Dr. James Amemiasor

Course Number: 21:790:321:02

Course Location: Virtual

Class Time: Asynchronous

Office: Virtual

Office Hour: Tues 1:30-2:30 P.M. (and by appointment)

Email: jamemas@newark.rutgers.edu
**Course Description and Objectives**

World Politics is about how the countries and people of the world get along. For the past 372 years or so, the *modern world* has been increasingly divided up into *nation-states*. This division has led to the development and growth of a *particular kind of politics*, different from "domestic" politics, and usually referred to as International Relations. This distinction between politics "inside" the state and politics "outside" the state has become deeply entrenched in our understanding of the modern world.

This course offers an introduction to the study of World Politics. We will examine the core concepts and theories that scholars use to explain the dynamics of this subfield of Political Science and will do so by exploring a diverse set of expectations about actors' *interests* and the different *institutions* that shape their *interactions*. The complex patterns of such relations will be examined, with a focus on the roles of national and international institutions, transnational organizations, and civil society.

The course is divided into five sections. The first section presents an overview of the evolution of the modern world. The second part examines the central puzzles associated with international security and explores why the international community finds it hard to cooperate to prevent wars. This section also examines the activities of non-state actors, including rebel groups and terrorist organizations. The third section explores the main puzzles in international economic relations, including trade, financial, and monetary relations. The last two sections deal with transnational issues and processes as well as the challenges associated with global governance. We will examine the development of international law and norms and give attention to efforts that address threats to the global environment. Students are expected to keep abreast of current events and how they impact world politics in order to better understand the information presented in class.

**Learning Goals**

This course is designed to help students:

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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Understand that world politics spans the continuum from open warfare to peaceful cooperation over issues and resources.</td>
<td>Class discussion and written assignments</td>
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<td>B. Demonstrate understanding of the complexities of the global issues that produce relations and interactions among diverse actors.</td>
<td>Course Term Paper and class discussions</td>
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<td>C. Recognize that the traditions of realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical approaches to world politics can be understood as a set of assumptions about <em>interests, interactions, and institutions</em>.</td>
<td>Mid-term, Final, and Term Paper, Quizzes</td>
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<td>D. Demonstrate understanding of the evolving relations among critical transnational actors and the global issues that shape such relations.</td>
<td>Class Discussions, written assignments</td>
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<td>E. Enhance their analytical skills through the study of how the concepts of <em>interests, interactions, and institutions</em> shape the priorities and behavior of nation-states and other actors in our global system.</td>
<td>Written assignments, Quizzes</td>
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<td>F. Develop understanding of the relationship between theory and policy making or problem solving in world politics.</td>
<td>Class Discussion, written Term Paper</td>
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<td>G. Develop the habit of applying new scholarly information learned in class to the problems of the day in logical analyses.</td>
<td>Class Discussions</td>
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**Required Text**

**Supplementary Readings**
In addition to the text selected for this course, students will be required to examine book chapters as well as journal articles and newspaper clippings provided as supplementary readings for a broader understanding and integration of the topics and themes discussed in class. Most of these materials are available in electronic format in the course's Canvas page; others are available online. The supplementary materials are taken from scholarly journals, magazines, and newspapers, including *Foreign Policy, Journal of Politics, International Organization, Financial Times, The Atlantic, New York Times, BBC News, Washington Post, Harvard International Review,* and *Journal of International Affairs.*

**Course Requirements and Grades**

1) **Readings** are assigned for each class session. It is imperative that students complete all required readings on time in order to be able to participate actively in class discussions. All readings will provide background information on the topics and themes presented in the course. *Class discussions are an important part of the learning process.*

2) As part of your class participation, students are encouraged to read reputable magazine and/or newspaper (e.g., *New York Times, The Atlantic*) articles that reflect global trends and developments in world politics. The instructor expects you to utilize the contents of such articles in your discussions, as they relate to the core concepts of *interests, interactions,* and *institutions.*

3) **Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm exam will be held on *Tuesday, October 13.* The final exam will take place during the time period assigned per the Fall 2020 Exam Schedule [https://tls.newark.rutgers.edu/academic-scheduling/academic-scheduling-resources/final-exam-schedule-fall-2020](https://tls.newark.rutgers.edu/academic-scheduling/academic-scheduling-resources/final-exam-schedule-fall-2020). Please note that materials from assigned readings along with information presented in class lectures and discussions will be the subject of both the midterm and final exams. The nature and format of the exams will be discussed in detail later in the semester.

