Welcome to World Perspective!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

World Perspective is an introductory course in the study of world politics. This course will equip you with knowledge and skills about the concepts, ideas, and analytical tools necessary to understand the actions and relationships among different state and nonstate actors in the global arena. In this course, we will look at the major concerns, issues, and actors that characterize world politics. In addition, we will examine various theoretical explanations, such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism. We will use these theories to address some of the most pressing questions in world politics. Major topics analyzed in this course include war, cooperation, international law, political economy, terrorism, human rights, and the forms of conflict that characterize the global system of politics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Ideally, students will leave this course being able to:

1. Define the basic concepts of world politics
2. Demonstrate an understanding of various theories of world politics and how they apply to current and past political events.
3. Discuss the role of the state and nonstate actors in world politics
4. Identify the issues that concern world politics today and how they shape the foreign policy decisions of states
5. Explain security issues and major causes of conflict in the world

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGIES

The course will be a combination of class discussion (participation required), exams, research project, videos, etc.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Also, given the subject matter of this course, I expect you to be familiar with current events. You should regularly read a quality national newspaper, such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, or similar newspapers. They are available online, free of charge.

**CANVAS USE:**

This is an online course, and every material is available in Canvas. In addition, Canvas will be used for any type of communication, including but not limited to class lecture and discussion. Please feel free to contact me at any time whenever you have a need. Information on how to use Canvas is available at: [http://usfsm.edu/information-commons/instructional-support/](http://usfsm.edu/information-commons/instructional-support/)

**PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE:**

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows student assignments be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to ask students to submit their assignments to Turnitin through Canvas. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student’s paper was plagiarized.

PLEASE REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE BODY OF YOUR PAPER AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR USF ID#. ALSO REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE FILE NAME AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR USF ID# (e.g., “U12345678 Essay 1.docx”) BEFORE SUBMITTING IT TO TURNITIN.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students are requested to maintain confidentiality as a way to keep their personal contact information (i.e. name, address, telephone) from being disclosed to vendors or other outside agencies. By your submission, you are also agreeing to release your original work for review for academic purposes to Turnitin.

**INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS:**

**Respect is paramount!** Courtesy towards the instructor and class members is expected at all times. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and complete all assignments on time.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Your grade will be determined by a combination of a research paper, exams, and class discussion. You will have two exams during the term, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

1. **Research Paper**

You are required to write a research paper about a specific issue related to world politics. The paper should follow a traditional essay structure, comprising introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs. It must have an introduction paragraph with the last sentence clearly stating the issue to be discussed throughout the paper. Also, each body paragraph should have a secondary thesis statement supporting the main thesis statement of the paper. Finally, the concluding paragraph should discuss your findings and incorporate your critical thinking approach about the issue.
Research Paper Format

The research paper should be no less than eight but no more than ten double-spaced pages in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, with 1-inch margins, and no extra spacing or use of bold. You are allowed to use your favorite writing style; however, you should be consistent throughout the paper.

The research paper is worth 15% toward your final grade. Due date for the research paper is April 19th, 2015. No later papers will be accepted!

2. Exams

There will be two exams; one given halfway through the class, the Mid-Term Exam, and the second given at the end of the class, the Final Exam. The Mid-Term Exam is scheduled to take place during Week 7 of the course, from February 16 to February 22. The Final Exam will take place during the last week of the course, from April 20 to April 26. Each exam will be taken online. Each exam will incorporate fifty questions, and each student will have approximately 40 to 45 minutes to finish it. The majority of questions will be multiple-choice and a few may require you to write down the answer. All questions will be from the readings and related discussions we hold in Canvas.

The Mid-Term Exam is worth 25% toward the final grade and the Final Exam is worth 35% toward the final grade.

Make-up exams will be available ONLY to those with documented emergencies! Make-up exams may vary substantially in form from regularly scheduled exams.

3. Discussion

As an on-line course, we will not be meeting in a classroom for lectures and discussions of the readings. Instead, we will make use of the online tool Canvas by setting up a series of postings that are designed to replicate the discussion we would have were we to meet in a classroom.

You are required to participate in weekly discussion. I will post a set of questions based on the assigned weekly readings, and each student is required to respond to two of my questions as well as to one other student’s response. I will follow-up periodically with some comments throughout the course session.

IMPORTANT: Your responses should be substantive in nature; a simple “I agree” will not suffice. Responses to each of my questions and a peer’s posting must be in at least 200 words. I encourage students to bring in knowledge from other classes, outside readings and personal experiences. This portion of your grade will largely reflect the quality of your postings.

Discussion is worth 25% toward your final grade. Each weekly discussion will have its own grade weight. Week 13 will be worth 1 (one) point while the rest of the weekly discussions will be worth 2 (two) points each, totaling 25 points (25%). In weeks that are worth 2 points, 1.5 points will be given for responding to my questions and 0.5 points will be given for responding to a classmate’s posting. In Weeks 13, you will receive 1 (one) point for responding to one of my questions.
Your postings should demonstrate to me that you have both engaged and critically thought about the readings.

