

# POS 120: World Politics (22540)

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**Glendale Community College Main**  
**Spring 2019, MWF 11:00-11:50 – HTA 105 (face-to-face)**  
**Dr. Brian Blanchard**

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(email is my preferred method of contact)

**Office Hours:**  
M & W: 12:00-12:50  
or by appointment

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## ***Course Description and Objectives***

This course offers an introduction to the study of international relations. We will learn about the key actors and components of the international system as well as the important historical events that have shaped the world that we know. We will cover the important schools of thought that have shaped how scholars examine and explain phenomena such as: war, terrorism, trade relations, nuclear proliferation, colonialism, and environmental conservation. This course will allow you to identify key concepts, theories, and perspectives so that you can apply the tools of scientific inquiry to world politics and so that you gain a richer appreciation for the ongoing developments in global affairs.

The official MCCCDC course description is as follows: “Introduction to the principles and issues relating to the study of international relations. Evaluation of the political, economic, national, and transnational rationale for international interactions.”

The course learning objectives (taken from the MCCCDC Official Course Competencies) are:

- Analyze the role of scientific inquiry in the field of international relations.
- List the various analytical and theoretical positions used in the field of international relations to explain world politics.
- Delineate the historical development of interstate relations and the place of the nation-state in that development.
- Distinguish between the three levels of analysis: individual, state, and international system.
- Describe specific issues that have relevance to the study of inter-state relations: national security, war, economic integration, trade, etc.
- Differentiate and make connections between economic and political issues and questions that affect world politics.
- Describe the issue of change in the international environment and those forces that may initiate their change.
- Explain the concept of super power and hegemonic control, decline, and ascension.
- Describe the differences between national and transnational actors in the international arena, both private and public.
- List actors that may have an impact on world politics in the near future.

This course counts for 3 credit hours. This means that there is a required 45 hours of instructional contact (class time) along with a required 90 hours spent outside of class to complete the coursework.

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## ***Readings***

The following textbook is required for purchase:

- Joshua Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse (2014): *International Relations, 10th edition (2013-2014 update)*. ISBN: 9780205971367

Additional readings will be accessible online via Canvas.

## ***Assignments and Grading***

Your final grade will be determined by the following assignments:

- Attendance and participation (5%) – this grade is based upon class attendance and participation in class activities. You must come to class with paper and something to write with to participate.
- 3 Exams (25%) – there are three exams consisting of multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions.
- Research paper (30%) – details available on Canvas.
- Written report: UN Peacekeeping (10%) – You will submit a written report on an ongoing U.N. peacekeeping mission.
- Class presentation (10%) – You will give an in-class presentation on an international organization.
- 2 Group discussion assignments (10%) – I will provide details on these assignments as they approach.
- 2 Online discussion board entries (10%)
  - For each of the two discussion board assignments, you are required to make **two posts** on the online discussion board, which can be accessed through Canvas. I will post a topic related to the assigned readings, and **you must post your response by midnight on Friday. You must then post a response to another student by Sunday at midnight.** We will then continue the discussion in class on the following Monday. I will call on you by name, so come prepared.
  - **NOTE:** The discussion grade will be based upon **both** discussion board posts as well as your participation in Tuesday's follow-up discussion. Therefore, missing class will negatively affect your discussion board grade.

The course will be graded with the standard A-F grading scale as follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- E = 59% and below

## ***Course Policies and Classroom Etiquette***

- **Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory, and it is reflected in your attendance and participation grade. If you have numerous absences, I reserve the right to drop you from the course. You must also show up to class on time, or you will lose points on participation.
- **Due dates and excused absences:** All assignments are due on the stated due date without exception. Any late submissions will be penalized except in the case of an emergency in which you provide documentation. Please let me know in advance (or as soon as possible) if you cannot make it to class or submit an assignment on time due to an emergency.
- **Classroom etiquette:** Please come to class on time and ready to participate and take notes. If you use a computer to take notes, please do not perform other tasks on your computer (surfing the web, checking Facebook) during class. This is very distracting for other students. Finally, please **put away your cell phones once class begins**. If you are using your phone during the lecture, I will ask you to put it away.
- **Canvas:** Many aspects of this course will be conducted online via Canvas. The weekly discussion boards will be available on the Canvas site as well as important documents and articles.
- **Discussion board etiquette:** The tone of your discussion board posts and in class discussions should be respectful and formal. Many of the topics that we discuss will spark heated disagreements, and this is a good thing. Do not be afraid to state your opinion, but anyone who resorts to name-calling or disrespects another participant will be penalized. In other words, it is possible to be both controversial and civil.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** All work that you turn in, whether a discussion board post or a research paper, must be your own. You may not borrow from ANY SOURCE without attribution. Section 2.3.11, C. of the MCCC Student Policy Manual defines plagiarism as follows:
  - Plagiarism is a form of cheating in which a student falsely represents another person's work as his or her own – it includes, but is not limited to: (a) the use of paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; (b) unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the

selling of term papers or other academic materials; and (c) information gathered from the internet and not properly identified.