4) **Term Paper:** The due date for the term paper (no more than 10 double-spaced typed pages, not including the bibliography) is *Tuesday, December 8.* Students are required to submit a preliminary one-page proposal on a topic of their choice within the realm of world politics, which must be approved by the instructor. The proposal is due on *Tuesday, November 10.* It will not be graded, but rather returned with comments. The term paper must have a cover page, title, and abstract. All written assignments for this class are to be in Times New Roman, 12-point font with one-inch margins. No space is to be left between paragraphs, which are to be indented on the first line. Details of the term paper assignment are available in the course's Canvas page.
The final grade earned in this course will be based on student performance in these areas:

a.) Discussion Board – 20%
b.) Quizzes – 30%
c.) Midterm Exam – 20%
d.) Term Paper – 30%

Please note that make-ups for missed exams as well as extensions for the term paper will only be granted with a valid and documented excuse, subject to the instructor's approval.

**Grade Scale for Tests, Papers, and Final Grade Assignments**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;59</td>
<td>F</td>
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For information regarding important semester dates (e.g., University Academic Calendar and Fall Exams Schedule), see [https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/academic-calendar](https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/academic-calendar).

**Course Format**

Class meetings are divided into lectures and class discussions. These two formats are intended to complement each other and are both integral parts of the course. The lectures provide context to historical themes, events, and global trends and processes. As such, they will provide context for students' consideration. Class discussions are designed to support the lectures. Thus, students should attend classes and actively participate in the learning process.

**Academic Integrity**

As scholars of Rutgers University-Newark, all students are held to the university's Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Codes as well as to their instructor's expectations, which include NO engaging in obscene or offensive behavior and NO utilizing inappropriate language or profanity. As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. Academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism on term papers and exams will not be tolerated and may result in an immediate and final course grade of "F." Please note that such cases will be reported to the Chair of the Political Science Department, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible academic probation and/or suspension from the University. See Academic Integrity Policy at Rutgers University at [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu).

**Policy on Inclusiveness**

It is the policy and practice of Rutgers University-Newark to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. In order to receive such accommodations, you must complete and submit the Registration Form along with the appropriate documentation. Please note that students are not permitted to negotiate any applicable accommodations directly with their professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Services-Newark (ODS), Robeson Campus Center, Suite 219, at the beginning of the semester. For more information
or to register for services, please be sure to contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or by email at ODS@newark.rutgers.edu.

Policy on Incompletes
Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request, accompanied by an Incomplete Grade Extension Form (available from the Department of Political Science Main Office), to the professor before the date of the final examination. If the request for an incomplete is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing coursework within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving it, or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first), automatically becomes an "F." It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the time frame allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

This syllabus is subject to change and such a change will be announced to students. Please note that students are responsible for keeping track of all announcements and assignments.

Schedule of Classes

Week 1: Introductions to the Course
Tues., Sept. 1: Introductory Meeting


PART ONE: FOUNDATIONS

Week 2: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction
Sept. 8: Read: Frieden et al., "Introduction" and Chapter 1.


**Week 3: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions**


**PART TWO: WAR AND PEACE**

**Week 4: Why are there Wars?**

Sept. 22: Read Frieden et al., Chapter 3.


**Week 5: Domestic Politics and War**

Sept. 29: Read Frieden et al., Chapter 4.


**Week 6: International Institutions and War**

Oct. 6: Read Frieden et al, Chapter 5.


**Week 7: Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism**


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**Tuesday Oct. 13: Midterm Exam**

**PART THREE: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**Week 8: International Trade**

Oct. 20: Read Frieden et al, Chapter 7.


Peggy Hollinger, "What is at Stake in WTO Ruling on Airbus-Boeing Trade Dispute," *Financial Times*, October 2, 2019.

**Week 9: International Financial Relations**

Oct. 27: Read Frieden et al, Chapter 8.


**Week 10: International Monetary Relations**

Nov. 3: Read Frieden et al., Chapter 9.


Week 11: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations

Nov. 10: Read Frieden et al, Chapter 10.


**Tues., Nov. 10: Term paper proposal due**

Week 12: Discussion of Term Paper Proposals

Nov. 17: Presentation and Discussion of Term Paper proposals

We will use this meeting to discuss your term paper proposals, the goal of which is to create space for your peers to provide feedback on one another's proposal.

**PART FOUR: TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS**

Week 13: International Law and Norms

Nov. 24: Read Frieden et al, Chapter 11.

Week 14: Human Rights

Dec. 1: Read Frieden et al, Chapter 12.


**PART FIVE: LOOKING AHEAD**

Week 14 & 15: The Global Environment & the Future of International Politics

Dec. 8: Read Frieden et al, Chapters 13 & 14.


Clifford Krauss, David Taffe-Bellany and Maria Simões, "Why Amazon Fires Keep Raging 10 Years After a Deal to End Them," *New York Times*, October 18, 2019. The article comes with an important 10-minute video.

**Dec. 8: Term Paper Due**

December 11-14: **Reading Days**

**Fall Exams begin December 15, 2020**

   World Politics Final Exam: Thursday, December 17