LINGNAN UNIVERSITY
POL3203 International Politics

Term One: 2016-17

Lecturer: Dr. Ray Chan (Email: raymichaelchan@ln.edu.hk, Office: WYL221, Tel: 26167168)

Mode of Tuition: Lecture (2 hours per week) on Thursdays (1:30-3:30 p.m.) and tutorials (1 hour per week) on Mondays (12:30-1:30 p.m. / 3:30-4:30 p.m.)

Category in Major Program: Required course for Major in Political Science.

Discipline: Political Science

Course Description and Aims:
The course introduces students to the core issues in the study of international relations, including the key theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding global politics. You will learn about how the various actors, forces and ideas have influenced and shaped the past and contemporary global events. The course will also examine some of the more significant features of the international system – such as how change occurs, the relations between politics and economics and the interconnections between individuals and governments. Illustration from particular case studies and issues is designed to assist you better appreciate the dynamic relations between policy-making in the international arena. This course serves as an introduction to other courses on international affairs being offered in the Social Sciences programme.

Learning Outcomes:
On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. describe and explain the role of key players in shaping contemporary global politics
2. apply fundamental political science theories, methods and concepts to the study of current global affairs
3. critically synthesize and evaluate media reports, official or governmental and non-governmental organisations’ policy statements, as well as the academic literature on international politics
4. the linkages between politics and economics and nature of globalization
5. be aware of your rights and your duties as a responsible global citizen

Language of Instruction:
All lectures, discussions, and readings will be in English.
Course Content:

I. Introduction: Conflict and Harmony in International Politics
   [read Chapter 1 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

II. The Historical Background to Contemporary International Politics
   a. Westphalian system
   b. Colonialism and Imperialism
   c. Nineteenth century/ twentieth century World Wars
   [read Chapter 2 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

III. From Cold War to Post-Cold War
   a. Cold War, post-Cold War and post 9-11
   [read Chapter 2 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

IV. Thinking Theoretically in International Relations: the Major Approaches:
   a. Realism
   b. Liberalism
   c. Constructivism
   d. Radical perspectives
   [read Chapter 3 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

V. Levels of Analysis: The International System
   [read Chapter 4 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

VI. Levels of Analysis: The State and its Role:
   a. Nature and Sources of State Power
   b. Policy-making
   c. Challenges to the State
   [read Chapter 5 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

VII. Levels of Analysis: The Role of Individuals
    [read Chapter 6 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

VIII. International Political Economy: Competition and Development
    [read Chapter 9 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

IX. War, Peace and International Politics in the 21st Century
    [read Chapter 8 of Mingst & Arreguin-Toft]

“Current Events” which occur while the course is in progress will be used to elaborate and enhance (where appropriate) the course materials.

Assessment and Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Various types of assessment will be used to measure of your learning and retention.

The Continuous Assessment (50%) is sub-divided into four components:
1. A tutorial presentation which demonstrates your ability to (i) research and organise content in a coherent and logical manner, (ii) present this content together with your own analysis in a clear manner, and (iii) defend your arguments during the discussion period.

You will be arranged into groups of 2-3 students, so a collective group grade is given (10%). The lecturer reserves the right to lower a grade if there is clear evidence of a group member not pulling his/her weight. [Learning outcomes 1-4]

2. An individually-written term paper in which a question related to the themes covered in this course is discussed in a logical and clear manner. Weight is given to your research and analytical skills as demonstrated by the nature of the content and your critical analysis. You must include footnotes/citations and references list/bibliography (see further details below). An individual grade is given (20%).

Deadline is Friday, 2 December. [Learning outcomes 1-3]

3. Participation in class discussions. Credit will be given to those who join in actively and regularly in class discussions. Your grade depends on the quality as well as the quantity of your contributions (5%). [Learning outcomes 1-4]

4. A Mid-term Test which will examine your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and factual information in the first part of the course (15%). This test will be held on Thursday, 20 October. [Learning outcomes 1-3]

5. The Final Exam will be held during the normal University exam period in December. The exam will evaluate your knowledge and understanding of key concepts and factual information over the whole course (50%).

**Tutorial Discussion Topics:**

The topics will be outlined and allocated during the first week of tutorials.

**Suggested Readings**

Reading assignments provide you with the necessary knowledge to help you meet learning outcomes; in particular they help you to participate actively in class discussions. Class discussions and tests will draw from the readings -- hence keep-up with your readings.

Also, keep yourself informed with current international events as they will help you better understand the conceptual issues and we will be making reference particularly in the final two-thirds of the course to current affairs. Regularly read a daily newspaper, such as the South China Morning Post, International Herald Tribune, or Financial Times. You can also keep yourself informed about daily news through radio and television (stations such as the BBC, CNN, Channel News Asia, and CNBC) and their appropriate websites (the BBC News website on http://news.bbc.co.uk).

Getting into the habit of regularly reading a quality newspaper will be of benefit to you not just for this course, not just for other courses in the Social Sciences Programme, but also for your future career, as major Hong Kong employers welcome graduates with good English-language skills and knowledge about global events.
**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


**Points to Note**

1. Please turn off mobile phones before entering the classroom/lecture room, as a courtesy to the lecturer and to your fellow students.

2. The term paper deadline is **Friday, 2 December**.

   Papers can be handed-in early. Papers handed in late will be deducted 1 sub-grade for every 1 day late after the submission deadline, and you would be given a grade F (for the coursework component) 5 days after the deadline.

   This is an individual paper. You may choose any theme related to the topics covered in this course. The ability to choose and develop a question is an important part of academic training. Please feel free consult with us if you any concerns.

   The term paper should be around 1500 words in length. Keep it concise and relevant. It must include some form of referencing and a bibliography. There are several acceptable formats for footnoting: either numbered footnotes or short citations in the text (using the ‘Harvard style’). Include a list of references or bibliography at the end of the paper.

   To avoid plagiarism, make sure that you cite sources appropriately. You should be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. Checks using anti-plagiarism software will be made. You must submit a ‘soft’ copy through the Moodle system as well as a ‘hard’ copy.