

Syllabus

POL 101: World Politics (Spring 2025)

Class Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:50 am

Class Room: Academic Building C105



Professor: Joseph Jungmin Hong

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Office hours: 3:30-5:00 pm on Tue, Wed, and Thursday

(or by appointment)

Course Description

This course is designed as an introductory to world politics. Students are going to explore various aspects of world politics, begin with historical and theoretical backgrounds, then get chances to discover comprehensive dynamics of various agendas around the world. Due to the intensification of globalization since the late twentieth century, conventional international relations studies face significant challenges to explain more complicated interactions among various stakeholders on global issues. As a consequence, the idea of world politics emerged from the point to embrace various actors engaged in diverse issues. In this regard, the scope of world politics includes conventional areas, such as security and political economy, but more likely non-conventional fields, including human rights, humanitarian intervention, development, environments, migration, refugees and more. This course invites students to have opportunities to explore those issues with historical and theoretical frames. The class will consist of lectures, discussions, and activities on current world political events and issues relevant to this course subject. I hope that this course is an enjoyable experience for all of you.

Required Readings

1) Required Textbook:

- Baylis, John, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens. (2020). ***The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*** (Eighth or a newer Edition). New York: Oxford University Press. (*Baylis et al. hereafter*)

2) Other resources:

- Students are also expected to read the news daily with world news coverage that is related to our class (e.g. www.nytimes.com, www.washingtonpost.com, www.bbc.co.uk/news, news.google.com (section "World"), etc.)
- Additional reading or course materials will be provided by the instructor

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present, and a society and culture outside of the United States.
2. Describe concepts and arguments of the major theories of the world politics including Liberalism and Realism and their application to contemporary global issues and phenomena.
3. Develop knowledge of why wars and other international conflicts occur, how they can be prevented, and who influences world politics and economy.
4. Develop an understanding of substantive issues of international peace and conflict.
5. Explain the global governance including international organizations and United Nations.
6. Explain and analyze changing dynamics of global politics among national governments, international organizations, transnational corporations and interest groups.
7. Explain various global issues and agenda including global security, development, environment, refugees, human rights, and, humanitarian intervention, etc.
8. Evaluate and analyze political information that you encounter in the daily news regarding global issues and international relations.

Student Learning Activities

A variety of learning activities are designed to support the course objectives, facilitate different learning styles, and build a community of learners. Learning activities include the following:

1. Reading each chapter of the textbook
2. Bring some questions for the class
3. Reviewing interactive PowerPoint lectures
4. Participating in class activities such as discussion, presentation, and quizzes
5. Submitting written assignments including portfolio and reaction papers
6. Taking Midterm and Final exams

Grading policy

Grades will be based on Midterm (30%), Final exam (30%), Quizzes (10%), Portfolio (10%), Reaction Paper (5%), Participation in Class Discussion (5%) and Attendance (10%). Thus, total 100%!

► Two Exams (60%):

1. There will be two exams.
 - 1) **The Midterm exam (30%) is scheduled for April 15 (Tue) and 17 (Thu).**
 - 2) **The Final exam (30%) is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, from 9:30 to 11:20 am.**
2. Midterm and Final Exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay questions.
3. No Make-up exam!
4. Make-up tests will only be arranged in extreme cases (e.g. death of a parent), so please be sure to let me know as soon as possible before the exam if you will not be able to attend at the scheduled time.
5. If you don't have a legitimate reason for missing the exam or if you do not provide documents or evidences proving extreme cases, you will receive a zero for that test.

► **Quizzes (10%):**

1. There will be a total of six quizzes.
2. No make-up quizzes will be offered.
3. The lowest scoring quiz will be dropped from the total grade calculation. Thus, only five quizzes will be counted after dropping the lowest scoring quiz.

