PSC 102 Introduction to International Politics

Course Syllabus
Spring 2015

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic
Office: 505 Park Hall
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Classroom: 97 Alumni Arena
Class schedule: TR 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Office: 505 P
Office hours: TR 2-3 p.m.

Teaching Assistant:
Janica Magat, janicama@buffalo.edu

Course description
This course will introduce students to various facets of the relations between nations. It is designed to familiarize students with basic concepts and theories of international relations, including topics about war and peace, domestic influences on foreign policy, international organizations, international trade and finance, environmental problems, etc. The course is not a discussion of current or past events, but, rather, a survey of scientific propositions and theoretical debates that help us to analytically understand both history and contemporary issues in world politics.

Required readings
There is only one required textbook for the course:


Print copies are available for purchase or rental at the University Bookstore, located on North Campus, and at the publisher’s website at http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/UBPSC102. The publisher is also offering digital versions for rental. Used print copies can also be purchased or rented at the Greeks and Sneaks Bookstore, located on 3230 Main St. I would advise students to compare prices before making the final purchase.

Whichever venue and format is chosen, each student must completely read the entire textbook for the course. The readings should be completed before the first class for which they are assigned.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:
93-100 % (A); 90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+); 83-86.9% (B); 80-82.9% (B-);
77-79.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+); 60-66.9% (D);
< 60% (F)
Course requirements

The final grade in this course will be based on three main components: (1) four in-class exams, (2) a cumulative final exam, and (3) four in-class reviews & self-assessments.

Note: While regular attendance will not be a part of the grade, do note that the lecture slides will not be posted on UBLearns or shared with students. If you miss a class, it will be your responsibility to get the class notes from your classmates.

Summary of the grade components:
60%  Four in-class exams (15% each)
30%  Cumulative Final Exam
10%  Four in-class reviews & self-assessments (2.5% each)

1. **Four in-class examinations** (60% total; 15% each)
   - The exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and concept ID questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 15% of the student’s final grade. Questions will be based on the student’s comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures for the particular segment of the course (see the schedule below).

2. **Cumulative Final Exam** (30% total):
   - The final exam, scheduled on December 10, will be CUMULATIVE, covering the assigned reading materials and the class lectures for the entire course. It will be a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and concept ID questions.

3. **Four in-class reviews & self-assessments** (10%; 2.5% each):
   - There will be four assigned class dates, scheduled prior to each of the four exams (see the schedule below), when students will be answering questions in writing from the review materials. The questions will be answered individually but scored by another student – two students sitting next to each other will exchange their completed answers and evaluate them based on the final correct answers provided in the end. Individual scored answers must be submitted to the TA for a grade credit, as a proof that a student was present and completing this review and self-assessment on that scheduled class day. However, the individual scores would not count toward the final grade. If a student fails to submit her/his scored answers IN CLASS on the scheduled review date, there will not be any credit given.

**Summary of important dates:**
- February 12 (R) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 1
- February 17 (T) - Exam 1
- March 5 (R) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 2
- March 10 (T) - Exam 2
- April 9 (R) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 3
- April 14 (T) - Exam 3
- April 30 (R) - In-class review & self-assessment for Exam 4
- May 5 (T) - Exam 4
- May 12 (T, 11:45 am - 2:45 pm) - Cumulative FINAL EXAM
Make-Up Policy
Make-up exams and review/self-assessments will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness. A doctor, excusing you for the specific date of your missed class for medical reasons, must provide the excuse in writing. Simply checking in with a doctor’s office without the doctor’s authorization for missing the class will not be considered a valid circumstance for an excuse. Do note that the UB Health Services do not provide such an excuse (unless you give permission for full medical disclosure to the instructor). The request for a valid make-up needs to be made to me in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed exam or review class. Otherwise, the make-up will not be granted. This course does not qualify for granting an Incomplete Grade; therefore, there is NO Incomplete Grade in this course.

Electronic Communication
I encourage students to visit me during my office hours for any questions and inquiries. If the circumstances necessitate it (such as the emergency situations), you can also e-mail me or Janica Magat (the course TA) on weekdays ONLY. Please makes sure to adhere to the following courtesy policy for this course when e-mailing: (1) use only your UB e-mail address; (2) do address me and/or the TA properly in the message (either as Dr. Danilovic or Prof. Danilovic, and Ms. Magat); (3) sign it with your full name; and (4) keep your message brief. Messages that do not follow this netiquette policy will not be read and addressed. To protect the privacy of each student, please note that I do not provide any grade or similar personal information through e-mail or by phone, regardless of who is requesting it.

Plagiarism Statement
Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class and will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the course. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at: http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml.

Copyright Statement
Unless otherwise noted, this syllabus and any handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Students with Disabilities Policy
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.
SCHEDULE

January 27
COURSE OVERVIEW

January 29
World Politics: Analytical Framework
World Politics, Ch. 1

February 3
Major Theories in International Relations
World Politics, Ch. 2

February 5
Global Actors: States, IGOs, and Other Players
World Politics, Ch. 3

February 10
Power and Influence
World Politics, Ch. 4

February 12
IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #1

EXAM #1
Tuesday, February 17

February 19
Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy
World Politics, Ch. 5

February 24
Decision-Making Process in Foreign Policy
World Politics, Ch. 6

February 26 & March 3
Conflict: Patterns and Causes
World Politics, Ch. 7 (pp. 159-174)

March 5
IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #2

EXAM #2
Tuesday, March 10
March 17-19
NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK

March 24-26
Conflict: Patterns and Causes
World Politics, Ch. 7 (pp. 175-190)

March 26-31
Security Dilemma, Deterrence, and Arms Control
World Politics, Ch. 8

April 2-7
Just War Tradition and Human Rights
World Politics, Ch. 9

April 9
IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #3

EXAM #3
Tuesday, April 14

April 16-21
International Organizations
World Politics, Ch. 10

April 21-23
International Political Economy: Trade and Monetary Relations
World Politics, Ch. 11

April 28
Global Underdevelopment
World Politics, Ch. 13

April 30
IN-CLASS REVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR EXAM #4

EXAM #4
Tuesday, May 5
May 7
REVIEW SESSION FOR THE FINAL EXAM

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM
Tuesday, May 12
11:45 am - 2:45 pm

~ Have a Good Summer Break ~