

POL 201, GLOBAL POLITICS

SPRING 2018 / TR, 11:10–12:30 / 108 MAHAR HALL / DR. CRAIG WARKENTIN

What's this course about?

POL 201 combines a broad survey of two complementary subfields of political science: “comparative politics” (politics *within* countries) and “international relations” (politics *between* countries). We'll spend the first half of the semester looking at comparative politics and the second half looking at international relations.

What can I learn from this class?

If you complete assignments and actively participate, by the end of the semester you should be able to

- recognize the key issues, actors, and dynamics of contemporary comparative and international politics;
- discuss the main theories and approaches that are used to study comparative and international politics;
- forward workable prescriptions for effecting constructive political change, domestically and globally; and
- articulate a distinctively personal understanding of contemporary global politics, with attendant positions.

Of course, these goals can only be accomplished if we work together to create a classroom environment conducive to learning. With that in mind, be sure to familiarize yourself with SUNY Oswego's [Non-Discrimination Policy](#).

What books do I need?

- *Essentials of Comparative Politics*, 6th ed., by Patrick H. O'Neil (W. W. Norton, 2018; ISBN 9780393624588)
- *Essentials of International Relations*, 7th ed., by Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguín-Toft (W. W. Norton, 2017; ISBN 9780393283402)
- *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press, 2013; ISBN 9780226816388)

You'll need all three textbooks to successfully complete this course. Physical copies are strongly recommended, but eBooks are okay if you fully adhere to my electronics policy (below).

Should I also pay attention to the news?

It's always good to know what's going on in the world, especially when you're taking a global politics class. If you're a reader, the [Associated Press](#) and [Reuters](#) offer the best starting points for international news coverage. If you'd rather watch your news, [Agence-France Presse](#) and [Al Jazeera English](#) provide excellent reportage via their YouTube channels.

Can I use my phone in the classroom?

Phones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be silenced and stowed out of reach at all times, whether or not class is in session and whether or not I'm physically present in the room. Excepted from this rule are tablet devices, which are allowed during class if they're used solely to access course materials and don't cause a distraction.

If you violate this policy, I may do one or more of the following: (1) reduce your course participation grade; (2) invalidate any accrued extra credit points; or (3) dismiss you from the classroom for part or all of the period.

You occasionally might need to use a device during class, in which case(s) I'll let you know in advance so you can plan accordingly.

What other scary stuff should I know?

We might watch some videos in this class that contain violence, disturbing images, coarse language, or other adult content. If this poses a problem for you, let me know before Thursday, February 8 (after which I'll assume it's not an issue).

You also need to familiarize yourself with this syllabus, remember that you're responsible for whatever happens in class (whether or not you attend), and act accordingly.

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, but I'll consult you before making changes that could affect your grade and announce any notable revisions in class.

I can't find this class on Blackboard.

We won't be using Blackboard for POL 201. The course syllabus and other materials are posted on the class website, at warkentin.xyz/201.

What's your attendance policy?

I expect you to attend class and participate. Stuff happens, of course, but circumstances seldom warrant more than a couple absences (if any) during the semester. (Keep in mind that you can't participate if you're not present, and excessive absences can harm your course grade.) If you do miss a class, I'll trust you to make whatever arrangements you deem necessary.

In the event of inclement weather, prioritize your personal safety over class attendance. Of course, I'll let you know (via email) if I can't make it to campus and have to cancel class. Unless otherwise instructed, stay on schedule with readings and deadlines if we miss a class session (for any reason); we'll catch up and make adjustments if needed when we return.

How will my grade be calculated?

Your course grade will be determined by the number of points you accrue during the semester:

470-500 = A 400-419 = B- 335-349 = D+
450-469 = A- 385-399 = C+ 320-334 = D
435-449 = B+ 370-384 = C 300-319 = D-
420-434 = B 350-369 = C- 000-299 = E

Required assignments and point values are as follows:

- Participation (100 points) – Attendance rate and classroom contributions
- Exams (300 points) – 4 tests, each covering selected textbook chapters
- Questions (50 points) – Discussion questions that engage daily readings
- Paper (50 points) – A personal response to one day's assigned reading

Detailed requirements and expectations for each assignment will be discussed in class, with supporting information posted on the class website.

