

POLS 131 CURRENT WORLD PROBLEMS

FALL 2012
11:00am – 12:15pm
CLARK A201

INSTRUCTOR: Amber Curtis

OFFICE: CLARK C326

EMAIL: amber.curtis@colostate.edu

OFFICE HOURS: TR 10-11am, 12:30-1:45pm,

COURSE WEBSITE: <https://ramct.colostate.edu/>

& By Appointment

GTAS: Josh Snow (joshsnow@rams.colostate.edu); JT Stepleton (jtsteple@colostate.edu)

GTA OFFICE HOURS & LOCATION: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What's going on in the world? Why should we care? For better or worse, globalization has fundamentally changed the way people and governments interact, which has profound implications for international cooperation and conflict. Today, no place is an island unto itself. Information, communication, and transportation advancements have brought unprecedented interdependence, meaning that issues affecting one country can rapidly diffuse throughout the rest of the world and that solving these transnational problems may require significant international effort.

This course provides a foray into most of the major subfields of political science (international relations, comparative politics, political theory, and public administration & policy) by delving into several contemporary challenges: war, disease, human rights, economic despair, cultural clashes, climate change, and more. In each unit, we'll underscore the historical underpinnings to modern-day events, review U.S. involvement and policy, focus on how world problems affect the international system at large, and speculate on the potential decline of the Westphalian state.

OBJECTIVES: Through active engagement in class, students will:

- Expand their perspective of both national and world politics
- Develop practical, transferrable skills such as reading comprehension, critical thinking, analytical research, and persuasive writing
- Cooperate and communicate with one another to share knowledge and expertise
- Analyze the strengths/weaknesses of an argument and assess the kinds of evidence needed to assert their own
- Identify the applicability of course material to personal interests and real-world events

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Personal responsibility is imperative. All assigned readings should be done before class to facilitate lecture and discussion. Please check RamCT Blackboard and your CSU email regularly for important updates and announcements, as you will be accountable for all information transmitted via these electronic resources.

REQUIREMENTS: The course is structured as follows:

Attendance (10%); Participation & iClickers (10%)

Class format will vary between lecture, discussion, group activities, and multimedia presentations. Attendance, preparation, and participation are critical as the course builds

cumulatively upon all earlier material. Students are given two “freebie” absences throughout the course of the semester...use them wisely! Each additional absence will result in a 10% deduction off your final attendance grade. Note that this is an iClicker course; attendance will be tracked through iClicker engagement and a substantial portion of participation points will employ iClicker activities.¹ In sum, your grade is based on showing up, speaking up, clicking in, and turning in miscellaneous daily assignments.

Response Paper (10%)

Students will write a 2-3 page reaction paper to any non-textbook reading of their choice. (There are 13 to choose from.) This response should be typed (12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins) and thoroughly accomplish two things: 1) briefly summarize the author’s main argument and 2) incorporate lecture material and/or other readings to underscore why you agree or disagree. Students are strongly encouraged to submit this assignment sooner rather than later; a hard copy must be turned in no later than 11am on Thursday, December 6th.

Research Paper (20%)

Students are required to write a 4-5 page research paper using credible evidence to make an argument about the biggest problem facing the world today. (Further details to follow.) Analyzing problems not covered in class is preferable; substantial outside research is necessary regardless of topic chosen. All standard rules apply (12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, proper citation, bibliography, etc.). Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Instructor or GTAs ahead of time to discuss their paper ideas. Final drafts are due at 11am on Tuesday, November 27th; only hard copies will be accepted. An electronic version must also be uploaded to <http://www.turnitin.com> (Class ID: 5347417; Password: POLS131) no later than 5pm that same day. A 10% per business day late penalty will be strictly enforced for both paper components and no grade will be given until both versions have been received.

Exams (50%)

The midterm and final exam (worth 25% each) will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, matching, and essay questions. There are NO make-ups!

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Attendance – 10%
Participation & iClickers – 10%
Response Paper – 10%
Research Paper – 20%
Midterm – 25%
Final Exam – 25%

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Payne, Richard J. 2012. *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*. Fourth edition. Pearson Education, Inc.
- Other assigned readings accessible through RamCT Blackboard.

¹ Students’ three lowest iClicker scores will be dropped at the end of the term. If students forget their iClicker, they may submit written answers at the end of lecture for half-credit. No late answers will be accepted.

OPTIONAL TEXTS: For those who need more clarification or want to pursue the information in greater depth...

- *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher*. 2012 Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.
- *The Economist* (<http://www.economist.com/>) or an international newspaper of your choice.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Honesty

Please remember CSU's Honor Pledge ("I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance") at all times. Any violations of Colorado State University's academic integrity policy, including cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior is grounds for an automatic F, expulsion from the class, and referral to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). If you have questions about what is or is not permissible, ask first. Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://tilt.colostate.edu/integrity/>. It is also highly recommended that all students thoroughly read the Rules about Cheating at CSU: http://tilt.colostate.edu/integrity/faqs/what_are_rules.cfm.

