

POLITICAL SCIENCE 10

Spring Semester 2009

El Camino College Compton Center

Online section 9489

Course web site: www.compton.edu

Facilitator: Paul M. Flor

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Office: M1 Bungalow, next to Allied Health

Office hours: M & W 11am – 12:30

T & Th 9:30am – 11

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Course Title: Introduction to International Relations

Course Description: This course examines the factors that determine the relations between nations and the problems that result from the interplay of these factors. The conditions that can lead to both conflict and cooperation among nations will be examined. Major topics include international security, issues of international political economy, and international organizations. International law and diplomacy are examined as alternative means to resolving conflict.

Course Goal: While satisfying units needed for degree completion, this course allows students to develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the American Political System. This course is transferable to UC and CSU systems.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Eligibility for English 1A, or equivalent, is strongly recommended. Tutors & instructional associates are available in the Learning Resource Center to help with writing assignments.

Method of Instruction: This course is delivered through multimedia presentations, textbook companion websites, and online group discussions. Online participation is compulsory and contributes to your final grade. E-mail and Internet access are necessary to access and complete assignments and view lectures. Internet access is available at the Learning Resource Center and Open Computer Labs. Students are expected to have textbooks by the second week of the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to share the reading load with partners. Study groups are recommended.

Outcome Expectations for Students: Upon successful completion of the course students should be able to perform the following activities with 70% accuracy:

1. Identify and discuss the major approaches to the understanding and practice of international politics.
2. Examine the principal historical elements that established the framework within which nations now interact with one another.
3. Identify and define the major elements of national power.
4. Assess the components of power in selected countries.
5. Identify and describe the causes of war.
6. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of the principal approaches to maintaining and/or restoring peace among nations.
7. Define and evaluate significant reasons for conflict among nations, states, international organizations and other non-state actors.
8. Describe the role of economic issues in international relations, their impact on diplomacy, war and peace, and their centrality in relations between developed and developing nations.

Course Requirements:

5 Current Event articles, 20 points each	100 points
8 Chapter worksheets, 25 points each	200 points
Midterm exam	50 points
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	450 points

Grade Scale:

450 – 390 points = A
389 – 320 points = B
319 – 250 points = C
249 – 200 points = D
199 or less points = F

Student Responsibilities:

No make-ups on missed exams, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.
Assignments submitted late will have points deducted, 10% per day.

For example, an assignment worth 40 points submitted 3 days late will be deducted 30% (30% of 40 = 12 points). So the maximum points for a good research paper is 28 points (40 – 12 = 28).

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course. The instructor is not responsible for dropping students from the final roster. Students who drop the course must file for a drop or a (W) Withdrawal with admissions & records. Students who fail to do so and appear on the final grade roster will receive a failing grade of F. Important dates to remember:

The last day to add the class is Friday, February 20, 2009.

The last day to drop the class without a notation on student record is Friday, March 06, 2009.

The last day to drop the class with a notation of W on student record is Wednesday, May 08, 2009.

Students must request an (I) Incomplete from the instructor prior to Friday, May 29, 2009.

Absences and classroom standards: Completion of course materials is very important and critical for successful passing this course. Students are responsible for material from the textbook as well as online presentations. At any time during the semester, a student with four weeks of inactivity will be dropped from the course. Submit all assignments on time as tardiness will not be tolerated. Instructor reserves the right to make alterations to any assignments or required readings and/or due dates with ample notification in the event of unforeseen events.

Methods of Evaluation: All final drafts of written assignments must be submitted word processed, using font size 12, with standard one-inch margins.

