

POLS 305: GLOBAL POLITICS/COMPARATIVE

There's a good chance you're reading this on a thing. It might be an Apple Macbook, a PC, an iPad, a phone – hey, you might even be reading this on actual, real world paper. All of these are things, and all of them, as things, are political and material actors on a global scale. They affect the way we socialize with each other (Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter); they alter how we travel (Passports, TSA screening devices); they act as technologies of war and oppression (drones, tanks,); they categorize us into different groups (blood, microbes, bodies). In short, they do as much to create the world we live in, as we do. Things and objects, as materials in a political world, are often pushed aside in critical analyses of politics in favor of anthropocentric perspectives.

This course, via a new materialist perspective, focuses on the things that surround us, and how those things affect the way we live in a global society. It is meant to act as both an introduction to international relations and global/comparative politics, and as a critique of it, in that we will expand on normative theories of the state and the international as they are affected by non-human actors. In thinking through things, and how we think about those things, our goal is to engage in critical scholarship that is attuned to the importance of objects to every day political life.

Oral Communication Designation

This course satisfies the UH Manoa General Education definition of an OC (Oral Communication) focus course. OC courses help students develop oral competencies as well as provide students with an environment within which they can better understand course content through structured discussions. UH Manoa undergraduates are required to complete one (1) 3-credit OC course at the 300 or 400 level in order to meet graduation requirements.

ASSIGNMENTS

(OC) Class Participation (10%)

Class participation encapsulates your participation in class activities, and discussions. This course relies heavily on class discussion of the assigned texts, so participation is a mandatory part of understanding how things, objects, and stuff affect geopolitics. **Come to class prepared with at least five questions and/or comments on the reading. You will be expected to discuss and engage with your peers.**

(OC) Leading the Discussion (20%)

Twice this semester, you'll be responsible for starting off class with a brief ten minute presentation on the assigned reading for that day. You will be, in essence, leading the discussion along with me, so your assignment isn't finished once this ten minute presentation is over — you'll also be in charge of guiding your peers in discussing the text via thoughtful comments and questions that show a grasp of critical thinking in the context of political analysis, and an understanding of the text's meaning.

Some requirements:

- 7 - 10 minute presentation.
- 20% summary, 80% political analysis. While you should, definitely, provide your peers with a brief summary of what the reading is about, you should do so so that you can analyze the text in depth and lead the class discussion towards a concept or claim that interests you.
- What you focus on for your presentation is your choice — indeed, it's a matter of what concepts, themes, and arguments stand out to you, whether because you agree or disagree with their logic. What's important is that you approach these topics with an eye towards critical engagement.
- You will be graded on both your initial presentation, and your ability to guide students throughout the class as we discuss the text — prepare at least five (5) questions and/or comments to start with.
- At the beginning of the semester, a sign-up sheet will be uploaded to Laulima. It will be your responsibility for signing up for both leading discussions.

Feedback/Grading: Grading will be done via a rubric that factors in Style (clear speaking voice; audible, etc), Technicalities (appropriate presentation length; participation in subsequent discussion), and Analysis (grasp of concepts; critique of text).

(OC) Object Web (30%)

In a group of your peers, you'll choose an object/thing (iPhone; a book; glasses; plastic bottle), and will need to cooperate with each other to tell a detailed account of the thing as it is a political and historical object. Each group member should focus on a single aspect of the object (some examples: history, feminist interpretation, logistics, environment, etc). **You will be responsible for a 15 - 20 minute presentation on the nuances of your assigned object.**

Some requirements:

- 15 - 20 minute presentation.
- Visual evidence of understanding (slides; film; game; website; other pre-approved project).
- 2 - 3 outside resources on chosen group topic.
- Demonstrate evidence of collaborative work via well-tuned presenter transitions and cohesive analyses of a particular topic.

Feedback/Grading: Presentations are graded as a group via a rubric that factors in Technicalities (tone of voice; time requirements; ease of understanding), Collaboration (research cohesiveness; presenter transitions; preparedness), and Analysis (grasp of concepts; critique of used texts; variety of resources).

Individual Final Paper (40%)

This is both your final assignment, and the second part of your object web project. Individually, you will focus on looking at a particular object via a specific lens (see above). This lens will then be turned into the presentation above, **as well as a 2500 word final essay that includes a nuanced political analysis of said object. Specific instructions to be updated.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Grading

(OC) Class Participation	10%
(OC) Discussion Lead (x2)	20%
(OC) Group Presentation	30%
Individual Final Paper	40%

FORMATTING

Proper formatting and source citation is required for all assignments. While the most recent iteration of MLA doesn't require URLs, I DO. Please include them when applicable. Failure to cite appropriately results in an automatic point deduction. Take advantage of a bibliography formatting service or library management software to make citation as simple as possible. Some recommendations:

- **ZOTERO:** Citing/Library management application with accompanying browser extension (to easily cite web pages and articles).
- **CITATIONMACHINE.NET:** Bibliography formatting website.
- **BIBME.ORG:** Bibliography formatting website.

STUDENT SERVICES

KOKUA PROGRAM

KOKUA provides disability access services to individuals on a case by case basis, and students are not charged for these services. A student's disability status is considered confidential information and is only disclosed to faculty with the student's permission. **If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please let me know via email and contact the KOKUA Program at (808)956 – 7511 or via the Kokua Program website [HERE](#).**

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCESS

It is the policy of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH-M), that faculty and students of UH-M be provided consistent and equitable treatment in resolving disputes arising from the academic relationship between faculty and student(s). The applicability of this policy is limited to those issues directly associated and concomitant with the faculty member's responsibilities as a teacher and the students' responsibilities as a learner. **See academic grievance procedures [HERE](#).**

MĀNOA ASUH

The Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (ASUH) is the undergraduate student government representing all full-time, classified, undergraduate students at the Manoa Campus. **Get involved with the senate, secure funding, or find out more [HERE](#).**

LAULIMA

This course will be conducted through Laulima. Resources will be available via the class portal unless noted. If you are having trouble accessing or using Laulima, please email me so we can work out any issues. Tutorials are also available on laulima.hawaii.edu.

PLAGIARISM

If any assignment is found to be wholly or partly plagiarized, you will be reported to the UH Office of Judicial Affairs and will receive a failing grade for this class as per UH Mānoa policies concerning [academic integrity](#).

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- The submission of any copied document from another individual without proper citation.
- The submission of the same document in more than one course without instructor permission.
- Neglecting to cite direct quotes using quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing without proper citation.

COMMUNICATION

I'll attempt to answer all emails within 24 hours except for weekends (give me 48 hours for those). Please use proper email etiquette when writing and responding to any email correspondence — while emojis are useful, and often vastly more entertaining, they aren't acceptable forms of academic writing. Emails should begin with a proper subject line that includes your class and a word or two describing your reason for writing (i.e.: POLS 341 Review Question or POLS 341 Help).

REQUIRED TEXTS

(unless otherwise noted, all readings will be provided for via instructor)

Edkins, Jenny & Zehfuss, Maja, *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. Routledge, 2019

Grusin, Richard, ed. *The Nonhuman Turn*. 1 edition. Minneapolis: Univ Of Minnesota Press, 2015.

Salter, Mark B., ed. *Making Things International 1: Circuits and Motion*. Minneapolis: Univ Of Minnesota Press, 2015.

Salter, Mark B., ed. *Making Things International 2: Catalysts and Reactions*. Minneapolis: Univ Of Minnesota Press, 2016.