► **Writing Portfolio (10%):**

1. Each student will develop a portfolio for the class.
2. Each week, students are expected to actively look for newspaper article/editorial related to World Political issues.
3. The object is to read a news article or editorial every day and critically analyze a selected article and write your own critique at least once a week.
4. At least one article per week is required.
5. Your portfolio **must** include each article's link, title, published date, your summary and your own critique and additionally one or two discussion questions.
6. Each article should include a half to one page of summary and a half to one page of your own critique, so the length of each article should be 1 - 2 pages.
7. MS Word or a PDF form, font size 12pt, 1 - 1.5 line space, proper citation needed!
8. **Your midterm portfolio (5%)** (including your summaries and critiques of **6 articles**) should be submitted **by 11:55pm on April 12th (Saturday)**.
9. **Your final portfolio (5%)** (including your summaries and critiques of **6 articles**) should be submitted **by 11:55pm on May 31st (Saturday)**.
10. Your portfolio should have a cover sheet with your name, the title of the portfolio (with the subtitle "Mid-Term Portfolio" or "Final Portfolio"), the class name (**POL 101**), and the date.
11. Your completed portfolio will be graded based on the quality and quantity of content, appearance, writing style, and depth of analysis.

► **Reaction Papers (5%):**

1. Please watch at least three TED Talks videos that the instructor assigned during the class.
2. Then, write 1-2 pages of reaction paper per each TED Talk and submit it **by the Saturday midnight of the week**.
3. After watching two movies, please write 1-2 pages of reaction paper per each movie and submit it **by the Saturday midnight of the week**.
4. Times New Roman, 1 – 1.5 line space, proper citation needed, MS-Word or PDF form.

► **Participation in Class Discussions (5%):**

1. Students are encouraged to regularly participate in all class discussions and activities.
2. Students are encouraged to prepare and bring one or two questions for the class.
3. In order to get higher scores, you have to participate actively in class discussions every week.
4. Your participation in in-class discussion will also be graded both quantitatively and qualitatively.
5. If students do not participate in class discussion at all, the participation score will be zero.
6. If students present a summary and critique of a newspaper article of the week in class, they will get 1% extra bonus point.

► **Class Attendance (10%):**

1. Students are expected to attend every class, and attendance will be recorded at each class meeting.
2. Bonus credits! If you show perfect attendance without being late and excused absence, you can get bonus point, 1% of your final grade.
3. Absences will affect class attendance grades as shown below:

Unexcused Absences	maximum participation grade possible
0	10% (+Bonus 1%)
1	10%
2	9%
3	8%
4	7%
5	5%
6	3%
7	1%
8	0%
9 or more	F

4. A student who has a total of 9 or more unexcused absences will receive a course grade of F.
5. Three times of being late will be counted as one absence.
6. Unexcused early leave of the class will be counted as an absence.
7. Absences that I approve in advance will not count toward a student's total number of missed classes.
8. I reserve the right to excuse absences retroactively on a case-by-case basis. Please provide documentation of the reason for your absence with your explanation.
9. If you submit a medical document or a doctor's note, your medical doctor **should** specify on the document that he or she recommend you do not attend the class due to your illness or disease.
10. Make sure that submitting a doctor's note **does not** mean your absence will be automatically excused.

► **Extra Bonus Credits :**

1. If you show perfect attendance without being late and any excused absence, you will get 1% bonus point.
2. If you sign up and present your summary and critique of a newspaper article successfully, you will get 1% bonus point. You should get my confirmation of the article topic two days before your presentation date, and must send me your presentation file via email by noon, one day before your presentation date.
3. If you participate in a workshop or seminar that I recommend and if you send me one page of reaction paper by midnight on that day, you can get 1% bonus point.

► **GRADING SCALE:**

94% – 100% : A	90% – 93.99% : A-	87% – 89.99% : B+	84% – 86.99% : B
80% – 83.99% : B-	77% – 79.99% : C+	74% – 76.99% : C	70% – 73.99% : C-
67% – 69.99% : D+	60% – 66.99% : D	0% – 59.99% : F	

Academic Integrity

It is each student's responsibility to know and comply with the University's Student Code of Conduct. The Code describes behavior expected of all University students and defines behavior considered misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and classroom disruption. All of the work you submit in this course is expected to be your own. No cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. If you recognize a classmate's academic dishonesty, you **should** report to me or Academic Judiciary committee. More information about Academic Integrity can be found online here: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/

Special Needs and Accommodations

If you have a disability that affects your performance for the course, please tell me at the beginning of the semester and I will do my best to help. The university does not give instructors a list of students with disabilities in their classes, so it is the student's responsibility to self-disclose. If you find yourself struggling with your mental or physical health this semester, please feel free to approach me. I will try to be flexible and accommodating. You can also find free, confidential mental health services at University Counselling Services by calling +82-032-626-1700 or email at counseling@sunykorea.ac.kr.

