropriate system and software to support the Brightspace learning platform. Typical technical requirements for users are:

<p>Windows 7 (XP or Vista) 64 MB Ram 28.8 kbps modem (56k or higher recommended) SoundCard & Speakers External headphones with built-in microphone Mozilla Firefox 9.0 or higher</p>	<p>Mac OS X or higher 32 MB Ram 28.8 kbps modem (56k or higher recommended) SoundCard & Speakers External headphones with built-in microphone Mozilla Firefox 9.0 or higher; Safari 5.0 or higher</p>
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Also requires Word 2007 (PC) 2011 (MAC) or newer, PowerPoint, Excel, Adobe Flash, and Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Brightspace Help

Here is the link to access Brightspace <https://brightspace.uri.edu> as well as the Brightspace resource page <https://web.uri.edu/brightspace/>. 24/7 chat support is also available on the Brightspace homepage under HELP.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

Weekly Lecture Quizzes	(15%)
Recitation	(25%)
Exam #1	(20%)
Exam #2	(20%)
Final Exam	(20%)

WEEKLY LECTURE QUIZZES (15%)

Each week students will complete a short quiz on the **lecture Brightspace page** based on the materials from the video lectures and related lecture slides for the week's topic. These Brightspace quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions. Each quiz will be posted at the start of the week and **due on Fridays at 10pm**. The **two** lowest quiz scores will be dropped for each student. **There is no lecture quiz during the first week of class (1/26-1/29/21)**. You may be able to earn extra-credit points applied toward your overall semester quiz grade through bonus quizzes and other opportunities, including the bonus quiz on the syllabus.

RECITATION (25%)

Your performance in your recitation session will count for 25% of your overall class grade. The recitations are designed to provide you with a more in-depth examination of the theories and concepts covered in lecture through the study of detailed cases and contemporary international issues.

Each TA will provide their recitation section with a syllabus detailing their specific expectations and grading criteria. However, in all the recitations, you are expected to participate in in-class discussions and online forum discussions each week based on the recitation readings or videos. You will also complete a policy prescription paper (3-4 pgs.) related to the country assigned to your recitation as well as another short briefing report (2 pgs.) related to your assigned country. It is imperative that you attend and participate in your recitation session. **Please note that we will NOT be holding recitations the very first week of class (1/26-1/29/21)**.

EXAMS (60%)

You will take three exams during the course of the semester. These exams will evaluate your knowledge of the lectures, readings, and any other materials during the course. The format of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay. ***The final exam is NOT cumulative.***

You will have access to each exam during the open period (24 hours for Exams 1 & 2; 48 hours for the Final Exam) through your recitation's Brightspace page. However, once you access the exam, you will have **60 minutes** to complete **Exams 1 & 2** and **90 minutes** to complete the **Final Exam**.

If you miss an exam, you automatically receive a 10-point grade deduction on the makeup. To avoid a grade deduction, you must (1) contact me and your TA no later than the day of the exam via a phone message or e-mail to inform us of your absence and, (2) later when you meet with either me or your TA, provide the corresponding paperwork substantiating your claims of illness, disability, or family emergency. Please note that makeup exams are always given in a different format from the original exam. *Furthermore, no makeup exams will be given after 10 days following the original exam date.*

Materials for the exams will be drawn from both lecture and the book. Please note that, while materials from lecture and the book often overlap, a significant amount of information found in the book is not covered during lectures. You will still be responsible for knowing this material. Typically, an exam includes about 80% drawn from the video lectures and lecture slides and 20% drawn from materials in the book that were not covered in lecture. *I will post a detailed study guide on Brightspace about a week before each exam.*

GRADING SCALE

A	100-94	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67
A-	93-90	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-60
		B-	82-80	C-	72-70	F	59 or below

CLASSROOM DECORUM

I require all students to treat everyone in the classroom with respect. At times, we may engage in discussion of topics for which students may possess strong opinions. While disagreement is crucial to healthy discourse, I will not tolerate behavior that either impinges learning or results in personal attacks on others. At no time may any student insult or single out any other person on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, age, ethnicity, or nationality, etc. I will ask any student who commits such an offense to leave class and will dock their participation grade accordingly. Furthermore, students planning to use my class period to text with friends, surf the internet, study for another class or in some other way be disruptive are encouraged to stay home. Although I allow laptops to be used in class, I reserve the right to ban laptops in the future if I feel that class is being disrupted by rampant internet usage during class.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating and plagiarism are very serious infractions and will be handled in accord with university policy. Specific information regarding definitions of cheating and plagiarism can be found at <http://www.uri.edu/facsen/8.20-8.27.html>. For students caught cheating during an exam or assignment, you will, at minimum, receive a 0 for the exam or assignment. Depending on the infraction, further disciplinary action may ensue.

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student's own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity. Here are some examples of academic dishonesty:

- Using material, directly or paraphrasing, from published sources (print or electronic) without appropriate citation
- Unauthorized possession or access to exams
- Unauthorized communication during exams
- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an exam for another student
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during exams
- Fabricating or falsifying facts, data or references
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR ACCOMMODATIONS

Your access in this course is important. Please send me your Disability Services for Students (DSS) accommodation letter early in the semester so that we have adequate time to discuss and arrange your approved academic accommodations. If you have not yet established services through DSS, please contact them to engage in a

confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom. DSS in Kingston is located in room 302 of the Memorial Union, 401-874-2098, web.uri.edu/disability/, dss@etal.uri.edu.

