

**POL SCI 122, 001: INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN--EAU CLAIRE, SPRING 2017  
MWF 09:00—09:50**

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Office Hours: MWF: 12:00-1:00  
And by Appointment or email**

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### **COURSE OUTLINE**

This class is aimed at introducing students to the fundamental concepts, ideas, theories, and methods utilized in the study of global politics. By the end of the term, students are expected to have developed a more sophisticated and systematic outlook of global politics. The course is divided into four parts. Part I introduces students to the fundamentals of world politics, including concepts and theories and approaches utilized in the study of international politics. Part II will focus on security, conflict and war, including religion, ideology, ethnicity, and resources. In Part III, we will explore and examine the utility of diplomacy, international organizations and law, including arms control, in promoting global cooperation and peace. Part IV will deal with contemporary International Political Economy and particularly the North-South relations: The economic divide between rich and poor countries remains significant, and poverty and non-democratic politics continue to persist in many developing countries. The successful completion of these four sections largely depends on the level of your preparation for this class.

All students are strongly encouraged to do the reading requirements prior to class meetings. Students must also read at least one major source of international news on daily basis and be prepared to make intelligent comments on major world issues and events. This will encourage you develop a habit of keeping up with world affairs and to better understand the relevance of academic learning to the actual processes of decision making in both domestic and international politics. The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>), and the BBC World News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/default.stm>) are some useful, free, and easy-to-reach sites. Alternative sources of international news includes: [www.presstv.com](http://www.presstv.com); [www.rt.com](http://www.rt.com); [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com), and many others. In addition, I will email you articles of interest, and there are also articles posted on D2L for you to read to better comprehend materials discussed in your book and in lectures. Students are responsible for both the assigned reading materials and what is covered in class lectures, but please note that class lectures do not necessarily follow the same exact materials discussed in the book. The precise outline of topics covered in this class is provided below. We will try to follow the outlined schedule, but I will inform you of necessary amendments should there be any. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions is required. I may randomly call on students to share their thoughts on important international issues. ***Class attendance and participation will contribute 12% to your final grade. Please refer to D2L for the class syllabus and all related materials.***

There are four exams scheduled in this class and all students are expected to take them on the assigned day. **There will be no make-up exams given unless a prior written notice is provided by the student, explaining the circumstances under which he or she is forced to miss an exam. Make up exams can be harder.**

## **REQUIRED BOOK AND READING:**

1. Hill, Stephen M. and Ali R. Abootalebi, *Introduction to World Politics: Prospects and Challenges for the United States* (Dubuque, IA, Kendall Hunt, 2013).
2. Rourke, John T. ed. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in World Politics, 17th ed.* (New York, N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 2016).
3. Assigned articles posted on D2 and Email Articles

## **EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING:**

Your final grade will be based on following:

1. **There will be four multiple-choice examinations, each contributing 22% to your final grade. Each exam will consist only of multiple choice questions.**
2. **Class attendance and participation fulfils the remaining 12%**

## **ABOUT LIBERAL EDUCATION**

The UW-Eau Claire Liberal Education (LE) Core curriculum serves as a strong foundation for all of our academic programs. Our LE Core embodies the Power of [AND] in its design. It has been developed to ensure that you acquire the *knowledge AND skills AND responsibility* that you will need to actively engage in a global society. Through meeting the requirements of the LE Core you will develop the ability to think critically, creatively and independently. You will learn to integrate and apply your knowledge and develop the values essential to becoming a constructive global citizen. The outcomes will empower you and prepare you to deal with complexity, diversity, and change in multiple settings. They will also develop highly marketable skills and lead to life-long learning and civic engagement. Liberal Education Learning Outcomes includes: **KNOWLEDGE** (Build knowledge and awareness of diverse peoples and cultures and of the natural and physical world through the study of arts, histories, humanities, languages, mathematics, sciences and technologies, and social sciences; **SKILLS** (Develop intellectual and practical skills, including, for example, inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, and teamwork and problem solving; **RESPONSIBILITY** (Apply personal and social responsibility for active citizenship and develop skills needed to thrive in a pluralistic and globally interdependent world; and, **INTEGRATION** (Integrate learning across courses and disciplines within and beyond campus---including Service Learning). (This course will focus specifically on two outcomes: **K2** (Use knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and social institutions) and **S1**. (Write, read, speak, and listen effectively in various contexts using a variety of means including appropriate information sources and technologies.)