- **Student Responsibility:** Every student is expected to know and comply with all current published policies, rules, and regulations as printed in the academic catalog, class schedule and/or student handbook.
- **Syllabus:** It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the syllabus including course requirements, assignments, and due dates. Please take the syllabus quiz on Canvas to unlock the course modules and to receive a 5-point bonus on the first exam.
- **Sexual harassment:** Sexual harassment is any unwelcome, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it alters working conditions and creates a hostile environment or reasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives a student of the ability to participate in or benefit from any educational program or activity.
  - Sexual harassment and discrimination in any college education program or activity are prohibited. Sexual Harassment may include hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, inducing incapacitation for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation or dating violence and stalking.
  - Students should report any discrimination and/or harassment they experience and/or observe to the [GCC Office of Student Life](#) in the Student Union. Phone (623) 845-3525 or email [laura.dodrigill@gccaz.edu](mailto:laura.dodrigill@gccaz.edu).
  - To view the full Sexual Harassment Policy refer to the Student Handbook, [Sexual Harassment Policy for Students \(AR 2.4.4\) \(see also 5.1.8\)](#).

**NOTE: You must complete all reading assignments before class and come prepared to discuss the material in the reading.**

## Date Readings and Assignments

Module 1 – Introduction	
1/14	Course Introduction
1/16	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 4: 129-132
1/18	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 1: 3-21
1/23	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 1: 21-38
Module 2 - Realism	
1/25	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 2: 43-60
1/28	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 2: 61-71
1/30	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 2: 71-79
2/1	<u>To Read</u> : Stephen Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories” (available on Canvas) <b>Discussion Board # 1</b> – first post due by midnight on Canvas
Module 3 – Liberalism and Other Theories	
2/4	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 3: 85-96
2/6	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 3: 96-110
2/8	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 3: 110-122
Module 4 – Foreign Policy	
2/11	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 4: 127-136
2/13	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 4: 136-147
2/15	No assigned reading <b>Group Assignment # 1</b> – in class

## Module 5 – War and International Conflict

2/20 To Read: Textbook, Ch 5: 153-168

2/22 To Read: Textbook, Ch 5: 168-186

## Module 6 – Military Force and Terrorism

2/25 To Read: Textbook, Ch 6: 193-209

2/27 To Read: Textbook, Ch 6: 209-224

3/1 **Exam 1**

## Module 7 – International Organizations, International Law, and Human Rights

3/4 To Read: Textbook, Ch 7: 233-241

3/6 To Read: Textbook, Ch 7: 242-254  
**Group Assignment #2** – in class

3/8 To Read: Textbook, Ch 7: 254-264  
**Research Paper: Thesis Statement** – due by midnight on Canvas

3/11–  
3/15 **Spring Break**: No Class

3/18 *Research Lesson*: No assigned reading.

3/20 To Read: Textbook, Ch 7: 264-276

3/22 To Read: UN Declaration of Human Rights (available on Canvas)  
**Written Report: UN Peacekeeping** – due by midnight on Canvas

## Module 8 – International Trade

3/25 To Read: Textbook, Ch 8: 283-302

3/27 To Read: Textbook, Ch 8: 303-314

3/29 See canvas for assigned reading  
**Discussion Board #2** – first post due by midnight on Canvas

## Module 9 – International Finance

4/1 To Read: Textbook, Ch 9: 321-333

4/3 To Read: Textbook, Ch 9: 333-349

4/5 See Canvas for assigned reading

4/8 **Exam 2**

## Module 10 – Regional (Dis)Integration

4/10 To Read: Textbook, Ch 10: 355-370

4/12 To Read: Textbook, Ch 10: 370-381

4/14 **Research Paper: Rough Draft** – due by midnight on Canvas

4/15 No assigned reading

## Module 11 – Environment and Sustainable Development

4/17	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 11: 387-409
4/19	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 11: 409-418
4/22	<u>To Read</u> : See Canvas for assigned reading

## Module 12 – Development, Poverty, and Hunger

4/24	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 12: 425-440
4/26	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 12: 440-455
4/29	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 13: 461-476
5/1	<u>To Read</u> : Textbook, Ch 13: 476-493
5/3	No assigned reading <b>Research Paper: Final Draft</b> – Due at midnight on Canvas
5/8	<b>Final Exam: 1:00-2:50 in class</b>

**NOTE:** *If you have a documented disability, including a learning disability, and would like to discuss possible accommodations, please contact the GCC Disabilities Resources and Services office at 623.845.3080 or email [drsfrontdesk@gccaz.edu](mailto:drsfrontdesk@gccaz.edu).*

*\*Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.*