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT CENTER

The work in this course is complex and intensive. Success requires that you keep pace with the work, understand course concepts, and study effectively. The Academic Enhancement Center helps URI students succeed through three services: Academic Coaching, STEM Tutoring, and The Writing Center. To learn more about any of these services, please visit web.uri.edu/aec or call 401-874-2367 to speak with reception staff.

THE WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center is for “all writers, all disciplines, at all levels, and all stages of writing.” If an instructor suggests that you go to the Writing Center, it is not a punishment, and does not mean that you are a terrible writer. It means the instructor wants you to receive more individualized attention to your writing than s/he is able to provide, given the constraints of the class. It will only improve your grade. If possible, call ahead for an appointment (401-874-2367). Drop-in tutorials are often available. You may make repeat appointments, requesting the same tutor each time if you wish. See their Web Page: web.uri.edu/aec/writing/ for tips on how to make the best of your Writing Center visit.

URI COVID-19 STATEMENT

The University is committed to delivering its educational mission while protecting the health and safety of our students. At this uncertain time, those concerns include minimizing the potential spread of COVID-19 within our community. While the university has worked this summer to create a healthy learning environment for all, it is up to all of us to ensure our campus stays that way.

As members of the URI community, students are required to comply with standards of conduct and take precautions to keep themselves and others safe. Students are required to comply with Rhode Island state laws, including the Rhode Island Executive Orders related to health and safety, ordinances, regulations, and guidance adopted by the University as it relates to public health crises, such as COVID-19.

[An addendum on policies and guidelines concerning your obligations](#) during this crisis has recently been integrated into the Student Handbook. These obligations include:

- Wearing of face masks by all community members when on a URI campus in the presence of others
- Maintaining physical distancing of at least six feet at all times
- Following state rules on the number of individuals allowed in a group gathering
- Completing a [daily health self-assessment](#) also available through the [Rhody Connect](#) app before coming to campus
- Submitting to COVID-19 testing as the University monitors the health of our community
- Following the University’s quarantine and isolation requirements

If you answer yes to any of the questions on the daily health assessment, do not come to class. YOU MUST STAY HOME/IN YOUR ROOM and notify URI Health Services via phone at 401-874-2246 immediately.

If you are already on campus and start to feel ill, you need to remove yourself from the public and notify URI Health Services via phone immediately at 401-874-2246 and go home/back to your room and self-isolate while you await direction from Health Services.

If you are unable to attend your recitation, please notify your TA as soon as possible. Please see the recitation syllabus for your TA’s contact information. We will work together to ensure that course instruction and work is completed for the semester.

PSC 116G COURSE SCHEDULE – SPRING 2021

Week	Topics	Readings/Video
Week 1 (1/27-1/29/21)	Course Introduction and Syllabus The Study of Int'l Politics	None D'Anieri, Chapter 1
Political Organizational Challenges in a Globalized World		
<i>How do political actors organize and interact to face international challenges?</i>		
Week 2 (2/1-2/5/21)	Brief History of the Int'l System	D'Anieri, Chapter 2
Week 3 (2/9-2/12/21)	Realism	D'Anieri, Chapter 3
Week 4 (2/15-2/19/21)	Liberalism (Int'l)	D'Anieri, Chapter 3
Week 5 (2/22-2/26/21)	Social and Gender Theories	D'Anieri, Chapter 4 Kimberley Hutchings. 2014. "Feminism and International Relations." Video

EXAM #1 - Thursday, February 25th

How do individual countries decide on international policies?

Week 6 (3/1-3/5/21)	The Democratic Peace Foreign Policy	D'Anieri, Chapter 5, pp. 123-132 D'Anieri, Chapter 6
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War and Political Violence

What causes political violence and war?

Week 7 (3/8-3/12/21)	Interstate Conflict & War	D'Anieri, Chapter 8 Neil Halloran. 2015. "The Fallen of World War II." Video
Week 8 (3/15-3/19/21)	Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflict International Terrorism	D'Anieri, Chapter 8 D'Anieri, Chapter 9

International Cooperation and Economic Globalization

Why do countries cooperate in a legal anarchy and how?

Week 9 (3/22-3/26/21)	The Prisoner's Dilemma & Int'l Cooperation Int'l Organizations, Law, and Human Rights	"The Prisoner's Dilemma." Video D'Anieri, Chapters 7, 13
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EXAM #2 - Monday, March 29th

Why is there a globalized economic system?

Week 10 (3/29-4/2/21)	Trade and the Int'l Political Economy	D'Anieri, Chapter 10
Week 11 (4/5-4/9/21)	Trade and the Int'l Political Economy Global Finance	D'Anieri, Chapter 10 D'Anieri, Chapter 11

Global Inequality and Environmental Degradation

What causes global inequality and how are countries addressing this problem?

Week 12 (4/12-4/16/21)	Global Poverty and the North-South Gap Int'l Development	D'Anieri, Chapter 12
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How is the global community responding to the world's environmental challenges?

Week 13 (4/19-4/23/21)	Global Environmental Challenges	D'Anieri, Chapter 14 Elinor Ostrom. 2009. "Overcoming the Tragedy of the Commons." Video
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FINAL EXAM - Tuesday, May 4th or Wednesday, May 5th