“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” Aristotle

Purpose:
The post 9-11 world is constantly changing and our understanding of this continues to evolve. This course introduces tools that will help us grapple with the changing nature of international politics. This is not a course about current events, but about cause and effect in world affairs. We want to know what occurred, but also why. As such this course will focus on theories, or models, that help us link cause and effect. Various themes in international relations including the importance of the state, the causes of conflict, the role of economic factors, globalization, terrorism, and the struggle in the developing world will be considered in this course. International relations is complicated and requires a sophisticated understanding of current events. Hopefully you will find this class exciting, as you begin to apply theories to political events around the world!

Required Text:

Course Requirements:
Exams 75%
In Class Assignments/Participation 25%

This class will be comprised of daily in-class assignments. In addition, you will have 3 written exams along with an oral comprehensive final exam.

Grading:
All assignments are due on the date listed on Brightspace. Late work is generally not accepted. Once the Dropbox closes, the assignment can no longer be submitted. If you know you are going to be absent due to a university excused event, notify your instructor in advance and you will be allowed to schedule a substitute assignment EARLY. Exceptions MAY be made with medical documentation, provided that you contact the instructor as soon as possible.

I do not give you a grade, you earn it. At the end of the semester, I will record the grade you earned. That also means, at the end of the semester, I will not give you additional points or extra credit. Asking for extra work, particularly if you did not complete the assigned work, is not a good look. If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is your responsibility to provide me with all of your work. To that end, you should also always make and keep a copy of a paper/assignment prior to handing it in to me.

Your job:
By the time you enroll in this or another upper-level course, you are at the point in your life that you are preparing to enter ‘the real world’. By that time, you should be putting in the effort that represents junior or senior level work. More to the point, you should be putting in effort that represents your adult life. You should be past the point of asking for understanding because you did not come to class, do the reading, or otherwise adequately prepare. In another year or two, you will be going off to graduate school, law school, or starting a job. You are exhibiting, now, the habits you will take with you.

**Reading:**
Study skills are developed with practice. It is unlikely that you can merely read an assigned chapter and fully absorb all the concepts contained in that chapter in one sitting. Rather, it is often the case that to truly understand new material, you have to *read it more than once*, spend time contemplating the material, and even discussing it with your peers. Success is significantly more likely if you [*keep up with the course requirements throughout the semester*](#), rather than cramming the day before the exam. It is your job to keep up with the reading.

**In Class Assignments:**
Throughout the semester I will give in-class assignments over the assigned readings and lectures. These assignments will presume that you have critically read all of the assigned material up to that point. They may consist of group or individual work or reading quizzes. There are no make-up assignments. **You will not do well in this class if you do not regularly sign in to the class, take notes, and do the assigned readings.**

This course emphasizes theories of international politics and the application of those theories to real world events. You should always give credit to the person whose theory you are citing in class discussions, in assignments, on papers and on exams. Thus, for example, you should refer to “Huntington’s theory of Clash of Civilizations”, “Russett and O’Neal's theory of the Kantian Triangle”, “Fukuyama’s Theory of the End of History”, ect. For every reading you should be able to identify the thesis and identify at 2-3 arguments/evidence the author uses to support the thesis.

**Success in this course:**
To succeed in this course you need to keep up with the reading and the lecture. Keep in mind that you need to allow time for class and time to study. In a ‘live’ class you should spend 1-2 hours studying outside of class for every hour you spend in class. An online course is no different. You should put aside time to read or listen to the lecture and hand write notes, time to read the textbook that corresponds to that module and fill out the relevant review questions, and time to study your notes and lectures. If you do this with every unit as you go, then studying prior to the exam will be much more effective.

**Participation:**
Understanding international politics generally involves keeping up with the news and engaging in an exchange of ideas. As such, the online course will often feature discussions to help students integrate the material. Participation specifically refers to offering your view or opinion and actively talking about the assigned readings and concepts from class. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class discussions.

**Other Important Policies:**
Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in anyway possible. I may be able to help you
study more effectively or recommend other assistance. Remember – I want you to do well in this course.

This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester.

Email inquiries should employ professional language including a subject line that indicates the nature of the email, your full name, which course and section you are enrolled in, and appropriate salutations. I will not respond to emails that are answered in the syllabus or requesting extra credit or any other adjustment in your grade. I am happy to answer questions and meet with you to help you, but you should be sure you have been keeping up with the reading and the modules.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Course Description (per SFA Bulletin):
Forces and forms of international politics. Restraints on the struggle for power, balance of power, morality, law. Problems of world stability, peaceful change, international interdependence, global governance, structure and dilemmas of the international political economy, nature and influence of non-state and transnational actors.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:
No specific general education objectives or outcomes are addressed in this course.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Students will demonstrate written communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
Communicate with effective language and avoid colloquialisms

Attendance Policy
It is easy to forget to sign in to an online class and miss due dates. You cannot ghost this class and expect to pass. I have designed this class so that you have to sign in multiple times each week. Be sure to set aside time to work on the class every day.

Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)
An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a
valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Academic Integrity
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters.
without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to
substitute for one's self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or
academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of
educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of
one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the
original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and
presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program
course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for
credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic
dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to
receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an
academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or
financially.

Note: You are prohibited from using a search engine to look up material during course exams.

Academic Integrity and the Use of AI
All submitted work, including assignments, papers, discussion posts, and exams, must be the individual student's
original work unless explicitly stated otherwise. The use of AI technology, such as ChatGPT, is not permitted (see
Policy Number 10.4, Article VI [vi], “unauthorized technology”).

If you use Grammarly, go to your preferences and turn off the following options:

- Sound more confident
- Rewrite sentences for clarity
- Sound more diplomatic
- Sound fluent
- Sound more positive
- Rewrite text for improved effect
- Split up long, hard-to-read sentences
- Intelligent snippet creation
- Sound more personable
- Combine sentences with related ideas
- Use word variety
- Use descriptive, vivid words

The changes associated with these options supplied by Grammarly will trigger AI detectors and result in passages
of your submission being written by generative AI rather than you.

The consequences for academic dishonesty will result in a minimum penalty of a zero for the
assignment and may result in an “F” for the course and reporting to the Dean of Students for
further action.
Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students' overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

I. On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249 dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
• Health Services
• Counseling Services
• Student Outreach and Support
• Food Pantry
• Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008 thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Other Important Policies:
This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester.
Class information, including changes of dates, study aides, changes in assignments due to weather days or other information will be posted on the class D2L page.
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