All responses to my questions and to a fellow student’s posting must be made within the week of the assigned discussion.

4. Extra Credits

Extra credit assignment will be given contingent upon your vivid participation in weekly discussions.

**GRADING**

The grading is weighted as follows:

1. Class Discussion: 25% of the final course grade
2. Mid-term Exam 25% of the final course grade
3. Final Exam 35% of the final course grade
4. Research Paper 15% of the final course grade
5. TOTAL 100%

**GRADING SCALE:**

Your final grade will correspond to the grade scale below:

97.5-100 = A+  
92.5-97.49 = A  
89.5-92.49 = A-  
87.5-89.49 = B+  
82.5-87.49 = B  
79.5-82.49 = B-  
77.5-79.49 = C+  
72.5-77.49 = C  
69.5-72.49 = C-  
67.5-69.49 = D+  
62.5-67.49 = D  
59.5-62.49 = D-  
0-59.49 = F  
77.5-79.49 = C+

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

This is an online course and attendance is measured and evaluated based on you participation in weekly discussions. I expect you to participate in every week. Discussion counts for 25% toward your final course grade.

**FINAL GRADES:**

Final course grades are just that—final. The grade you receive is a function of the effort you put forth in this class. Do the readings, participate in weekly discussions, put in the time, and you will be fine.

**USFSM AND USF SYSTEM POLICIES:**

A. **Academic Dishonesty**: The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in
the catalog, USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog, the USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

B. Academic Disruption: The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog, USF System Academic Integrity of Students, and the USF System Student Code of Conduct.

C. Contingency Plans: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule.

It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Safety Preparedness Website for further information.

D. Disabilities Accommodation: Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator, 941-359-4714, disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu, http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/

E. Fire Alarm Instructions: At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated. See Emergency Evacuation Procedures.


G. Religious Observances: USFSM recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes. Instructors canceling class for a religious observance should have this stated in the syllabus with an appropriate alternative assignment.

H. Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment Reporting: USFSM is committed to providing an environment free from sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence (USF System Policy 0-004). The Counseling and Wellness Center is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report.

Please be aware that in compliance with Title IX and under the USF System Policy, educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation.
The Deputy Coordinator for USFSM is Mary Beth Wallace, AVP for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, 941-359-4330 or marybeth@sar.usf.edu.

Campus Resources:
- Counseling Center and Wellness Center 941-487-4254
- Victim Advocate (24/7) 941-504-8599
- List of off-campus resources:
  - Hope of Manatee: 941-755-6805
  - Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) – Sarasota: 941-365-1976
  - First Call for Help- Manatee: 941-708-6488
  - Sarasota & North Port 941-366-5025
- Manatee Glens: 941-782-4800

I. **Web Portal Information:** Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Canvas course information via that address.

J. **Instructor Copyright:** Students may not sell notes or other course materials.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 (01/05-01/11)**  
Course Introduction & Ch. 1: *Thinking and Caring About World Politics*

**January 09**  
Deadline to drop via OASIS by 5PM & receive full refund

**Week 2 (01/12-01/18)**  
Ch. 2: *The Evolution of World Politics*

**Week 3 (01/19-01/25)**  
Ch. 3: *Levels of Analysis and Foreign Policy*

**Week 4 (01/26-01/01)**  
Ch. 4: *Nationalism: The Traditional Orientation*

**Week 5 (02/02-02/08)**  
Ch. 5: *Globalization: The Alternative Orientation*

**Week 6 (02/09-02/15)**  
Ch. 6: *Power, Statecraft, and the National State…*

**Week 7 (02/16-02/22)**  
Mid-Term Exam (Chs. 1-6)

**Week 8 (02/23-02/01)**  
Ch. 7: *Intergovernmental Organizations: Alternative Governance*

**March 02-07**  
NO CLASS, Spring Break

**Week 9 (03/09-03/15)**  
Ch. 8: *International Law and Human Rights*

**March 21:**  
Last day for a student to drop from a course with a W; no refund, no academic penalty

**Week 10 (03/16-03/22)**  
Ch. 9: *Pursuing Security*
Week 11 (03/23-03/29) Ch. 10: *National Economic Competition: The Traditional Road*

Week 12 (03/30-04/05) Ch. 11: *International Economics: The Alternative Road*

Week 13 (04/06-04/12) Ch. 12: *Preserving and Enhancing the Biosphere*

Week 14 (04/13-04/19) Graded Review Discussion for the Final Exam (Chs. 1, 3-12)

April 19, 2015 RESEARCH PAPER DUE DATE

Week 15 (04/20-04/26) FINAL EXAM WEEK (Chs. 1, 3-12)