

POLS 442: Global Policy Issues

Prof. Joshua L. Jackson

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Online Course

Course Description: This course is designed to help students better understand both historical and contemporary global political issues. Because these issues are connected to our daily lives in a myriad of ways, this course will use a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating elements of history and geography, as well as international relations and comparative politics. The purpose of this course is not simply to memorize important events or to identify key actors but to better understand how and why world politics unfolds the way it does. Toward this end, this class is built around the reading of academic theories of various global issues as well as primary sources. A secondary objective of the course is to introduce students to social science research. While this course is intended to prepare students for further studies in international affairs, the knowledge and skills acquired will be of general use to any student wishing to improve his or her understanding of today's increasingly globalized world.

In this course, we will use current and past evidence to illustrate contemporary political phenomena. When we confront a political event, we want to know *why* it happened and *what* it means. This is the material of informed policy. The course is divided into four sections: The International System; Peace, Conflict, & Security; The Global Economy; and Future/Additional Topics.

Course Materials:

1. [Globalization101](#), via SUNY Levin Institute (Free)
2. [World 101](#), from the Council on Foreign Relations (Free)
3. Many articles/readings will come from subscription-based sources such as [The Economist](#), [The New York Times](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), and others. You can access these materials for free through NDSU's library website, and I highly recommend you keep up with current events through outlets such as these.

Course Policies:

- **Reading**

- This is an online course, so every assignment will rely heavily on the reading you are assigned. Not doing the reading will make it effectively impossible to succeed in this course.
- You will be responsible for your own reading and assignments, but you are also responsible for contributing to the class' broader learning environment by participating in weekly discussions on Blackboard. See below for more detail.

- **Exams**

- Exams will be in essay format. You will choose one of three possible essay questions to respond to and will submit your essay through Blackboard.

- **Weekly Discussions**

- Much of your grade will come from participation in weekly message board discussions. This will occur on Blackboard and may come in two forms: posts (you decide the topic) and responses (you engage with someone else's post).
- **Posts and comments are due by midnight on the Monday after that week's readings.** For example, the discussion board participation for week 5's readings are due on Monday during week 6.
- You should both post and discuss others' posts for a good discussion grade. Starting a conversation is as important as being able to effectively join one.
- Posts and comments may draw upon the assigned reading, but they should not merely summarize them. You should discuss insights you drew from the readings, and I encourage you to incorporate articles you found on your own as well–this will help boost your grade as it demonstrates your willingness and ability to bring in credible information you found on your own.
- The following characterizes an excellent discussion/participation grade: At least one post AND one comment per week; drawing original insights from readings and other materials; introducing us to information you found outside the assigned readings; respectful engagement of others; posts and comments that discuss your ideas in detail as opposed to sharing something and only typing a few sentences. You may comment on someone else's post without sharing any new articles of your own, but be sure that you demonstrate that you carefully read OP's post and article by discussing it effectively.
- We will often discuss contentious political issues and I expect you to remain respectful of others' perspectives. Ad hominem attacks, slurs, and the like will earn you a severe penalty from me. Grant everyone the assumption that they are acting on good faith, but if you sincerely doubt they are, you may contact me and alert me to the situation.
- **This bears repeating:** you are expected to participate every week throughout the semester. Spamming the message board at the end of the semester will not increase your grade.

- **Policy Brief**

- Students will email me a 5–7 page paper that analyzes a contemporary policy challenge and recommends a policy approach. The paper should demonstrate knowledge of theory and empirical evidence, and should not merely be a report on what is happening according to readings they were assigned. Academics are often expected to speak to a broader audience, including journalists, military leaders, and policy makers. This presentation should be oriented toward such audiences, incorporating the ideas and theories we discuss in class to present an accessible, thorough analysis.
- The policy brief should contain information on the background and history of the event/issue, a description of the event/issue, and the policy implications of the event/issue.
- You may choose an issue we covered in class or choose your own. If you are choosing your own, you are required to get approval from me, but I am open to a wide range of issues to be covered so long as it can be connected to a global/international context.
- Paper should be double spaced, 10–12 point font, with 1-inch margins. Please do not hit the spacebar twice after every sentence.
- Papers are due on May 1 by midnight and are to be emailed to me directly as a PDF (see top of syllabus for email address). Please title your PDF attachments as “Lastname Firstname Finalpaper.pdf”

- **Make-Up Assignments**

- I will allow make-ups only in extreme, documented circumstances. Contact me with any questions.

Grade Distribution:

Policy Brief	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Discussion Boards	40%

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	<= 59.99	F

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

The academic community operates on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the Office of Registration and Records. Please do make sure that you understand common standards of academic integrity and plagiarism. You can find information about academic honesty at www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty. I will deal with academic dishonesty and plagiarism *harshly*. If you violate accepted standards you will certainly fail the relevant assignment. In most cases, you will, at minimum, fail the class.

