

DRAFT
Global Politics (PSCI 4329) Course Syllabus
The University of Texas at Dallas – Spring 2013
Tue & Thu 10-11:15 am in ECSS 2.412

Professor Contact Information

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Office Hours Wed. 10-11:30 am & by appointment

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Hours by Appointment

Course Description

Global Politics is an issue-based introduction to international politics. We will strive to understand many of the most pressing and important problems in the world – foreign aid, global warming, drug trafficking, and so on – through the best theories and evidence that political science and other social science disciplines can offer. Why do many of these problems seem so intractable? Which ones are most likely to be solved? Which actors are most likely to find a solution? To provide a common framework for analysis of these many different issues, the course will first provide an overview of collective action theory, one of the common building blocks of theory across the political science sub-disciplines. Each of the issues we examine in the second part of the course can be approached through this powerful lens, coupled with a realistic assessment of the limitations of international cooperation.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Participants in this course will gain new understanding of the organizational difficulties confronting groups via collective action theory, and will be able to apply that theory to compare issues that affect the entire globe. Students will be introduced to the variety of actors in international politics, and will begin to analyze the changing problems and policy choices available to governments in the context of globalization. Lectures will emphasize historical context and the evolving nature of international interactions, as well as the scientific understanding of those interactions.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Todd Sandler. 2004. *Global Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521542545. There is an electronic version accessible via the library website that you may want to use if you can't immediately find the text.
- This course will require the use of a clicker. A clicker is an audience response device that resembles a small calculator. This allows you to provide real-time feedback to your instructor during class. Class summary results are displayed graphically, providing students and the instructor a gauge as to how well the class is grasping the material. You can purchase (and sell back) your TurningPoint Technologies clicker at the UTD Bookstore.
- Individual reading assignments: rather than a second textbook, we will use electronically accessible journal articles. They are required reading just like the Sandler chapters.
- All readings marked with an asterisk (*) can be found via the library's electronic reserves. The password for this site will be given in class.

Suggested Course Materials

Regular reading of a weekly news magazine, or some other well-respected publication that will provide a current events perspective, will be very helpful in this course. I recommend *The Economist*, but others such as *Current History*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *World Press Review*, will suffice. I encourage you to explore different sources to obtain a variety of perspectives on the same issue.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Part One: A Framework for Thinking about Global Politics

Lecture One: Introduction to Course – Jan. 15

Lecture Two: Introduction to Collective Action Theory – Jan. 17 (Sandler Ch. 1)

Lecture Three: Principles of Collective Action – Jan. 22 (Sandler Ch. 2)

Lecture Four: Market Failures – Jan. 24 (Sandler Ch. 3)

Lecture Five: Transnational Public Goods – Jan. 29 (Sandler Ch. 4)

Last Day to Drop Class without “W” – Jan. 30

Exam on Collective Action Theory – Jan. 31

Part Two: The Actors

Lecture Six: State Sovereignty and Its Challenges – Feb. 5

* Reading: Krasner, Stephen. “Sovereignty” in *Foreign Policy* (Jan-Feb 2001)

Check elearning.utdallas.edu for a link if you don’t know how to use the library’s website.

Lecture Seven: Global Hegemony: The Role of the United States – Feb. 7

Read Fareed Zakaria’s “The Future of American Power” in *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2008)

Lecture Eight: IGOs – Feb. 12

* Reading: Thompson, Alexander, and Duncan Snidal. 2000. *International Organization*.

Lecture Nine: Non-state Actors – Feb. 14

* Edwards, Michael, and Simon Zadek. 2003. *Governing the Provision of Global Public Goods: The Role and Legitimacy of Nonstate Actors*.

Discussion & Video: Black Money – Feb. 19

Exam on Actors in Global Politics – Feb. 21

Part Three: The Issues

Lecture Eleven: Fighting Disease (Sandler Ch. 5) – Feb. 26

Lecture Twelve: Foreign Aid (Sandler Ch. 6) – Feb. 28

Lecture Thirteen: Illegal Drug Trafficking – Mar. 5

* Reading: Reuter, Peter. 2010. *Can Production and Trafficking of Illicit Drugs Be Reduced or*

Only Shifted? From Keefer & Loayza, eds. Innocent Bystanders. Washington: The World Bank.

