

# Introduction to Global Politics

**Room:** 005 Gambrell Hall  
**Dates:** 01/14/20 - 04/23/20  
**Time:** T & Th 11:40 AM-12:55 PM

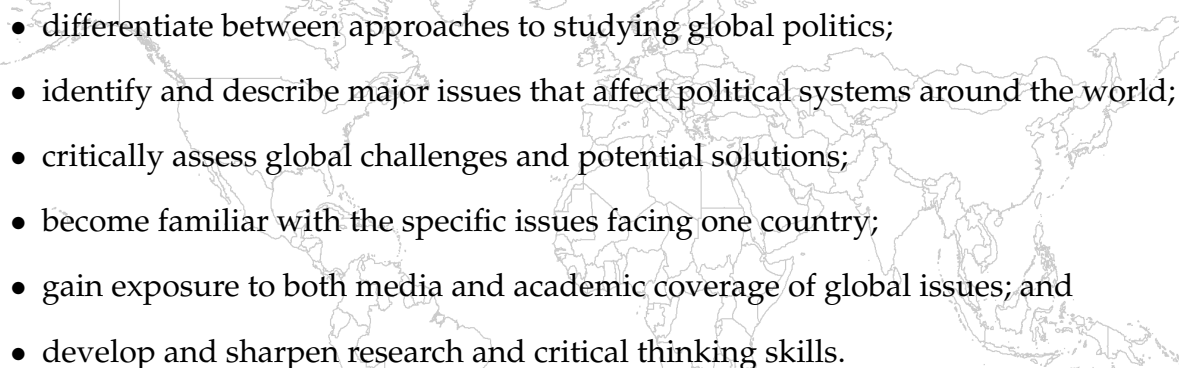
**Professor:** Matthew Wilson  
**Email:** wilso929@mailbox.sc.edu  
**Office:** 337 Gambrell Hall  
**Office Hours:** Th 10:00 AM -11:30 AM & *by appointment*

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to introduce students to key concepts and agendas in global politics. Global politics broadly refers to the issues and phenomena that affect the distribution and exercise of power at the global level, including the interactions between countries and the processes that shape state development. While it is not possible to explore every aspect of global politics, the class will address major themes that include theoretical approaches to studying global politics, conflict, political economy, and social-demographic pressures. As a result of the course, students will gain an understanding of topics related to politics at both the domestic and international level. This overview should make students aware of different areas of study within international relations and comparative politics, as well as the way that each approaches them. By familiarizing students with areas of study within global politics and teaching them to critically evaluate their dominant features, the class should equip students to move on to more advanced and specialized coverage of topics in political science.

## EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of the class, students will:

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- differentiate between approaches to studying global politics;
  - identify and describe major issues that affect political systems around the world;
  - critically assess global challenges and potential solutions;
  - become familiar with the specific issues facing one country;
  - gain exposure to both media and academic coverage of global issues; and
  - develop and sharpen research and critical thinking skills.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

The course does not require students to purchase books. However, students will be required to independently find and consult outside materials and may be assigned readings that will be made available on Blackboard.

## GRADING SCALE:

A: 90-100; B+: 87-89; B: 80-86; C+: 77-79; C: 70-76; D+: 67-69; D: 60-66; F: 0-59.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Attendance and participation <sup>1</sup>	10
Weekly news summary <sup>2</sup> (Tuesdays)	25
Weekly research assignments <sup>3</sup> (Thursdays)	25
Presentation <sup>4</sup>	10
Midterm exam <sup>5</sup>	15
Final exam <sup>5</sup>	15
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100

1. *Attendance and participation* (10%)

Class participation is an integral part of the course. As such, each student must attend every seminar and participate regularly in class discussions. This portion of the grade will be based on the quality and the frequency of participation.<sup>α</sup>

2. *Weekly news summary* (due before class each Tuesday; 1.5% each + 2% completion = 20%)

Prior to the start of class every Tuesday, each student must upload a summary of two news articles from the previous week on the corresponding discussion forum on Blackboard. The title of the post should be your name (e.g., Matthew Wilson). The articles must be from reputable sources<sup>β</sup> and relevant to the course; one of the two articles must be about the student's assigned country. Each article summary must be roughly one half page in length (double spaced; around 175 words) and overview the content of the article (total of one page or roughly 350 words). Each summary must be accompanied by either a Chicago-style citation or a link to the article. This portion of the grade will be based on the thoroughness of the summary and the relevance of the articles.

3. *Weekly research assignments* (due before class each Thursday; 2.5% each = 30%)

Prior to the start of class every Thursday, each student must conduct outside research<sup>γ</sup> for a set of questions regarding their assigned country and upload their responses on the corresponding discussion forum on Blackboard. The title of the post should be your name (e.g., Matthew Wilson). Each response must be roughly one and a half pages in length (double spaced; around 525 words) and accompanied by at least one citation (Chicago-style) from a reputable source<sup>β</sup> per question. This portion of the grade will depend on the thoroughness of the response and how well it answers the questions.

