

Request For Foundations Credit: POLS 1050

A. Basics

1. Foundations Course Area: Social Science (FC:SO)
2. Unit in which the course will be taught: **Political Science.**
3. Unit Administrator's title, name and email: Chair; Brad Lockerbie
Lockerbieb@ecu.edu
4. Course Prefix, Number and Name:

POLS 1050. Politics and Global Understanding (3) (FC:SO) Virtual exchange with a variety of countries to explore the interrelationship between political culture and perspectives, institutions of government, political processes, and policy outcomes.
5. College in which the course will be taught: Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
6. College dean's name and email: Alan White, whitea@ecu.edu
7. Date approved by department curriculum committee and chair's initials. February 15, 2012
8. Date approved by department voting faculty: February 21, 2012
9. Date reviewed by department chair and initials: February 21, 2012
10. Date approved by the Harriot College curriculum committee and chairs initials: September 25, 2012
11. Date forwarded to FCIE: December 27, 2012

12. A detailed course syllabus with a weekly schedule of topics to be discussed which should reflect explicit coverage of each of the foundation goals.

POLS 1050. Politics and Global Understanding

Overview

This course introduces the study of international relations (hereafter IR), comparative politics, and world politics. In the early years of the 21st century, the nature and substance of international interactions are changing rapidly. To understand these changes, we must first analyze the complex network of political, economic and cultural relationships that structure both national and world politics. Secondly, as it is for policy-makers and world leaders, we must develop ways to analyze the changes effectively, so that we can understand where change is taking us and what we might do about it.

This course offers a unique opportunity for ECU students to learn about perspectives from other cultures in a face-to-face environment without having to leave their classroom. This class employs interactive technologies to give ECU students the opportunity to communicate live with students in different countries. This way, students at each participating university can learn about a number of different cultures while simultaneously helping to teach about their own. The cross-cultural exchange is based both on written communications between pairs of students (via ‘chatting’ and combined assignments) as well as through “web-streamed” face-to-face dialogue. The goal of the chat is first to get to know people from other countries and how they think generally, then as time allows, consider how their backgrounds color their attitudes about international relations.

Class participants will connect consecutively with a total of three different universities. Each linkage will be with one university at a time and this makes up a small block (a little less than a third) of the entire semester.

The Course is divided between three foci: the Substance lectures, the introductions to the countries with which the class is going to link, and the actual linkage days, in which the class links live with students in another class in another country.

Part I. Course Overview; Theory & History

Lectures: Theories of global politics; the historical setting; the modern Era
Country Intro
Linking Day

Goal 1: Substance of field: IR is a field of Political Science which studies interactions between States concerning national interests, institutions for cooperation, and conflict resolution.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: Methods used are historical analysis and quantitative Rational Choice decision making models; Theories of global politics are the building blocks of all explanations of international events. They develop the concept

of the “State,” use historical analysis to explore the ways in which the development of the State in the modern era has impacted on potential for cooperation and conflict. The core, important theories are studied to demonstrate the varied possible ways facts and events are interpreted, and the ways those interpretations affect IR.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: the history of the modern state system enables people to understand the particular stresses on the international system. Theories make it possible for observers to see the legitimacy of seemingly incompatible explanations, and to understand opposing views.

Part II. States and Foreign Policy

Lectures: the Power of States; Making Foreign Policy

Linking Days

Country debrief

Goal 1: Substance of field: The capabilities of states, both tangible and intangible, are the basis of all international interactions and cooperation. Foreign Policy connects IR with both institutional and behavioral areas of domestic politics, another field of Political Science.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: In foreign policy, the teacher examines the different processes, and kinds of data, which the analyst uses to explain policy choices. These include state capabilities, the role of kind of government (democratic & authoritarian), and the partisan or cultural definitions of national interests. Objects of study include institutional structure, media coverage of events, and public opinion polls.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: without some background in the complex factors underlying foreign policy decisions, and the results of those decisions, citizens find it far more difficult to effectively understand international events and foreign policy decisions, and interpret the conflicting media coverage. This facilitates a responsible citizenship role.

Part III. Security Relations

Lectures: International conflict; Ethnic Conflict and Terrorism;

Avoiding Conflict: Bargaining; IO's, laws and ethics

Country Intro

Linking Days

Country Debrief

Goal 1: Substance of field: International conflict and cooperation are core to the study of IR; subjects include causes of war, the rise of terrorism, international organizations (IO), such as the U.N., and international law.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: Rational Choice models and strategic bargaining theories are important, cutting edge research approaches, developed by economists and political scientists for studying policy choices made by very different actors.

Students will be given an introduction, and will work problems using data related to specific conflict situations.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: greater understanding of the role of IOs and means of cooperation will facilitate public awareness of the great issues of our time.

Part IV: Economic Relations

Lecture: Interdependence among rich states; Developing states;
Regional integration
Country Intro

Goal 1: Substance of field: most international interactions do not relate to war, but to trade, and various aspects of International Political Economy, a subfield of Political Science and IR. At an introductory level, the key issues would be underlying forces of globalization and the relations between the “global north” and the “global south” over issues of poverty, inequality and development.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: Theoretical constructs relating to globalization (its nature, causes and impacts), North/South relations, and relations of exploitation, are central to the Political Science analysis of IPE and IR. These especially include variations of Liberal Trade Theory and Neo-Marxist approaches, e.g. Dependency.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: Globalization is a buzzword, a frequent theme in popular discourse. Understanding of its nature, and the arguments about its benefits and costs, would enable a person to have a clearer picture of the world, and the arguments about appropriate approaches to apparent problems. Integration makes the world safer, and also makes it more vulnerable to spreading crises, such as the current economic crisis in the EU.