Other Requirements and Policies

I encourage you to view your time at SUNY Korea as an experience that will help you prepare for the professional world. In this light, please follow certain guidelines:

1. Please be on time.
2. Please come to class prepared. Please read assigned readings before each class.
3. You must practice proper classroom etiquette, which means No Instagram, Facebook, Kakao Talk, and any cell phone use during the class except in urgent cases. Make sure your cell phones are either off or on silent before class starts.
4. Respectful questions and comments are welcome.
5. Some of the topics covered are controversial and can evoke strong opinions. In this class all points of view will be listened to and respectfully considered.
6. I will post lecture PowerPoints onto Brightspace after class. You may use them to review chapters and prepare for the quizzes and exams.
7. If the class mode is online, you are required to show your face using webcam via zoom during the class. If you do not turn on video or fail to show your face via zoom, it is regarded as absence. Without showing your face, you cannot take an online quiz and exam.
8. Syllabus and course schedule and requirements subject to change. If any changes are made, the students will be notified via email or Brightspace.
9. All University rules of conduct apply.

Spring 2025 Course Schedule & Calendar

Week	Date	In-Class Topic and Contents	Assignment and Notice
1	2/25 (Tue)	Course Overview	
	2/27 (Thu)	Introduction	Read Chap. Introduction
2	3/4 (Tue)	Chapter 0. What is World Politics? World news coverage	Read Chap. 1 of the textbook
	3/6 (Thu)	Chapter 1-1. Globalization and global Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is globalization so contentious? - What are the implications of the current crisis of globalization for world politics and world order? 	# Mar. 7 (Friday): Last day to drop without "W" record on your transcript. Read Chap. 1 of the textbook
3	3/11 (Tue)	Chapter 1-2. Globalization and global Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How does the study of globalization advance understanding of world politics? 	Read Chap. 2 of the textbook
	3/13 (Thu)	Chapter 2. The rise of modern international order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When did modern international order emerge? - To what extent was the emergence of modern international order shaped by the experience of the West? - Is history important to understanding contemporary world politics? 	1st Reaction Paper Read Chap. 3 of the textbook
4	3/18 (Tue)	Chapter 3. International history of the twentieth century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent do you believe that the colonial powers were mainly responsible for the violence and armed conflict that characterized much decolonization? - Do you agree that nuclear weapons were vital to keeping the peace after 1945? - Do you think that the cold war is best understood as the defense of Western values and interests against Soviet aggression? 	Read Chap. 4 of the textbook
	3/20 (Thu)	Chapter 4. From the end of the cold war to a new world dis-order? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the international system become more or less stable since the end of the cold war? - Does the rise of other powers signal the decline of the West? - Is globalization under threat? 	Quiz 1 (Chap 1, 2, & 3) Read Chap. 5 of the textbook
5	3/25 (Tue)	Chapter 5. Rising powers and the emerging global order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have rising powers effectively challenged the US-led global order? - Are rising powers actually powerful? - What does the debate about rising powers tell us about the longer-term evolution of a new global international society? 	2nd Reaction Paper Read Chap. 6 of the textbook
	3/27 (Thu)	Chapter 6-1. Liberal internationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How has liberal internationalist thinking evolved? - Why is there a persistent imperial impulse in the practice of liberal states' foreign policy? 	Quiz 2 (Chap 4 & 5) Read Chap. 6 of the textbook