Lecture Fourteen: International Terrorism (Sandler Ch. 8) – Mar. 7

Midterm Grades Available Online – Mar. 9

Spring Break – No Classes on Mar. 12 or Mar. 14

Lecture Fifteen: International Crime (Sandler Ch. 7) – Mar. 19

No class on March 21

Lecture Sixteen: WMDs (Sandler Ch. 9) – Mar. 26

**Readings: (1) Perkovich, George. 2006. The End of the Nonproliferation Regime? Current History 105 (694):355-62; and (2) Blair, Bruce, Matt Brown, and Richard Burt. 2011. Can Disarmament Work? Foreign Affairs 90 (4):173-8. And the Joffe-Davis response.*

Lecture Seventeen: Civil Wars (Sandler Ch. 9) & Humanitarian Intervention – Mar. 28

** Reading: Western and Goldstein. 2011. Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age. Foreign Affairs.*

Last Day to Drop with “WP” or “WF” – April 1

Lecture Eighteen: Migration – April 2

** Reading: Lubkemann, Stephen C. 2010. Refugees and Forced Migrants.*

Discussion & Video: Frontline on Sex Trafficking – April 4

Lecture Nineteen: Environment (Sandler Ch. 10) – April 9

Lecture Twenty, Discussion & Video: Climate Change – April 11 & April 16

Lecture Twenty-One: Space Exploration – April 18

** Reading: Johnson-Freese & Weeden. 2012. Application of Ostrom’s Principles for Sustainable Governance of Common-Pool Resources to Near-Earth Orbit. Global Policy 3 (1):72-81.*

Lecture Twenty-Two: Institutions – April 23

** Reading: Sandler, Todd. 2010. Overcoming Global and Regional Collective Action Impediments. Global Policy 1 (1):40-50.*

Lecture Twenty-Three: Prioritizing Global Problems – April 25

Lecture Twenty-Four: Revisiting State Sovereignty – April 30

Review for Final Exam – May 2

Reading Days (No Classes or Exams): May 6

Final Exam: 8:00a.m. Thursday, May 9 in ECSS 2.412

Final Grades Available and Viewable Online: May 14

Grades

The core requirements are as follows:	Collective Action Exam	20%
	Actors Exam	20%
	Final Examination	25%
	Reading Quizzes	15%
	Attendance & Participation *	20%

* Class participation includes, but is not limited to, (a) attendance, (b) participation in class, (c) participation in online discussion, and (d) think-pieces or other short writing assignments.

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes, although excused absences are granted with doctor's notes or other acceptable documentation. Students with poor attendance records will also have low participation grades. While lectures are designed to clarify and enhance your knowledge, they will not be avenues to pass the course in their own right. All students should prepare adequately for class discussions by reading the any necessary material before class.

Participation in class discussions is crucial for your own educational process. Ask questions if something is not clear; odds are that someone else in the course is wondering the same thing. Formulating a good question often helps you realize what you don't understand. Bring to our discussions your own experiences as well as outside readings – this class covers a wide variety of topics and more real world examples often help to make global politics more multifaceted and complex. Participation is a great way to show your preparation!

Make-up Exams & Grade Appeals

Make-up exams will be rarely granted, only if prior arrangements have been made with the professor or in case of extreme emergency (proven through documentation). Anyone missing any midterm exams for any unexcused reason may replace that zero with the grade from the final exam.

Any student who wishes to challenge a grade on any written assignment in the course may challenge the grade by writing a memo specifying the grade you think you deserve and the logic supporting your request. Address that memo to the course instructor, and include the original assignment and evaluation. Appeals must be made within one week of receiving the graded assignment.

All the University's policies and procedures regarding courses also apply to this course – those may be found at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.