

Syllabus for: Modern World Problems	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2014
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC 3 E5918
Number of Credits/Units:	3.0
Day/Time:	M/W 11:40 – 1:05
Location:	HU 110
Instructor's Name:	Joe Brookshire
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: before and after class Phone:707 476 3070 Email: joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu
Course Description: An introductory analysis of international political systems emphasizing the causes and ramifications of contemporary international issues such as war, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic and religious conflict, peace keeping, terrorism, political and economic globalization, and environmental conflict.	
Student Learning Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the major theories of international relations and apply them to contemporary issues. 2. Analyze the role of major international political and economic institutions in world problems. 3. Outline the causes and processes of modern international issues such as war, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic conflict and peacekeeping, terrorism, globalization and international trade and finance, and environmental conflict. 4. Craft projections and arguments about future international problems and resolutions based on the work of various scholars. 5. Locate major countries on a map and describe the problems they face and the causes of those problems. 	
Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course.	
The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: http://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.pdf	
Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.	
College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.	

Modern World Problems

Fall 2014

3 Units

POLSC 3 E5918

MW 11:40 –1:05

HU 115

Joe Brookshire

joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu

Office hours: before and after class

Modern World Problems; POLSC 3, is an introduction to International Relations (IR). The course is an introductory analysis of international political systems emphasizing the causes and ramifications of contemporary international issues such as war, proliferation of WMD, ethnic and religious conflict, peace keeping, terrorism, political and economic globalization, and environmental conflict. We cover a broad spectrum of theoretic approaches, general domains of IR, analyses of different organizational structures, and a great deal of specific actual cases in which the patterns and methods of IR are observed or applied.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the major theories of international relations and apply them to contemporary issues.
2. Analyze the role of major international political and economic institutions in world problems.
3. Outline the causes and processes of modern international issues such as war, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic conflict and peacekeeping, terrorism, globalization and international trade and finance, and environmental conflict.
4. Craft projections and arguments about future international problems and resolutions based on the work of various scholars.
5. Locate major countries on a map and describe the problems they face and the causes of those problems.

Format: The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, presentations, and activities.

Text: How The World Works, 2nd edition ISBN **978-0-205-08240-0** by Russell Bova. Published by Longman.

Supplementary Readings: Constructing International Politics by Alexander Wendt

Historical Reality vs. Neo-realist Theory by Paul Schroeder

The War Over Israel's Influence by John Mearsheimer & Stephen M Walt with D Ross & Z Brzezinski

The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation by Scott Sagan

Terrorphobia: Our False Sense of Insecurity by John Mueller

Why the Security Council Failed by Thomas G. Weiss

Sinking Globalization by Niall Ferguson

Sovereignty by Stephen Krasner

Expectations:

1. On-time and consistent attendance is expected throughout the semester.

2. Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication, falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an F.

3. Students are expected to take quizzes, exams, and the final, on the schedule dates. Three papers are required to be submitted in class, not by email, by specific dates. Two presentations are expected to be given to the class.

4. I ask all of us to honor the rights of free speech. Furthermore I ask each one of us to help maintain our class as a forum for thoughtful, respectful, and courteous true discussion. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, see

<http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf>

Note: students with appropriate paperwork from DSPS should notify the instructor of any particular accommodations they may require. Please do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Grading:

1. Chapter Quizzes – 20% Quizzes will be given on each chapter, (except Chapter 9). They are based on the text, lectures, discussions, activities, videos, readings, student presentations - in short, everything that we cover in class. They can be identifications, multiple choice, true/false, short essay, map locations, or a mix of these. There are no make-ups. Let me know in advance if you need to take a quiz early. All quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. They will take only a few minutes. Late arrivals will miss the quiz. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester. Third and fourth missed quizzes can be given credit, but no grade, upon successful and timely completion of readings written assignments.

2. Exams (2) – 20% These are primarily essay exams. Each makes up 10% of the overall grade. Make note of their dates: **October 20, and November 24.**

3. Final – 10% The final is similar to the tests: primarily essay questions. The time and date of the final is Monday, **December 9** at 10:45. Make sure that you reserve that time for your final.

4. Papers (3) – 30 % Three college level papers, worth 10% each, are expected to be submitted in class on or by the scheduled dates. Late papers lose one letter grade up to one week late; no credit is given beyond one week late. See instructions of each for details. Students need only to address three of five chapters (4-8).

5. Presentations (2) 20% Two presentations, worth 10% each, will be given by students; the first by November 5, and the second by December 3. Every presentation must be scheduled well in advance in order to ensure adequate time. See handout for guidelines.

Scales: Modern World Problems uses the following grading scale:

92. - 100	A	77 - 79.4	C+
89.5 - 91.9	A-	72 - 76.9	C
87 - 89.4	B+	69.5 - 71.9	C-
82 - 86.9	B	59.5 - 69.4	D
79.5 - 81.9	B-	Below 59.5	F

Extra Credit – Independent extra credit assignments are not available for this class. However, points earned in activities go toward raising the following exam or final scores.

Schedule: We try to follow the schedule below, however, we may need to make some adjustments during the semester. Classes will be held each day indicate below, except for September 1 and November 10.

Please take note of any changes announced in class and posted on MyCR.

Mondays		Wednesdays	
August 25	Possible trajectories and theories	27	Theories
September 1	<i>No Class, Labor Day</i>	3	Quiz Ch 1 etc.
September 8	Quiz Ch. 2 etc	10	Foreign Policy Making
September 15	Foreign Policy Making	17	Foreign Policy Making
September 22	Quiz Ch. 3	24	War & Violence
September 29	War & Violence	1	Chap 4 etc.
October 6	Chapter 4 Paper due	8	International Law
October 13	International Law	15	Ch. 5 Paper due
October 20	Quiz Ch. 5 and Essay Exam #1	22	Human Rights
October 27	Human Rights	29	Ch. 6 Paper due
November 3	Quiz Ch. 6	5	Last day for 1 st Presentation
November 10	<i>No class, Veterans' Day</i>	12	Ch. 7 Paper due
November 17	Quiz Ch 7, Transnational Challenges	19	Ch. 8 Paper due
November 24	Essay Exam #2 with Quiz Ch 8	26	
December 1	Futures	3	Last day for 2 nd Presentation
December 8	Final 10:45		