

Prof. R. Allen Bolar
Mesa College
Spring 2017, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:20 – 3:45pm
POLI 140: Contemporary International Politics
CRN: 80325

Classroom: SB111

Email: rbolar@sdccd.edu

Office Hours & Location: TBA

Class Textbook: *International Politics: Power and Purpose in Global Affairs*, 4th edition, by Paul D'Anieri (required); any additional handouts I assign (required)

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study of world politics including the various approaches to international relations and international political economy. Emphasis is placed on the roles of nationalism, nation-states, transnationalism and international organizations in the making of contemporary world politics as well as on issues of national security, power and diplomacy, economic competition, international law and the environment. This course is intended for students majoring in political science or anyone with an interest in world politics.

REQUISITES:

Advisory:

ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or Assessment Skill Level R6/W6

Some statements on adding and dropping:

- i. It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer attending [for on-campus classes].
- ii. It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absences.
- iii. Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in the class schedule, will receive an evaluative letter grade in the class.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the theories, methods, actors and influences that make up the field of International Relations (IR)
2. Categorize and describe the major periods of world history from an IR perspective from the year 1000 to the present
3. Apply the theoretical arguments of Liberalism, Feminism, Postmodernism and Peace Studies to critique the traditional Power Politics view of international security issues
4. Compare and contrast the decision-making models used to make and analyze foreign policy decisions and explain how substate actors affect decision-making processes and outcomes

5. Distinguish between conventional types of war and terrorism and assess how the increasing use of terror as a means of leverage in international conflicts is changing the ways in which governments view and use military forces as well as international organizations such as the United Nations
6. Define Political Economy and explain how the ascendance of liberal over mercantilist economics has led to increased globalization
7. Employ the concepts of comparative advantage and interdependence to analyze countries' trade strategies and to explain the rise of trade regimes such as the World Trade Organization and regional trade agreements
8. Evaluate the financial positions of the United States, Russia, Eastern Europe, the European Union, Asia and Latin America in terms of currency values, national accounts and international debt
9. Distinguish between multinational corporations (MNCs) and foreign direct investment and identify the ways in which the spread of both has led to increased global integration
10. Assess the principles of Supranationalism and Integration Theory as challenges to those of Realism and Neoliberalism in relation to issues such as European unification; global telecommunications; the rise of an international culture; environmental management and sustainable development; poverty and revolution; and international economic development and foreign assistance programs.

POLI 140: Contemporary International Politics

Students who complete POLI 140 will be able to:

Critical Thinking

Think critically in reading, writing, and/or speaking about contemporary world politics, thereby identifying problems, theses, arguments, evidence and conclusions;

Communication

Write or speak about contemporary world politics, thereby addressing problems, formulating theses, making arguments, analyzing and weighing evidence, and deriving conclusions;

Personal Actions and Civic Responsibilities

Demonstrate an ability to understand one's role in society, take responsibility for one's own actions, and make ethical decisions in complex situations;

Global Awareness

Articulate similarities and contrasts among cultures, times, and environments, demonstrating an understanding of cultural pluralism.

Grades:	Attendance & Participation	10%
	2 short papers	30%
	Midterm Exam	25%

Final Exam

35%

Course Outline (learning modules will be available starting these days:

Week 1: January 31 & Feb. 2

Agenda: Introduction: Problems and Questions in International Politics

Read: Chapter 1

Week 2: February 7 & 9

Agenda: The Historical Evolution of International Politics

Read: Chapter 2

Week 3: February 14 & 16

Agenda: Theories of International Relations: Realism and Liberalism

Read: Chapter 3

Week 4: February 21 & 23

Agenda: Theories of International Relations: Economic Structuralism, Constructivism, and Feminism

Read: Chapter 4

Week 5: February 28 & Mar. 2

*******FIRST PAPER DUE AROUND THIS TIME*******

Agenda: The State, Society, and Foreign Policy

Read: Chapter 5

Week 6: March 7 & 9

Agenda: Bureaucracies, Groups, and Individuals in the Foreign Policy Process

Read: Chapter 6

Week 7: March 14 & 16

Agenda: International Organizations and Transnational Actors

Read: Chapter 7

Week 8: March 21 & 23

Agenda: International Insecurity and the Causes of War and Peace

Read: Chapter 8

*******MIDTERM LIKELY TO BE MARCH 23*******

Week 9: April 4 & 6

Agenda: The Use of Force

Read: Chapter 9

Week 10: April 11 & 13

Agenda: Fundamentals of International Political Economy

Read: Chapter 10

Week 11: April 18 & 20

Agenda: The Globalization of Trade and Finance

Read: Chapter 11

Week 12: April 25 & 27

Agenda: The Problem of Global Inequality

Read: Chapter 12

Week 13: May 2 & 4

*******SECOND PAPER DUE AROUND THIS TIME*******

Agenda: International Law, Norms, and Human Rights

Read: Chapter 13

Week 14: May 9 & 11

Agenda: The Global Environment and International Politics

Read: Chapter 14

Week 15: May 16 & 18

Agenda: Conclusion: Power and Purpose in a Changing World

Read: Chapter 15

Week 16: May 23 & 25

Agenda: Course Wrap and Catch up

Read: Chapter 16

*******Final Exam will be during our final class together*******

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity

As students in this course, you must adhere to the policies and procedures of the San Diego Community College District, as well as all Federal, State, and local laws. Students are subject to charges of misconduct concerning, but not limited to, the following acts as described in Policy 3100: The taking of and passing off as one's own work or ideas of another; plagiarism and academic cheating. (Please refer to the District Student Code of Conduct on the District Website:

<http://www.sdccd.edu/docs/policies/Student%20Services/BP%203100.pdf>)