

SYLLABUS

Political Science 145 Winter, 2000 The Politics of Global Problems

Professor Brian M. Pollins
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Pollins's Office Hours: M&W
3:30-5:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Course Description:

The problems of scarcity and security persistently confront mankind. The causes as well as the solutions to these problems are certainly as much political as they are economic or technological. This course will treat the political underpinnings of these basic problems by identifying the political aspects of global economic exchange and distribution, and international cooperation and conflict. Concepts central to the study of world politics will be introduced such as power, international order, national interests, expansion, and rivalry. These concepts will be integrated into a framework that will then be used to examine contemporary global problems. These problems are the politics of exchange and distribution in energy and raw materials, food, and technology, the politics affecting flows of labor (population and migration) and capital (investment, aid, debt), and the politics of global security, armed rivalry and interstate war.

Students in this section of Political Science 145 may explore the interdependencies and trade-offs among these issues through an exercise that employs computer simulation. A model known as IFS ("International Futures") will be used by students who choose to do so to explore consequences of policy proposals designed by themselves. Students who, with instructor approval, undertake a policy study using IFS may be exempt from one of the two course midterms.

Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete the course will have a basic grasp of the workings of world politics and an understanding of the political dimensions of problems of scarcity and security.

Criteria for Course Grade:

There will be two in-class midterm examinations, and a comprehensive final examination at the University designated time. Class attendance and participation will also count. Scores will be weighted as follows.

First Midterm Exam	30%
Second Midterm Exam	30%
Class Participation	10%
Comprehensive Final	30%

Two Important Considerations:

Academic Honesty. All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disability. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, in a timely manner. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Required for Purchase (Found at SBX only):

- Hughes, Barry B. (1999) *Continuity and Change in World Politics: Competing Perspectives*. 4th edition (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall).

And Suggested for Purchase (Found at SBX only):

- Hughes, Barry B. (1999) *International Futures: Choices in the Creation of a New World Order*. 3rd edition (Boulder, CO: Westview Press).
- If your knowledge of world geography is first-rate, then you already have an atlas on your shelf near the desk where you study. If your geography is less than first-rate, and you own no atlas, buy one. Respectable, paperback, student atlases (such as Hammond's) can be found for under \$10. The Hammond World Atlas for Students is one such atlas.

Course Topics:

Scarcity Security and World Politics

- I. The Global Political System
- II. National Interests, International Power and Conflict
- III. Institutions and Practices for International Cooperation
- IV. International Economic Exchange and Distribution

The Politics of Exchange and Distribution of Key Raw Materials

- V. Energy and Non-Fuel Raw Materials
- VI. Global Food Problem, The Environment

The Politics of Exchange and Distribution of Key Factors of Production

- VII. Capital (Investment) and Technology
- VIII. Labor (Population and Migration), Capital (Aid and Debt)

The Politics of Arms Exchange Armed Rivalry and Interstate War

- IX. The Politics of Global Security, Armed Rivalry, and Interstate War
- X. Interstate War: Causes and Consequences

Sequence of Topics and Readings:

Scarcity Security and World Politics

Week 1: The Global Political System

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, pp.65-75, Chapters 1, 2 and 3' [approx. 75 pages] Hughes
International Futures, Chapter 1 [approx. 10 pages]

Week 2: National Interests, International Power and Conflict

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, pp.76-i 09, Chapter 7. [approx. 60 pages]
Hughes *International Futures*, Chapters 2 and 3 [approx. 55 pages]

Week 3: Institutions and Practices for International Cooperation

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, pp.141 -148 and 166-176, Chapters 8 9 and 10 [approx. 100 pages],
Hughes *International Futures*, Chapter 7 [approx. 15 pages]

Week 4: International Economic Exchange and Distribution

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, Chapters 12,13,14 and 15 [approx. 100 pages]
Hughes *International Futures*, Chapter 5 [approx. 25 pages]

Midterm Exam Monday, January 29 covering material of weeks *****

The Politics of Exchange and Distribution of Key Raw Materials

Week 5: Energy and Non-Fuel Raw Materials

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, pp.10-12, and pp.458-468. [approx. 15 pages]

Hughes *International Futures*, Chapter 6 [approx. 30 pages]

Week 6: Food and Environment

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, pp.7-15, and Chapters 16, 18 and 19. [approx. 70 pages]

The Politics of Exchange and Distribution of Key Raw Materials

Week 7: Capital (Investment) and Technology

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, Chapter 17. [approx. 25 pages]

Week 8: Labor (Population and Migration), Capital (Aid and Debt)

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, Chapter 20. [approx. 15 pages]

Midterm Exam Wednesday, February 21 covering material of weeks *** The**

Politics of Global Security Armed Rivalry and Interstate War

Week 9: Global Security Systems: Hegemony, Balance of Power, Collective Security

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, Chapter 5 and Chapter 8 [approx. 50 pages]

Hughes *international Futures*, Chapter 4 [approx. 30 pages]

Week 10: interstate War: Causes and Consequences

Hughes *Continuity and Change*, pp.149-166. [approx. 18 pages]

Final Exam Monday, March 12 9:30 ~m. covering material of weeks 1-10 ***