Global Politics and International Relations
POLS 316
M-F, 900-1015
Phil Reynolds

This course is designed to look at the current state of the world, the conditions of the world, and issues confronting the world through the prism of international relations. The course has a broader focus early on, in order to provide some background for discussions later in the course. We will talk about issues that are systemically important, for example: The North-South divide and migratory issues; the use of U.S. hard power in the early 21st century; the rise of China.

(OC) This class will have an oral communication (OC) focus. Each week is organized to allow the student to gather information (through reading and listening, organize your thoughts during the week, and present your ideas to the class. Additionally, each student will give two presentations during the class demonstrating the basic principles or oral communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is planned to provide a deeper understanding of concepts in political science as foundation for further studies, and it will encourages students to find their own research interests and get involved with political issues in global, regional, national, local and daily life with their own perspective.

1. Make a good argument

Don't argue about facts, argue if the facts are good or bad- Use words like “If” and “Then”, draw out the “Why” of an argument, then provide your own counterpoints. To make a good political argument, you need to learn to identify an argument, to distinguish strong and weak ways of making arguments, to analyze the arguments of others and to offer your own.

2. Become critical of power.

Power is necessary and dangerous. Develop the understanding to question its use. The study of power is a common interest across the discipline of political science. It is critical to the development of active citizens and lifelong learners. The ability to analyze power, and the elements of power, effectively, to ask critical questions about authority and legitimacy, are central to a robust understanding of politics.

3. Communicate effectively in public settings.

Think before you speak, think of how your points connect to other points, reason through your statements, AVOID HUBRIS AND HYPERBOLE and speak simply. Don’t grope for ‘big words’. Learning to make a good argument and to think critically about
power are key resources for effective public communication. I want you to learn to speak and write clearly and effectively in a variety of social settings.

**(OC) REQUIREMENTS**

There are four requirements:

There will be a short ‘thought’ papers, called prolusio, due on the first day of the week, emailed to me at pwr@hawaii.edu. These thought papers should not be considered finished papers on the weekly topic, with theses, introductions and conclusions. Rather, they should be questions you have, thoughts about the readings, etc- about 300 words. Feel free to read ahead! At the beginning of each week, each student will present his/her ideas to the class.

During the week, listen to the discussions and change, refine, or expand your thought paper. At the end of the week, each student will be given the opportunity to orally present their ultima, a short recap of his/her ideas based on the week’s discussions.

During the third week of class, each student will give a short, basic presentation on any of the topics presented in class.

During the sixth week of class, each student will give a more detailed and refined presentation on any of the topics presented in class.

**(OC) GRADING**

Class participation is a must for any political science course. The prolusion and ultimas are designed to ensure reading is done, and get students familiar with quickly organizing thoughts to be presented orally. Class participation through the prolusion and ultimas is 20% of the final grade.

The first basic oral presentation is worth 30% of the final grade.

The second more detailed and refined presentation is worth 50% of the final grade.

**BOOKS WHICH WILL BE USED IN CLASS** (These books do not have to be purchased). All other readings will be distributed via email or Lau Lima.


Alexander Betts, Forced Migration and Global Politics,

**WEEK ONE (25 May -28 May): International Relations**

25 May –Memorial Day (No Class)

*Introduction and Overview of the course; “How To Give an Oral Presentation.”*


**WEEK TWO (1 June – 5 June) – Political Economy and the 21st Century**


**WEEK THREE (8 June – 12 June) – Terrorism**

“How To Give an Oral + Visual Presentation.”


**WEEK FOUR (15 June – 19 June) – The Rise of China: Internal Problems and external expansionism**


United Nations, “Internal Migration In China: Trends, Geography, and Policies


**WEEK FIVE (22 June – 26 June) – Migration**

“Instructor Presentation”

Alexander Betts, Forced Migration and Global Politics, Introduction and Chapter 1, pgs 1-42, AND Chapter 5 and 6, pgs 99-126


**WEEK SIX – (29 June – 3 Jul) International Law**
