

POLI 4044
Contemporary International Systems
Fall 2014
9:30-10:30 MWF/209 Coates Hall

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Harry Mokeba
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OFFICE HOURS: 8:00-9:00 MWF
11:30-12:30 MWF
3:00-5:00 W

OBJECTIVE: This is an upper-level course that supplements the knowledge gained in POLI 2057. The goal is to introduce you to various themes and perspectives that dominate the study of world politics. Students are expected to fully grasp the “System Concept” and be able to understand how the world operates on a regional and issue standpoint. Although taught in Political Science, 4044 is designed to be interdisciplinary and global. It explores today’s world in an exhaustive and comprehensive fashion. By the end of the semester, students should have gained a robust understanding of world affairs.

TEXTBOOK: Mark Juergensmeyer: Thinking Globally: A Global Studies Reader
Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2014

In addition, students are **required** to pick up copies of the New York Times regularly to gain even more knowledge of the contemporary world system

EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS: There will be an early Take-Home exam (that covers introductory material), a Midterm exam in class, and a Final exam. There will be a System paper toward the end of the semester where you pick a topic and reflect on its system attributes, as well as a presentation of your findings.

GRADES: Your final grade for the course will be determined according to the following formula:

Class Participation	10 pts
Early Take-Home Exam	10 pts
Midterm Exam	20 pts
System Paper	20 pts
NYT Multiple Choice (2)	10 pts (1 before Midterm; 1 before Final)
Presentation	5 pts
Final Exam	<u>25 pts</u>
	100 pts

A: 100-87 B: 86.9-78 C: 77.9-68 D: 67.9-60 F: below 60

LECTURE OUTLINE

- Aug. 25 - Sept. 10 Course Introduction: Making Sense of the System Idea
- The World Today: Globalization
 - The Change vs. Continuity
 - Elements of Conflict and Cooperation
 - History & Evolution: The Centenary
- Readings Chap. 1
- Sept. 12-22 Foundational Basis: The Theories and the Actors
- Theories of Contemporary International System
- Realism
 - Liberalism
 - Constructivism/Feminism
 - Marxist-based Theories
- Readings Chap. 2
- Actors of Contemporary International System
- The Nation State
 - I.O.s & N.G.O.s
 - Individuals
 - MNCs
 - Group/People's Power
- Readings Chap. 11
- Sept. 24 - Oct.8 International System: The Geographical Dimension
- The African Connection
 - The Middle East Impact
 - The Asian World of Varied Influences
 - The European Center in Transition
 - The Americas Surge
- Readings Chaps. 3-9
- Oct. 10 NYT multiple Choice (1)
- Oct. 13 Midterm Exam (essays/definitions)
- Oct. 15-20 Cultural Attributes: Forces of Order vs. Disorder
- Civilization Today
 - Religion
- Readings Chaps. 10 & 11

Oct 22-31	<u>Economic Attributes: Growth, Development, Poverty</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Needs & Strains • Finance, Trade & Inequality • Global Capitalism: Persistence in midst of crisis Readings Chaps. 13 & 14
Nov. 3-14	<u>Social Attributes in the World System</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, Drugs & Sex Readings Chaps. 15 & 16 • Environment & Health Issues Readings Chap. 17 • Global Communication & News Media Readings Chap. 18 • Movement for Human Rights Readings Chap. 19
Nov. 17-19	<u>Future of the Global System</u>
Nov. 21 - Dec. 1	<u>Systems Paper Presentation</u>
Dec. 3	<u>NYT Multiple Choice (2)/Review Session/Course Evaluation</u>
Dec. 5	<u>Review Session/Give out Pre-Final Grades</u>
Dec. 9, Tuesday	<u>FINAL EXAM 7:30AM-9:30AM</u>