## **ABOUT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

In accordance with the official language of the University handbook, “I consider any academic misconduct in this course as a serious offense, and I will pursue the strongest possible academic penalties for such behavior.” The disciplinary procedures and penalties for academic misconduct are described in the UW-Eau Claire *Student Services and Standards Handbook*.

**Please also be aware that:** *"Any student who has a disability and is in need of classroom accommodations, [can] contact the instructor and the Services for Students with Disabilities Office in Old Library 2136 at the beginning of the semester."*

## **Other Matters**

Please avoid eating in class and turn off your cell phones. [The University Civility Committee reminds us that, as members of this class, “we are members of a larger learning community where excellence is achieved through civility. Our actions affect everyone in our community. Courtesy is reciprocated and extends beyond our local setting, whether in future jobs, classes, or communities. Civility is not learned individually, it is practiced as a community.”]

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Exam I</b>	<b>-----Friday, February 21</b>
<b>Exam II</b>	<b>-----Friday, March 17</b>
<b>Exam III</b>	<b>-----Friday, April 21</b>
<b>Final Exam PS 122</b>	<b>-----Friday, May 19, 8 AM</b>
<b>Exam Week</b>	<b>-----Monday-Friday, May 15-19</b>
<b>Commencement</b>	<b>-----Saturday, May 20</b>

## **PART I: WORLD POLITICS: BACKGROUND AND APPROACHES TO WORLD POLITICS**

### **Weeks I-III (January 23—February 10)**

- a) The Study of World Politics: What is World Politics and Why is it Important
- b) What is Power, and characteristics of power
- c) World Politics: Definitional Problems--How to Study it?
- d) Actors in Global Politics: the State, Sovereignty, Governance, and National Interest  
**Discussion Box:** *Should the US recognize Palestine as a State*
- e) What is International System: The Historical Evolution and the Rise of Modern State  
**Discussion Box:** *What is the correct balance of Hard and Soft Power?*

## Readings

1. Hill and Abootalebi, chapter 1
2. Reading posted on D2L:
  - U.S. Foreign Policy: Key Data, Pew
  - U.S. Unemployment, ISIS Data, Pew
  - Sovereignty: The Legacy of Westphalia
  - A Crisis of the State...
  - Was Westphalia all that...
  - Seymour Hersh the Killing of Osama Bin Laden
3. Taking Sides:
  - John Rourke, Introduction, pp. 8-11
  - Issue 1.1. Should the United States Seek to Remain the “indispensable” Country?
  - Issue 1.2: Is Russia Being Demonized for Pursuing Its National Interests?
  - Issue 1.3: Is China Being the Aggressor in the Issue of the Disputed Island in the Pacific Ocean?

## Week IV-V (February 13-24)

- a) What is theory and why are theories important
- b) Paradigms in IR: Realism, Idealism/Liberalism, Marxism and Radical Approach  
**Discussion Box**/Theory in Action: Prisoner’s Dilemma and Nuclear Non-Proliferation
- c) Alternative Paradigms: Constructivism, Feminism
- d) Foreign Policy Approaches: Levels of Analysis
- e) Foreign Policy Approaches: Realism, Liberal Internationalism, Radical Anti-Imperialism  
**Discussion Box**: Which foreign policy approach should the US adopt toward China?

## Readings:

1. Hill and Abootalebi, ch. 2
2. Reading posted on D2L:
  - Reading on Realism and Liberalism
  - On Kenneth Waltz...
  - Mearsheimer on Realism...
  - Why Obama Needs to Choose a Paradigm
  - Cover story: Richard Haas on America’s Power 2013
  - Learning from the Past...
  - Will Russia and China...

### 3. Taking Sides:

- Taking Sides, *Introduction*
- Taking Sides, Issue 2.1 Is Chaos in the Middle East Largely the Fault of the U.S. Policy?