Students with Disabilities:

Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance. Students who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share their concerns with the instructor and contact the Disability Services Office (<http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices/>) as soon as possible.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

Also, **I suggest you do not try to cram all readings into one sitting.** Each week's readings are divided by sub-topic; it is most useful to read one sub-topic at a time and do this throughout the week. For example, a week with three sub-topics could easily be broken up into you reading a sub-topic on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This makes the reading load far more manageable and helps with your retention of the material. It also allows you more time to seek outside resources when posting on discussion boards.

Week	Content
Week 1	<p>Globalization What is Globalization?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Friedman, Thomas. 2005. “It’s a Flat World, After All.” <i>New York Times</i>. – <i>International Monetary Fund</i>. 2008. “Globalization: A Brief Overview.” <p>The Benefits and Consequences of Globalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Markovich, Steven. 2014. “The Income Inequality Debate.” Council on Foreign Relations. – Bardhan, Pranab. 2006. “Does Globalization Help or Hurt the World’s Poor? Overview/Globalization and Poverty.” <i>The Scientific American</i>. <p>Interconnected Markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – World101—“How Globalization Affects What’s For Lunch.” – World101—“When Global Becomes Local.” – World101—“It Takes a Village to Make Your Medicine.”
Week 2	<p>Scientific Approaches to Global Politics Theory and Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Walt, Stephen. 1998. “One World, Many Theories.” <i>Foreign Policy</i>. Access through NDSU’s online library or JSTOR. – Walt, Stephen. 2005. “The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations.” <i>American Review of Political Science</i>, Vol. 8: 23-48.
Week 3	<p>The Nation-State What is a Nation? What is a State?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Morris, Christopher W. 2004. “The Modern State.” In <i>The Handbook of Political Theory</i>. <p>State Building: What does it mean to Build a State?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “How To Build a Country from Scratch.” <i>New York Times</i> [film]. <p>Nationalism and “Imagined Communities”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Anderson, Benedict. 1983. “Chapter Four: Imagined Communities”. In <i>Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism</i>. London: Verso. – Schnurer, Eric. 2013. “Who Even Needs the Nation-State in the 21st Century?” <i>The Atlantic</i>.

Week	Content
Week 4	<p>Intergovernmental Organizations and Regional Integration</p> <p>The United Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. 2019. “The Role of the UN General Assembly.” – Hillard, Laura, and Amanda Shendruk. 2017. “Funding the United Nations: What Impact Do U.S. Contributions Have on UN Agencies and Programs?” <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. <p>The European Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cameron, Fraser, 2010. “The European Union as a Model for Regional Integration.” <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. – McBride, James. 2017. “What Brexit Means.” <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. <p>The African Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “How to Write about Africa.” – <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. 2017. “The African Union.” – Rettig, Michael. 2016. “The Evolution of African Peacekeeping.” <i>The Africa Center for Strategic Studies</i>.
Week 5	<p>Interstate War</p> <p>Why do Countries go to War?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Levy, Jack. 1998. “The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace.” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>, Vol. 1: 139-165. <p>The Democratic Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ray, James Lee. 1998. “Does Democracy Cause Peace?” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>, 1(1): 27-46. <p>The Future of Interstate War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sokolosky, Johnny. 2016. “The Future of War.” <i>Military Review</i>. – Cohen, Michael. 2014. “The Future of War: Less is More.” <i>War on the Rocks</i>.
Week 6	<p>Civil War</p> <p>The Causes of Civil War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jones, Seth. 2017. “Starting Insurgencies.” In <i>Waging Insurgent Warfare: Lessons from the Vietcong to the Islamic State</i>. Oxford UP: 16-34. <p>Conflict Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kishi, Roudabesh. 2014. “Resource-Related Conflict in Africa.” <i>ACLED</i>. – Humphreys, Macartan. 2005. “Natural Resources, Conflict, and Conflict Resolution.” <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 49(4): 508 – 537. – “Firestone and the Warlord.” <i>PBS Frontline</i> (film).

Week	Content
Week 7	<p>Terrorism</p> <p>The Definition of Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. “Defining Terrorism” (Chapter 1). In <i>Inside Terrorism</i>. Columbia University Press, 1-41. <p>The Logic of Terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter. 2006. “The Strategies of Terrorism.” <i>International Security</i> 31(1): 49-80. – Byman, Daniel. 2017. “Nine Questions to Ask After a Terrorist Attack.” <i>Brookings Institution</i>. – USE DOMESTIC TERRORISM ARTICLE
Week 8	<p>Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “The War Against Boko Haram.” <i>VICE News</i> (film). <p>Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Berman, Eli and Aila M. Matanock. August 14, 2015. “What Do We Know, and Need to Know, About Successful Counterinsurgency?” <i>Political Violence at a Glance</i> blog. – Day, Christopher R. and William S. Reno. 2014. “In Harm’s Way: African Counter-Insurgency and Patronage Politics.” <i>Civil Wars</i> 16(2): 105-126. <p>Drone Strikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Byman, Daniel. 2013. “Why Drones Work: The Case for Washington’s Weapon of Choice.” <i>Brookings Institution</i>.
Week 9	<p>TEST WEEK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Study Readings—No Study Guide! <p>Essays due March 13th at 11:59pm</p>
Week 10	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>