Do you accept late assignments?

I reserve the right to give you a zero on any late or missed assignment. Submissions that don't meet stated requirements and expectations are subject to a score reduction or other penalty, to be levied at my discretion.

What happens if I cheat or plagiarize?

As a SUNY Oswego student, you must fully adhere to the [College Policy on Intellectual Integrity](#), according to which you're personally responsible "to assist in protecting the integrity of the degrees which this College grants by (1) not participating, either directly or indirectly, in intellectual dishonesty in any form, (2) actively discouraging intellectual dishonesty by others, and (3) reporting to the course instructor in a timely manner any known incidents of intellectual dishonesty."

Submission of your first graded assignment in this class serves as your formal acknowledgement that you fully understand the College Policy on Intellectual Integrity, including relevant definitions, consequences, and procedures. If you engage in proscribed behavior, I reserve the right to take any punitive action allowed by the university.

What if I have questions or need help?

I'll assume you're doing as well as you'd like to in this class unless you tell me otherwise. If you do need some extra help, just let me know and I'll do my best to assist you; I'll be glad to discuss with you any course-related questions or concerns you might have. You're always welcome to stop by during my office hours, catch me after class, or schedule an appointment.

If you have a disabling condition that could interfere with your ability to successfully complete this class, please contact [Disability Support Services](#) (155 Marano Campus Center, 315.312.3358, dss@oswego.edu).

What (and where) are your office hours?

Hours: 1-2 p.m. on Tue/Thu, 1:30-3 p.m. on Wed, and by appointment

Office: 435 Mahar Hall

Phone: 315.312.4080

Email: craig.warkentin@oswego.edu

Website: warkentin.xyz/201

How should I prepare for class?

Complete assigned readings before coming to class on the indicated dates (below). Always bring your textbook (or some other copy of the reading) and be prepared to discuss what you read.

TUE, JAN 23

Turabian: Ch. 7, Drafting Your Report (73–83); Ch. 15, General Introduction to Citation Practices (135–143); Ch. 18, Author-Date Style: The Basic Form (216–228)

THU, JAN 25

O'Neil: Ch. 1, Introduction (2–29)

TUE, JAN 30

O'Neil: Ch. 2, States (30–61)

THU, FEB 1

O'Neil: Ch. 3, Nations and Society (62–95)

TUE, FEB 6

O'Neil: Ch. 4, Political Economy (96–133)

THU, FEB 8

O'Neil: Ch. 5, Democratic Regimes (134–171)

TUE, FEB 13

O'Neil: Ch. 6, Nondemocratic Regimes (172–203)

THU, FEB 15

EXAM 1

TUE, FEB 20

O'Neil: Ch. 7, Political Violence (204–233)

THU, FEB 22

O'Neil: Ch. 8, Developed Democracies (234–265)

TUE, FEB 27

O'Neil: Ch. 9, Communism and Postcommunism (266–303)

THU, MAR 1

O'Neil: Ch. 10, Developing Countries (304–337)

TUE, MAR 6

O'Neil: 11, Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics (338–367)

THU, MAR 8

EXAM 2

TUE, MAR 20

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 1, Approaches to International Relations (2–19)

THU, MAR 22

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 2, The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations (20–69)

TUE, MAR 27

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 3, International Relations Theories (70–105)

THU, MAR 29

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 4, The International System (106–131)

TUE, APR 3

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 5, The State (132–179)

THU, APR 5

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 6, The Individual (180–207)

TUE, APR 10

Catch-up & Review

THU, APR 12

EXAM 3

TUE, APR 17

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 7, Intergovernmental Organizations, International Law, and Nongovernmental Organizations (208–259)

THU, APR 19

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 8, War and Strife (260–315)

TUE, APR 24

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 9, International Political Economy (316–359)

THU, APR 26

Guest speaker

TUE, MAY 1

Mingst & Arreguín-Toft: Ch. 10, Human Rights (360–395); Ch. 11, Transnational Issues: The Environment, Global Health, and Crime (396–441)

THU, MAY 3

Catch-up & Review