Part V: Global Challenges

Linking days
Lectures: The future; Summary; Surveys
Linking Days

Goal 1: Substance of field: covered earlier.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: explores the follies of prognostication, especially considering the ways in which the expected problems are not those actually faced.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: This section ties together the materials of the preceding sections and links them to the major current challenges facing the international community and the constituent states individually. It will re-emphasize the contribution of theories of International Relations to students’ understanding of the world, and ability to participate meaningfully in public affairs.

Course Texts:

Juliet Kaarbo and James Lee Ray 2011. *Global Politics*, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 11th ed. **ISBN-10: 0495802646**

Goal 1: Substance of field: Kaarbo and Ray introduces the field of IR, including the major subfields of the discipline.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: Concepts and theories of IR, including competing theories and the ways in which evidence is used to test the value of the theories.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: demonstrates the ways in which relatively obscure interactions and institutions shape and affect the events which define national concerns and the context of US economic and security policies

CultureGrams individual country reports (<http://culturegram.stores.yahoo.net/incul.html>)

Required: purchase downloadable PDFs for selected partner states (e.g., India, Iraq, Macedonia, Malaysia), & pdf of USA for the International Visitor. (\$4.00 each)

Goal 1: Substance of field: Historical, political and cultural aspects of selected states for study and comparison with the US.

Goal 2: research methods, principles, concepts: Introduces the comparative method; highlights and defines the particular qualities of states and societies which are relevant to understanding global politics; Institutions, Political Processes, Political Culture.

Goal 3: contribution to general knowledge: knowledge of the institutions and practices of other states makes the practices and dilemmas of the US clearer.

B. Using the Foundations Goals listed under the course's area:

1, How will course content meet Foundations Goal One for Social Sciences? List examples of required course textbooks or other required materials that address the content described above.

Goal One: Students will learn the subject matter of at least one discipline in the Basic Social Sciences.

International Relations is a field of Political Science. IR studies interactions between States concerning national interests, institutions for cooperation, and conflict resolution.

Foreign Policy connects IR with both institutional and behavioral areas of domestic politics, another field of Political Science. The capabilities of states, both tangible and intangible, are the basis of all international interactions and cooperation.

International conflict and cooperation are core to the study of IR; subjects include causes of war, the rise of terrorism, international organizations (IO), such as the U.N., and international law.

International Political Economy is a subfield of Political Science and IR. It relates to trade and other economic international interactions, both between private actors and between state actors. At an introductory level, the key issues would be underlying forces of globalization and the relations between the “global north” and the “global south” over issues of poverty, inequality and development.

Comparative Politics is a field of Political Science which compares states according to governmental institutions, linkage processes, political culture & history.

2. How will course content meet Foundations Goal Two for Social Sciences? List examples of required course textbooks or other required materials that address the content described above.

Goal Two: Students will learn the research methodology, principles and concepts required to understand and conduct undergraduate-level research in a Basic Social Science.

Methods used to study IR include historical analysis and quantitative Rational Choice decision making models; Theories of global politics are the building blocks of all explanations of international events. They develop the concept of the “State,” use historical analysis to explore the ways in which the development of the State in the modern era has impacted on potential for cooperation and conflict. The core, important theories are studied to demonstrate the varied possible ways facts and events are interpreted, and the ways those interpretations affect IR.

Analysis of IPE and IR is based on theoretical constructs relating to globalization (its nature, causes and impacts), North/South relations, and relations of exploitation. These theories include variations of Liberal Trade Theory and Neo-Marxist approaches, e.g. Dependency.

Both Comparative Politics and the study of Foreign Policy study the various national institutions and processes, and their relation to policy choices. These include state capabilities, the role of kind of government (democratic & authoritarian), and the partisan or cultural definitions of national interests. Objects of study include institutional structure, media coverage of events, and public opinion polls.

Rational Choice models and strategic bargaining theories, which are modeled with complex mathematical formulae, are cutting edge research approaches, developed by economists and political scientists for studying policy choices made by very different actors. Students will study the coding of “data,” rational choice models, and will be given an opportunity to work problems using data related to specific conflict situations.

3. How will course content meet Foundations Goal Three for Social Sciences? List examples of required course textbooks or other required materials that address the content described above.

Goal Three: Students will learn about the discipline's contribution to general knowledge.

The study of IR and Comparative Politics enable people to recognize the importance of events in other states for American security, stability and prosperity. For example, they help to explain US interventions in Vietnam, the former Yugoslavia and Iraq, and how and why they succeeded and failed. Perhaps more importantly, IR theories make it possible for people to see the legitimacy of seemingly incompatible explanations, and to understand opposing views.

Background in the complex factors underlying foreign policy decisions, and the results of those decisions, enable citizens to more effectively understand international events and foreign policy decisions, and interpret the conflicting media coverage. This facilitates a responsible citizenship role.

Globalization is a buzzword, a frequent theme in popular discourse. Understanding of its nature, and the arguments about its benefits and costs, would enable a person to have a clearer picture of the world, and the arguments about appropriate approaches to apparent problems. Integration makes the world safer, and also makes it more vulnerable to spreading crises, such as the current economic crisis in the EU.

IR theories will enrich students' understanding of the world, and ability to participate meaningfully in public affairs.

4. NA

C. NA

D. Bring samples of course materials (textbooks, etc.) that will be used in the course to the Academic Standards Committee that hears the request for foundations credit for the course. The materials are expected to explicitly address all of the foundation goals for the course's area.

E. NA

Please direct any questions to the current Committee Chair, Professor Michael Brown at stc@ecu.edu or to the full Academic Standards Committee at stc@ecu.edu.