Week	Content
Week 11	<p>The Global Economy</p> <p>The Basics of International Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Walter, Andrew, Gautam Sen, and Benjamin J. Cohen. 2009. “Chapter Two: The Emergence of a Multilateral Trading System”. In <i>Analyzing the Global Political Economy</i>. New York: Princeton University Press [eBook]. – Globalization101—“Primer 1: The Economics of International Trade.” <p>The Global Oil Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CSIS Staff. 2017. “U.S. Oil in the Global Economy.” Center for Strategic and International Studies. – Reed, Stanley. 2017. “Saudi Arabia Drives OPEC to Extend Oil Production Cuts.” <i>New York Times</i>. <p>Why Are Some Countries Rich and Others Poor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Solman, Paul. 2013. “The Three Reasons Countries Get Rich: Location, Location, Location.” <i>PBS News Hour</i>. – Wolla, Scott A. 2017. “Why Are Some Countries Rich and Others Poor?” <i>St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank</i>.
Week 12	<p>Economic Development, Investment, and Aid</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – TBD <p>Foreign Direct Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Masters, Jonathan and James McBride. 2016. “Foreign Investment and U.S. National Security.” <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. – Globalization101—“Investment.” <p>Foreign Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Briggs, Ryan. 2017. “Development Aid Isn’t Reaching the Poorest. Here’s What That Means.” <i>The Monkey Cage</i>. – Play around with the “Foreign Aid Explorer, an online platform by USAID. What patterns do you see?”
Week 13	<p>Illicit Trade and Organized Crime</p> <p>Arms Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schroeder, Matt, and Guy Lamb. 2006. “The Illicit Arms Trade in Africa: A Global Enterprise.” <i>Federation of American Scientists</i>. – Muggah, H.C.R. 2001. “Globalization and Insecurity: The Direct and Indirect Effects of Small Arms Availability.” <i>IDS Bulletin</i> 32(2): 70-78. <p>Narcotics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “The Golden Age of Drug Trafficking: How Meth, Cocaine, and Heroin move around the World. <i>VICE News</i>. – Globalization101—“Case Study: Illicit Drugs and Globalization.” <p>Human Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feingold, David (2005). “Human Trafficking.” <i>Foreign Policy</i>. Access through NDSU’s online Library. – Globalization101—“Issues in Depth: Human Trafficking.”

Week	Content
Week 14	<p>The Global Refugee Crisis What are Refugees?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shacknove, Andrew E. 1985. “Who is a Refugee?” <i>Ethics</i> 95(2): 274-284. – Cohen, Roberta, and Megan Bradley. 2010. “Disasters and Displacement: Gaps in Protection.” <i>International Humanitarian Legal Studies</i> pp. 95-142. <p>Domestic Impacts of Refugees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nazario, Sonia. 2014. “The Children of the Drug Wars.” <i>New York Times</i>. – Bird, Laura. 2013. “Fleeing Syria, Refugees Arrive to a Different kind of Hell in Greece.” <i>The Atlantic</i>. <p>Displacement and Conflict Refugees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Betts, Alexander. November/December 2019. “Nowhere to go: How Governments in the Americas are Bungling the Migration Crisis.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. Access through NDSU’s online library. – <i>The Science of Politics</i> Podcast 10/23/2019. “How Trump Politicized Refugees.” Download and listen.
Week 15	<p>Human Rights What are Human Rights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – United Nations. 1948. “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” – Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change.” <i>International Organization</i> 52(4): 887-917. <p>Human Rights Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. “The Origins of Human Rights Regimes.” <i>International Organization</i> 54(2): 217-252. – Abbott, Kenneth W., and Duncan Snidal. 2000. “Hard and Soft Law in International Governance.” <i>International Organization</i> 54(3): 421-456.
Week 16	<p>The Resurgence of Far-Right Politics Populism, Nativism, and Nationalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Child, David. 2017. “Austria, Europe and the far right: A Q&A with Cas Mudde.” <i>Al-Jazeera</i>. – Sheehy, Audrey. 2017. “The Rise of the Far Right.” <i>Harvard Political Review</i>. <p>European Populism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hockenos, Paul. 2019. “Is there a Secret Recipe for Preventing Far-Right Populism?” <i>Foreign Policy</i>. Access through NDSU’s online library. – Kandel, Maya, and Caroline Gondaud. 2019. “Populism, the European Elections, and the Future of E.U. <i>Foreign Policy</i>.” <i>War on the Rocks</i>.

Week	Content
Final Week	<p>Final Exam Papers Due May 13th at 11:59pm</p> <p>Policy Briefs Due May 13th at 11:59pm</p>