

Global Politics (PSCI 4329) Course Syllabus
The University of Texas at Dallas – Fall 2016
Mon & Wed 10–11:15 am in GR 2.302

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Professor Contact Information

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Course Description

Global Politics is an issue-based treatment of international politics. We will strive to understand many of the most pressing and important problems in the world – disease outbreaks, climate change, crime syndicates, 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 crucial for finding 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

All students should understand the historical context and key features of the modern interstate system. Additionally, students should recognize key schools of thought, such as realism, institutionalism, and constructivism. Familiarity with the core elements of game theory, including interdependent choice and Nash equilibrium, is essential, and students should recognize and be able to distinguish 2-actor, 2-choice games commonly used in international relations theory (e.g., Prisoners' Dilemma, chicken, cooperation, assurance). Students should also be able to categorize actors in international relations (i.e., intergovernmental organizations, states, nongovernmental organizations, and hybrid actors).

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Clint Peinhardt and Todd Sandler. 2015. *Transnational Cooperation: An Issues-Based Approach* (TCIBA). Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780199398614.
- This course uses a classroom polling software known as Turning Point Cloud. This software 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. In order to participate in the polling activities, students need to purchase a Turning License, available from the UTD Bookstore. For this course, you do not need an RF-LCD device

(clicker), HOWEVER, if you had recently purchased an RF-LCD Clicker from the UTD Bookstore, you may be able to obtain a free Turning License. The UTD Bookstore has a limited time offer for legacy students, and it is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please check with the Bookstore for more details.

- In class, to participate in the polling sessions, students will need to carry a mobile device (smartphone/ tablet/ laptop) to class. If you do not have a mobile device, please let the instructor know in advance. Please visit <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/resources> for more details.
- Individual reading assignments: rather than a second textbook, we will use electronically accessible journal articles. They are required reading just like the book 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*, and BBC World News. The latter is available as a podcast or via their website. I encourage you to explore different sources to obtain a variety of perspectives on the same issue.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Aug. 22:	Introduction to the Course
Aug. 24:	Introduction to Collective Action Theory (TCIBA Chapter 1)
Aug. 29:	Principles of Collective Action (TCIBA Chapter 2, pp.16-26)
Aug. 31:	Principles of Collective Action (TCIBA Chapter 2, pp. 27-45)
Sept 5:	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
Sept. 7:	Market Failures (TCIBA Chapter 3)
Sept. 12:	Transnational Public Goods (TCIBA Chapter 4)
Sept. 14:	Sovereignty (TCIBA Chapter 5, pp. 98-103)
Sept. 19:	Leadership & US Hegemony (TCIBA Chapter 5, pp. 103-118)
Sept. 21:	Power & Policy Convergence, Review of Theoretical Chapters (Review Ch. 1-5)
Sept. 26:	Collective Action Exam
Sept. 28:	Foreign Aid (TCIBA Chapter 6, pp. 119-133)
Oct. 3:	Diseases & Public Health (TCIBA Chapter 6, pp. 133-147)
Oct. 5:	Trade (TCIBA Chapter 7, pp. 148-161)

Oct. 10:	Trade (TCIBA Chapter 7, pp. 161-169)
Oct. 12:	Migration (*Lubkemann, Stephen C. 2010. <i>Refugees & Forced Migrants</i> .)
Oct. 17:	Finance (TCIBA Chapter 8, pp. 170-177)
Oct. 19:	Finance (TCIBA Chapter 8, pp. 177-191)
Oct. 24:	Drug Trafficking (TCIBA Ch. 9, pp. 192-204)
Oct. 26:	Money Laundering (TCIBA Ch. 9, pp. 204-211)
Oct. 31:	Exam on Global Economic Issues
Nov. 2:	TBA, Probably Cooperation in Outer Space
Nov. 7:	Civil Wars & Humanitarian Intervention (TCIBA Ch. 10, pp. 212-224)
Nov. 9:	Terrorism (TCIBA Ch. 10, pp. 224-240)
Nov. 14:	Rogue States (TCIBA Ch. 11, pp. 241-251)
Nov. 16:	Failed States (TCIBA Ch. 11, pp. 251-258)
Nov. 21-25	NO CLASS DUE TO FALL BREAK
Nov.28:	Environment (TCIBA Ch. 12, pp. 259-272)
Nov. 30:	Environment (TCIBA Ch. 12, pp. 272-281)
Dec. 5	Prioritizing (TCIBA Ch. 13)
Dec. 7	Catch-up & Review
TBA	Final Exam

Grading Policy

The core requirements are as follows:

Collective Action Exam	20%
2 nd midterm	20%
Final Examination	30%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Participation *	15%

* Class participation includes, but is not limited to, (a) attendance, (b) participation in class, including use of response software, (c) other assignments that are not quizzes or exams.

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. During class, please refrain from using electronic devices, writing or reading materials unrelated to the course, chatting, or other classroom behaviors that inhibit your or others' ability to learn. Inappropriate use of technology will result in a lower participation grade.

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 exam for an excused reason may replace that zero with the grade from the final exam. Appeals: Students who wish 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.

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities - No travel is associated with this course.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. The latest version of the syllabus is always available via <http://eLearning.utdallas.edu>.