

# Introduction to Global Politics

**Place:** *Web Synchronous*

**Professor:** Matthew Wilson

**Dates:** 01/11/21 - 04/30/21

**Email:** wilso929@mailbox.sc.edu

**Time:** MWF 9:40 AM-10:30 AM

**Office/Hours:** *Online 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 political concepts and current events, 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 be able to:

- identify and describe dominant topics and concepts related to global politics;
- discuss and critically assess current events;
- describe the relevance of historical events through case studies;
- compare and contrast published research on global topics; 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:**

Weekly news summaries <sup>1</sup>	15
Research assignment <sup>2</sup>	20
Readings days <sup>3</sup>	10
Readings assignment <sup>4</sup>	15
Midterm exam <sup>5</sup>	20
Final exam <sup>5</sup>	20
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100

**SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. *Weekly news summaries* (due before class on assigned days; 1.25% each = 15%)

Prior to the start of class on most Mondays (see the class schedule), each student must post a summary of two recent news articles about politics outside of the United States and U.K. on the corresponding discussion forum on Blackboard. The articles must be from reputable sources and relevant to the course. The first article must be about the student's assigned country and the title of the post should caption that story with the name of the country included (e.g., "Mexico passes new anti-discrimination law").

Each summary must be between 100 and 150 words (around 5-7 sentences each) and overview the content of the article (total of around 200-300 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 completion of the assignment.

2. *Research assignment* (brief, 15%, due on 03/05 + response paper, 5%, due on 04/26 = 20%)

Students must work in groups to construct a brief based on outside research on an assigned topic. The brief must include 1 single-spaced page of text and a bibliography with a minimum of 20 sources in Chicago-style format. This portion of the grade is due on 03/05 and will be based on the thoroughness of the submission, use of factual material, and formatting. Each student must also read and respond to other groups' briefs.

*More details will be provided separately.*

3. *Readings days* (10%)

To be counted present on Readings Days (see schedule below), students must submit readings notes on Blackboard in advance. The template is available on Blackboard.

4. *Readings assignment* (15%, due on 04/26)

Students must work individually to compare and contrast course readings.

*More details about the assignment will be provided on 03/15.*

5. *Midterm and Final Exams* (20% x 2 = 40%)

The midterm exam will cover material from classes between 01/11 and 02/26, while the final exam will cover material from classes between 03/5 and 04/23.

*More details about exams will be provided closer to exam time.*

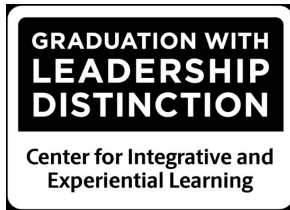
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Students are responsible for knowing both university and course schedules.

The academic calendar is available at: [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/registrar/academic\\_calendars/2020-21\\_calendar.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/registrar/academic_calendars/2020-21_calendar.php).

For undergraduate academic regulations, see:

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



Did you know this course is on an approved course list for Graduation with Leadership Distinction? Do you engage in research, study abroad, internships, or community service? If so, you could be eligible to graduate with leadership distinction. Sign up to meet with a GLD Advisor to learn more and consider ways to get involved throughout your time at UofSC. You'll even have your achievements recognized on your transcript and diploma. Demonstrate to graduate/professional schools and future employers how you can apply course concepts in real world settings and apply what you learned to make decisions and solve problems!  
**Graduation with Leadership Distinction: Your Pathway to Purpose!**

**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 harrassment, 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.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

01/11	Course introduction; Overview of global politics
01/13	Evolution of the interstate system
01/15 <sup>†</sup>	Colonization and sovereignty
01/18	[ <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day; no class</i> ]
01/20	( <i>Colonization and sovereignty, continued</i> )
01/22	<i>Readings day</i>
01/25 <sup>†</sup>	Decolonization and the global south
01/27	( <i>Decolonization and the global south, continued</i> )
01/29	<i>Readings day</i>
02/01 <sup>†</sup>	Identity politics: nationalism, religion, and ethnicity
02/03	( <i>Identity politics, continued</i> )
02/05	<i>Readings day</i>
02/08 <sup>†</sup>	Economic development
02/10	( <i>Economic development, continued</i> )
02/12	<i>Readings day</i>
02/15	[ <i>Presidents' Day; no class</i> ]
02/17	Poverty and inequality
02/19	( <i>Poverty and inequality, continued</i> )
02/22 <sup>†</sup>	<i>Readings day</i>
02/24	Democracy and human rights
02/26	( <i>Democracy and human rights, continued</i> )
03/01	<i>Readings day</i>
03/03	<b>Midterm exam, part I</b> (Lectures)
03/05	<b>Midterm exam, part II</b> (Readings) <i>Research assignment part I due</i> <sup>‡</sup>
03/08 <sup>†</sup>	Power theory and international conflict

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03/10	<i>(Power theory and international conflict, continued)</i>
03/12	<i>[Wellness holiday; no class]</i>
03/15 <sup>†</sup>	Civil war and terrorism <i>Readings assignment assigned</i>
03/17	<i>(Civil war and terrorism, continued)</i>
03/19	<i>Readings day</i>
03/22 <sup>†</sup>	Natural Resources and environmental issues
03/24	<i>(Natural resources and environmental issues, continued)</i>
03/26	<i>Readings day</i>
03/29 <sup>†</sup>	Population pressures and migration
03/31	<i>(Population pressures and migration, continued)</i>
04/02	<i>Readings day</i>
04/05 <sup>†</sup>	Global trade
04/07	<i>(Global trade, continued)</i>
04/09	<i>Readings day</i>
04/12 <sup>†</sup>	Information and technology
04/14	<i>(Information and technology, continued)</i>
04/16	<i>Readings day</i>
04/19 <sup>†</sup>	Globalization
04/21	<i>[Wellness holiday; no class]</i>
04/23	<i>(Globalization, continued)</i>
04/26	Course conclusion <i>Readings assignment and Research assignment part II due<sup>‡</sup></i>
04/30	<b>Final exam</b> (09:00–11:30 a.m.)

<sup>†</sup>News summaries are due on Blackboard before class.

<sup>‡</sup>Due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on assigned day.