1. Current Event articles: Throughout the course, students are required to identify and read 5 articles from major newspapers or magazines on topics of International Relations and World Politics. Students are to write five one-page analyses addressing each of the following course topics: 1) Diplomacy; 2) Global Armaments; 3) the Political Economy; 4) Religious, National, or Ethnic conflict; and 5) Human Rights or Refugees. For every current event, students must a) summarize the article, identifying all the actors involved; b) explain how the event relates to 2 or more themes, trends, or concepts associated with the corresponding course topic as presented in the textbook and/or in lecture presentations; c) propose a personal assessment from a student perspective of the implications for the future for all actors involved in the event. Include the publication or web address and date of the article used. Each current event article should answer these questions in essay format, in 3 – 4 paragraphs. The first one is due March 13; the second is due April 03; the third is due April 24; the fourth is due May 8. The last current event must be submitted by May 29, 2009. These assignments must be emailed to pflor@elcamino.edu in MS Word.
2. Chapter worksheets: Sixteen worksheets, one for each chapter covered in the course, will be posted on the instructor's web page. Students must select 8 to complete and submit. Each consists of nine true/false questions, one short answer question to be answered in 1 to 2 paragraphs, and one activity which requires visiting suggested websites to complete that assignment. Students are encouraged to choose worksheets for chapters they find of most interest. The first four are due 04/10/09, the second four are due 05/29/09.
3. Midterm Exam shall be timed. It will be posted on my faculty webpage for students to print or download and must be completed and returned within the allotted time. Midterm exam covers Parts One and Two of the course and is scheduled for Thursday, 04/02/09, at noon. Students have a 12 hour period to complete the exam; students may use notes and the textbook. Exams are to be emailed back to instructor's address pflor@elcamino.edu
4. Final exam shall be timed as well, which means it will be posted on my faculty webpage for students to print or download and must be completed and returned within the allotted time. Final exam is scheduled for Thursday, 6/04/09, at noon. Exams are to be emailed back to instructor's address pflor@elcamino.edu There are no exceptions. Students have a 12 hour period to complete the exam; students may use notes and the textbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Students with verified disabilities requiring accommodations should make a specific request of the instructor in a timely manner at the start of the semester and at least one week prior to the identified need. Special services are available on campus to meet outside needs.

Course Textbook: Viotti, Paul R., International Relations & World Politics, *Security, Economy, Identity*. ISBN: 978-0-13-602984-7, fourth edition, Prentice Hall

Orientation: Friday, February 20, 2009 @ 4:30 - 6:00 pm in Room F-40 to discuss Course syllabus, Course requirements, lectures, online exercises, submission of assignments, and final exam.

Course Time Schedule

Session 1 Course Orientation, Feb. 20, 2009
Course Syllabus & Requirements
Part One - Overview
Reading for next class: **Chapter 1**

Session 2 Trends, Actors, & Concepts
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 2**

Session 3 An Emerging Global Civil Society
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 3**

Session 4 International Relations in
Historical Perspective
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 4**

Session 5 Thinking Theoretically
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 5**

Session 6 Part Two – State Security & Statecraft
Power: Interests, Objectives, &
Capabilities of States
Reading for next Session: **Chapters 6**

Session 7 Diplomacy: Managing Relations
among States
Reading for next Session: **Chapters 7**

Session 8 Force: War, Just War, & Armed
Intervention
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 8**

Session 9 Part Three – International Security
International Cooperation: International
Organizations, Alliances, & Coalitions
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 9**

Session 10 Controlling Global Armaments
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 10**

Session 11 International Terrorism &
Transnational Crime
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 11**

Session 12 Part Four – The Global Economy
Global Economy: Politics & Capitalism
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 12**

Session 13 The Political Economy of International
Trade, Finance, & Regional Integration
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 13**

Session 14 The Political Economy of Investments
& Sustainable Development
Reading for this Session: **Chapter 14**

Session 15 The Global Environment
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 15**

Session 16 Part Five – Identity & Civil Society
Religion, Nationalism, & Conflicting
Identities
Reading for next Session: **Chapter 16**

Session 17 Humanitarianism: Human Rights &
Refugees
Final Exam on Thursday noon 06-04-09
Due before midnight