6	4/1 (Tue)	Chapter 6-2. Liberal internationalism - When it comes to international reform, is liberal internationalism flawed but indispensable?	Read Chap. 8 of the textbook
	4/3 (Thu)	Chapter 8-1. Realism - Is there a timeless wisdom of realism? - How do realists conceptualize world politics?	Read Chap. 8 of the textbook
7	4/8 (Tue)	Chapter 8-2. Realism - Do all of the different theories of realism share a similar set of assumptions?	3rd Reaction Paper
	4/10 (Thu)	Students' Presentation Open Discussions World news coverage Catching-up / Review Review for the Midterm Exam	Quiz 3 (Chap 6 & 8) <u>*Midterm Portfolio should be submitted by 11:55pm on April 12 (Saturday).</u>
8	4/15 (Tue)	Midterm Exam_ Part I (Multiple choice and Fill in the blank questions)	
	4/17 (Thu)	Midterm Exam_ Part II (Short Essay Questions)	<u># April 18 (Friday): Last day students can select GPNC. Last day students can drop but "W" will be recorded on transcript.</u>
9	4/22 (Tue)	Chapter 20. International organizations in world politics - What are international organizations? - Do we need international organizations in international relations? - What constraints and opportunities are there for international organizations to achieve their mandates?	Read Chap. 21 of the textbook
	4/24 (Thu)	Chapter 21. The United Nations - Does the United Nations succeed in reconciling traditions of great power politics and traditions of universalism? - Why has the United Nations become more involved in matters within states and what are the limits to this involvement? - What are the United Nations' biggest successes and challenges in its efforts to prevent and resolve conflict and to promote sustainable development?	Read Chap. 24 of the textbook
10	4/29 (Tue)	Chapter 24. Environmental issues - Must globalization and development come at the expense of the physical environment? - Can state governments cooperate to protect the planet? - Is climate justice possible?	Quiz 4 (Chap 20 & 21) Read Chap. 25 of the textbook
	5/1 (Thu)	Chapter 25-1. Refugees and forced migration - What are the main institutions and principal characteristics of the international regime governing refugees and forced migration?	Read Chap. 25 of the textbook
11	5/6 (Tue)	No Class – Substitute Holiday of Children's Day	
	5/8 (Thu)	Chapter 25-2. Refugees and forced migration - What are the political and policy implications of the shift from 'refugee' to 'forced migration' studies? - What is the relationship between refugee law and racism?	Quiz 5 (Chap 24 & 25)

12	5/13 (Tue)	<Movie & Politics I> Wadjda (2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the movie, Wadjda bought a bicycle which was prohibited in a Muslim men-centered society. What do think Wadjda and her bike symbolizes? - What do you think of women's human rights in Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia? - What do you think of the Muslim women's movement for their human rights? - In 2010, the French congress banned the wearing of the Islamic veil (burka) in public. What do you think of the Islamic veil ban in France? 	4th Reaction Paper Read Chap. 31 of the textbook
	5/15 (Thu)	Chapter 31. Human rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are human rights universal? - Why is there a strong faith in the ability of human rights to repair the damage done and violence inflicted on individuals by states? - What are the limitations of such a faith in human rights? 	Read Chap. 32 of the textbook
13	5/20 (Tue)	Chapter 32-1. Humanitarian intervention in world politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How should we resolve tensions when valued principles such as order, sovereignty, and self-determination come into conflict with human rights? 	Read Chap. 32 of the textbook
	5/22 (Thu)	Chapter 32-2. Humanitarian intervention in world politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is humanitarian intervention ever justified? If so, in what circumstances? - How have international thought and practice evolved with respect to humanitarian intervention? 	Quiz 6 (Chap 31 & 32)
14	5/27 (Tue)	<Movie & Politics II> Hotel Rwanda (2004)	5th Reaction Paper
	5/29 (Thu)	<Movie & Politics II> Hotel Rwanda (2004) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even though there was genocide and ethnic cleansing in Rwanda in 1994, why the humanitarian intervention was late? - When can humanitarian intervention be justified? Who can decide the humanitarian intervention using the armed force? - Who will be responsible for the result of the humanitarian intervention? 	*Final Portfolio should be submitted by 11:55pm on May 31 (Saturday).
15	6/3 (Tue)	Students' Presentation Open Discussions World news coverage Catching-up / Review Review for the Final Exam	Online Course Evaluation
16	6/12 (Thu)	Final Exam (9:30 – 11:20 am)	