**Examination 1, Friday, February 24: Hill/Abootalebi, chs. 1-2**  
**Taking Sides: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1**

## **PART II: SECURITY, CONFLICT, AND WAR**

### **Week VI-VII (February 27—March 10)**

- a) What are security, conflict, and war?
- b) Trends in conflicts
- c) Causes of Armed conflict and Wars: Territory, Resources, Ideology, Religion, and Ethnicity/Nationalism
- d) Theoretical Explanations of Armed Conflicts and Wars: Levels of Analysis and Realism, Liberalism, and Radical Approaches

**Discussion Box:** Will Asia Go to War over Territory and/or Resources?

**Discussion Box:** Have We Reached the 'End of History'?

### **Readings:**

1. Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 3, pp. 44-60.
2. [Reading posted on D2L](#)

- War Has Almost Ceased to Exist By John Mueller PSQ 2009
- Noam Chomsky America's corporate doctrine of power a grave threat to humanity
- Best of TomDispatch Chalmers Johnson, Dismantling the Empire
- Best of TomDispatch Chalmers Johnson
- The Red Line and the Rat Line Seymour Hersh 2014

### 3. Taking Side Issues:

- Issue 4.1. Should the United States Ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?
- Issue 4.2. Does Using Drones to Attack Terrorists Globally Violate International Law?

**Week VIII (March 13-17)**

Issues in international security: Terrorism, Arms Races, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Theories of IR

**Discussion Box:** Democracy and Counterterrorism: Freedom vs. Security

**Discussion Box:** Drones and Counterterrorism

**Discussion Box:** Iran and the NPT

**Readings:**

1. Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 3, pp. 61-72.
2. Reading posted on D2L:
  - Huntington Clash of Civilizations
  - Kurdish Nationalism Iran's Kurds rise up as their leaders remain divided.docx

**Taking Sides:**

- Issue 4.3 Is Closing the Prison for Alleged Terrorists at the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo, Cuba, Justified?

**Examination 2, Friday, March 17: Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 3 and Taking Sides: Issues: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3**

**WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK**

**MARCH 20—24 SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES**

**PART III: Sources of Cooperation and Peace****Week X-XI (March 27—April 7)**

International Organizations: Classification and role

International Organizations: The United Nations

International Organizations: The European Union

**Discussion Box:** EU Ordinary Legislative Procedure (co-decision-making procedure)

**Readings:**

1. Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 4, pp. 74-86.
2. Reading posted on D2L:
  - Liberal Institutionalism
  - European Coal and Steel Proposal by France
  - Euro-skepticism and radical right-wing voting in Europe
3. Taking Sides:
  - Issue 3.1. Will the European Union Collapse?
  - Issue 5.1. Is the UN a Worthwhile Organization?

**Week XII (April 10--14)**

International Law, Origin and Evolution

International Criminal Court

**Discussion Box:** Should the United States Join the ICC?

**Readings:**

1. Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 4, pp. 87-96.
2. Reading posted on D2L:
  - Brief Intro. to International Law
  - United Nations Charter - UN Documents\_ Gathering a body of global agreements
3. Taking Sides
  - Issue 5.2. Is U.S. Refusal to Join the International Criminal Court Justifiable?
  - Issue 5.3. Should the United States Ratify the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women?

## **PART IV: ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**Week XIII (April 17-21)**

- a) Introduction to International Political Economy
- b) Theories of IPE
- c) Pre and Post WWII IPE: Institutions, Agreements, and Principles---Bretton Woods, GATT, IMF and World Bank

**Discussion: Economic Crisis** (2008—present) and theoretical perspectives

**Readings:**

1. Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 5

**Examination 3, Friday, April 21: Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 4 and Taking Sides: Issues 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, (5.3?)**

**Week XIV-XVI (April 24—May 12)**

International Political Economy Continues: Institutions, Theories and Evidence

**Readings:**

1. Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 5
2. Reading posted on D2L:
  - Coup d'état: The Historical...
  - How Bretton Woods Reshaped...
  - When the Bretton Woods...
  - Is Inequality a Bigger Threat than the Islamic State Foreign Policy 2014
  - Joseph Stiglitz Inequality in America 2014
  - Reining in Corporate Tax Evasion 2014
  - The Transatlantic Battle Against Tax Evasion
  - The Top 5 Foreign Policy Lessons of the Past 20 Years Stephen Walt 2014
2. Taking Sides:
  - Issue 3.2 Should the Export-Import Bank Be Eliminated?
  - Issue 6.1 Is President Obama's U.S. Global Warming Policy Wise?
  - Issue 6.2 Should the United States Deport Unauthorized and Unaccompanied Immigrant Children?

**Examination 4, Friday, May 19, 8 AM**  
**Hill/Abootalebi, ch. 5 and Taking Sides: Issues, 3.2, 6.1, 6.2**