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) **at least TWO WEEKS before an exam** so that your needs be addressed. RDS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: (970) 491-6385, 100 General Services Building, and <http://rds.colostate.edu/home>.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If applicable, please let me know in a timely manner. <http://policies.colostate.edu/PolicySearch.aspx?xGplID=4YpApdmS1dQ=>.

Appropriate Learning Environment

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun; please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

CLASS SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS

(Subject to change. Please check email and RamCT Blackboard regularly for important updates!)

PART I: BACKGROUND

Day 1: Tuesday 8/21 – Introduction

- Review: Syllabus, RamCT Blackboard, Textbook

Day 2: Thursday 8/23 – Context (World History in a Flash; Subfields of Political Science)

- Read: Payne Chp. 1 “Global Issues: Challenges of Globalization” (p. 1-11)

Day 3: Tuesday 8/28 – Globalization, Non-State Actors, the Post 9/11 World

- Read: Payne Chp. 1 “Global Issues: Challenges of Globalization” (p. 12-23)

Day 4: Thursday 8/30 – NO CLASS

PART II: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Day 5: Tuesday 9/4 – Opposing Paradigms

- FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF iCLICKERS
- Read: Barber (1995) “Jihad Vs. McWorld” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 6: Thursday 9/6 – Clashing Civilizations

- Read: Huntington (1992) “The Clash of Civilizations” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 7: Tuesday 9/11 – Ethnic Conflict

- Read: Payne Chp. 14 “Cultural Clashes & Conflict Resolution” (p. 296-317)

Day 8: Thursday 9/13 – Terrorism

- Read: Payne Chp. 5 “Global Terrorism” (p. 90-115)

Day 9: Tuesday 9/18 – Terrorism, Cont’d

Day 10: Thursday 9/20 – War on Terror

- Read: Hayden (2011) “Al-Qaida After Ten Years Of War: A Global Perspective Of Successes, Failures And Prospects” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 11: Tuesday 9/25 – Future of Terrorism

- Read: Lacquer (2004) “The Terrorism to Come” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 12: Thursday 9/27 – Failed States

- Read: Patrick (2011) “The Brutal Truth” (on RamCT Blackboard)

PART III: COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Day 13: Tuesday 10/2 – Democratization

- Read: Payne Chp. 4 “Promoting Democracy” (p. 67-89)

Day 14: Thursday 10/4 – Arab Spring

- Read: “Turmoil in the Arab World” (p. 165-194) (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 15: Tuesday 10/9 – Review for Midterm

Day 16: Thursday 10/11 – MIDTERM EXAM

Day 17: Tuesday 10/16 – Inequality & Poverty

- Read: Payne Chp. 9 “Global Inequality and Poverty” (p. 180-205)

Day 18: Thursday 10/18 – Global Financial Crisis

- Read: Payne Chp. 7 “The Global Financial Crisis” (p. 138-155)

Day 19: Tuesday 10/23 – Global Financial Crisis, Cont’d

- Read: *The Economist* (2011) “Staring Into the Abyss” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 20: Thursday 10/25 – Writing a Stellar Research Paper

PART IV: POLITICAL THEORY

Day 21: Tuesday 10/30 – Environmental Politics

- Read: Payne Chp. 10 “Environmental Issues” (p. 206-230)

Day 22: Thursday 11/1 – Environmental Politics, Cont’d

- Read: Selin & VanDeveer (2010) “Global Climate Change” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 23: Tuesday 11/6 – Environmental Politics, Cont’d

- Read: *The Economist* (2012) “Bell Weather” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 24: Thursday 11/8 – Human Rights

- Read: Payne Chp. 3 “Human Rights” (p. 43-66)

Day 25: Tuesday 11/13 – Human Rights, Cont’d

- Read:
 - The Economist* (2012) “Technology versus Traffickers” (on RamCT Blackboard)
 - UNODC (2012) “Modern Form of Slavery” (on RamCT Blackboard)

PART V: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & POLICY

Day 26: Thursday 11/15 – Transnational Crime

- Read: Payne Chp. 12 “Global Crime” (p. 255-274)

Days 27 & 28: Tuesday 11/20 & Thursday 11/22 – NO CLASS (FALL RECESS)

Day 29: Tuesday 11/27 – Population Issues

- RESEARCH PAPER DUE AT 11:00 AM
- Read: Payne Chp. 11 “Population and Migration” (p. 231-254)

Day 30: Thursday 11/29 – Migration & Immigration

- Read: *The Economist* (2012) “Culture Matters More” (on RamCT Blackboard)

Day 31: Tuesday 12/4 – Disease

- Read: Payne Chp. 13 “The Globalization of Disease” (p. 275-295)

PART VI: CONCLUSION

Day 32: Thursday 12/6 – Looking Forward; Review for Final

- RESPONSE PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN 11:00 AM TODAY
- Read: Wolf (2001) “Will the Nation-State Survive Globalization?” (on RamCT Blackboard)

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday 12/12 from 2-4pm in normal room