

POL 201-810, GLOBAL POLITICS

FALL 2018 / TR 3:55-5:15 / 111 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*, 9th ed., by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press, 2018; ISBN 9780226430577)

Physical copies are recommended, but eBooks are okay if you respect my electronics policy (below). Copies of all three titles are on reserve at the Circulation Desk in Penfield Library.

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. [Reuters](#) and [Al Jazeera](#) offer the best starting points for international news coverage. [Al Jazeera English](#) and [Agence-France Presse](#) also provide excellent reportage via their YouTube channels. If you're used to more conventional newspaper journalism, with a mix of national and international news, the [Washington Post](#) and [New York Times](#) are good bets.

What's your policy on phones, etc.?

Unless otherwise instructed, you should keep your phone, laptop, and other electronic devices 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 policy are tablet devices, which are allowed during class if they're used solely to access course materials and don't cause a distraction. If we need to use devices in class, as may happen occasionally, I'll let you know in advance so you can prepare accordingly.

If you choose not to respect this policy, I reserve the right to: (1) dismiss you from the classroom for all or part of the period; (2) invalidate any extra credit you've accrued; and/or (3) reduce your course participation grade.

What other scary stuff should I know?

- We might watch some videos in this class that expose you to unsettling topics, disturbing images, coarse language, or other mature content. If this poses a problem for you, let me know by September 4th (after which I'll assume it's not an issue).
- I expect you to familiarize yourself with this course syllabus, pay attention during class, and conduct yourself accordingly. You'll be held responsible for the syllabus contents and whatever occurs in class (whether or not you attend).
- 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.

What's your attendance policy?

I expect you to attend regularly and actively participate. If you miss a class session, you should make any necessary arrangements. (In the event of inclement weather, prioritize your personal safety over class attendance.)

Of course, I'll let you know (via email) if I cancel class. In such cases, unless otherwise instructed, stay on schedule with readings and deadlines. 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

Graded assignments and point values are as follows:

- Participation (100 points) – Attendance rate and classroom contributions
- Quizzes (140 points) – Short pop quizzes that cover assigned readings
- Analyses (60 points) – Commentary on 3 recent/current news stories
- Papers (200 points) – Personal responses to 2 assigned text chapters

Requirements and expectations for each assignment will be discussed in class and posted on the course website.

Can I get comments on a rough draft?

Yes, but only in a face-to-face meeting (and not via email). I'll be glad to read, discuss, or provide feedback on any assignment at any stage, before or after you submit it. Just make sure to allow enough time for a meeting, and possible redrafting, before the assignment due date.

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. (Incidents will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, but you should expect to receive a failing grade for the course.)

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 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 office hours, catch me after class, schedule an appointment, or send me an email.

If you have a disabling condition that could interfere with your ability to successfully complete this class, please contact [Accessibility Resource Services](#) (155 Marano Campus Center, 315.312.3358, oar@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: 437 Mahar Hall

Phone: 315.312.4080

Email: craig.warkentin@oswego.edu

Website: warkentin.xyz/gp

How should I prepare for class?

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

TUE, AUG 28

Turabian: Ch. 7, Drafting Your Report (75–85); Ch. 11, Revising Sentences (113–123); Ch. 15, General Introduction to Citation Practices (139–148); Ch. 18, Author-Date Style: The Basic Form (223–235)

THU, AUG 30

ECP: Ch. 1, Introduction (2–29)

TUE, SEP 4

ECP: Ch. 2, States (30–61)

THU, SEP 6

ECP: Ch. 3, Nations and Society (62–95)

TUE, SEP 11

No Class Meeting (Rosh Hashanah)

THU, SEP 13

ECP: Ch. 4, Political Economy (96–133)

TUE, SEP 18

No Class Meeting (Yom Kippur)

THU, SEP 20

ECP: Ch. 5, Democratic Regimes (134–171)

TUE, SEP 25

ECP: Ch. 6, Nondemocratic Regimes (172–203)

THU, SEP 27

No Reading Assignment

TUE, OCT 2

No Class Meeting

THU, OCT 4

ECP: Ch. 7, Political Violence (204–233)

TUE, OCT 9

ECP: Ch. 8, Developed Democracies (234–265)

THU, OCT 11

ECP: Ch. 9, Communism and Postcommunism (266–303)

TUE, OCT 16

ECP: Ch. 10, Developing Countries (304–337)

THU, OCT 18

ECP: 11, Globalization and the Future of Comparative Politics (338–367)

TUE, OCT 23

EIR: Ch. 1, Approaches to International Relations (2–19)

THU, OCT 25

EIR: Ch. 2, The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations (20–69)

TUE, OCT 30

EIR: Ch. 3, International Relations Theories (70–105)

THU, NOV 1

EIR: Ch. 4, The International System (106–131)

TUE, NOV 6

EIR: Ch. 5, The State (132–179)

THU, NOV 8

EIR: Ch. 6, The Individual (180–207)

TUE, NOV 13

No Reading Assignment

THU, NOV 15

EIR: Ch. 7, Intergovernmental Organizations, International Law, and Nongovernmental Organizations (208–259)

TUE, NOV 20

EIR: Ch. 8, War and Strife (260–315)

THU, NOV 22

No Class Meeting (Thanksgiving Recess)

TUE, NOV 27

EIR: Ch. 9, International Political Economy (316–359)

TUE, NOV 29

EIR: Ch. 10, Human Rights (360–395)

TUE, DEC 4

EIR: Ch. 11, Transnational Issues: The Environment, Global Health, and Crime (396–441)

THU, DEC 6

No Reading Assignment