4. *Presentation* (10%, due on assigned date)

Each student must collaborate with others to conduct outside research<sup>γ</sup> and present a group response to an assigned question. The presentation must be roughly 30 minutes in duration and include slides. Prior to the presentation, the group must submit a list of references cited in Chicago-style format. This portion of the grade will be based on how well the presentation equips students to intelligently discuss the topic in question<sup>α</sup>.

5. *Midterm and Final Exams* (15% each = 30%)

The midterm exam will cover material from classes between 01/14 and 02/27, while the final exam will cover material from classes between 03/17 and 04/23.

Additional information about exams will be provided in class closer to exam time.

<sup>α</sup> Those who have difficulties with public speaking should talk to the professor regarding possible alternatives.

<sup>β</sup> Students who have questions about what constitutes reputable sources should talk to the professor beforehand.

<sup>γ</sup> Students who need help with outside research should consult with the professor as soon as possible.

**CLASS POLICIES:**

*Failure to follow class rules will affect the student's participation grade.*

1. The use of cell phones is not permitted.
2. Computers are only allowed during the lecture portion of the class.
3. Please do not read outside materials.
4. Sleeping in class is not allowed.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Students are responsible for knowing both university and course schedules.

The academic calendar is available at: [https://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/registrar/academic\\_calendars/2019-20\\_calendar.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/registrar/academic_calendars/2019-20_calendar.php).

For undergraduate academic regulations, see:

<http://bulletin.sc.edu/content.php?catoid=97&navoid=2830>.

**FINE PRINT:**

Academic integrity. I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects of this course. For the detailed policy of the University of South Carolina regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, see the University Honor Code: <http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf625.pdf>. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any activity that may be interpreted as academic dishonesty, please see me before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Personal integrity. I am committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. I will not tolerate discrimination and harassment on the basis of identity or status, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, genetics, or veteran status. For more information on the University Student Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy, see [https://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/equal\\_opportunities\\_programs/documents/student\\_non-discrimination\\_and\\_non-harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/equal_opportunities_programs/documents/student_non-discrimination_and_non-harassment_policy.pdf). If you want to speak to someone about an incident involving harrasment, sexual assault, or interpersonal violence, you can call 803-777-8248 to talk to a trained interpersonal violence advocate.

Accommodations. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Student Disability Resource Center. All disability accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services. For more information, see [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/student\\_disability\\_resource\\_center/](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_disability_resource_center/). Special accommodations are also available for veterans on duty and for parents. Although the University does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom, breastfeeding in class is welcome as needed.

Adverse weather commitment. In the event of inclement or threatening weather, everyone should use their best judgment regarding travel to and from campus; safety should be the main concern. If you cannot get to class because of adverse weather conditions, you should contact me as soon as possible. Similarly, if I am unable to reach our class location, I will notify you of any cancellation or change as soon as possible to prevent you from embarking on any unnecessary travel. If you cannot get to class because of weather conditions, I will make allowances relative to required attendance policies, as well as class activities. For weather-related news and announcements, see <https://sc.edu/uofsc/weather/>.

## CLASS SCHEDULE:

\*News summary due on Blackboard before class

†Weekly research assignment due on Blackboard before class

01/14	Introduction and overview of global politics; Theoretical approaches and major actors
01/16	Evolution of the interstate system; sovereignty
01/21*	Decolonization and the global south
01/23†	<i>(Decolonization and the global south, continued)</i>
01/28*	Identity politics: nationalism, religion, and ethnicity
01/30†	<i>(Identity politics, continued)</i>
02/04*	Economic development
02/06†	<i>(Economic development, continued)</i>
02/11*	Poverty and inequality
02/13†	<i>(Poverty and inequality, continued)</i>
02/18*	Power theory and international conflict
02/20†	<i>(Power theory and international conflict, continued)</i>
02/25*	Civil war and terrorism
02/27†	<i>(Civil war and terrorism, continued)</i>
03/03	<i>Overview</i>
03/05	<b>Midterm exam</b>
03/10	[Spring break]
03/12	[Spring break]
03/17*	Democracy and human rights
03/19†	<i>(Democracy and human rights, continued)</i>
03/24*	Natural Resources and environmental issues
03/26†	<i>(Natural resources and environmental issues, continued)</i>
03/31*	Population pressures and migration
04/02†	<i>(Population pressures and migration, continued)</i>
04/07*	Global trade
04/09†	<i>(Global trade, continued)</i>
04/14*	Information and technology
04/16†	<i>(Information and technology, continued)</i>
04/21*	Globalization
04/23†	<i>(Globalization, continued)</i>
04/30	<b>Final exam</b> (12:30–3:00 p.m.)