

PLSC 205 001
Credit Hours: 3
Fall 2018
TR: 9:30-10:45
CRN # 13632

International Politics
Prof. C. Van Aller
Owens 202
No prerequisite

vanallerc@winthrop.edu (for important messages only!) We also have a Blackboard site for class materials.

Office phone: 323-4667, Location: Bancroft 342

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:00, Tuesday 2:00-4:00 each week, and Friday 1:30-2:30 by appointment only. (just this day) Other times also available by contacting me.

Also be ABSOLUTELY sure to establish a Winthrop email account SOON so I can forward you information for the class. This point is absolutely vital for students who add the class. We will use this medium as well as the Blackboard system.

Course Description: Welcome to an opportunity to study some exciting, important, and yes, at times confusing material. I hope to be able to convey to you the many changes that have and are taking place in the world and prove to you that they matter to all of us. PLSC 205 is an introduction to international relations and to a variety of perspectives on it. This major sub-discipline of political science attempts to analyze a broad variety of interactions among the world's nations and cultures, from examining Middle Eastern peace initiatives to the development of international law. It is in your interest to learn more about the world, as its ever-shrinking nature requires Americans to know more about what is going on globally. Did you know that South Carolina has more investment from overseas than any other state?

Student Learning Outcomes: This course aims to familiarize students with the major international questions of the day and to provide ways of organizing and understanding events so they are understandable to an American audience. At the end of the class, students should be able to:

-identify and explain the main theoretical perspectives in the discipline, such as realism and idealism

-begin to understand the major problems confronting the world's nations, from nuclear proliferation to the enormous gap between rich and poor.

-critically read and debate contrasting solutions by policymakers, academic experts, and political activists.

Global Learning Initiative: This course is part of the Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.

University-Level Competencies: This course contributes to the following university level competencies:

Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.

Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens.

Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.

Winthrop University graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

The Texts, the importance of reading them, and what they mean to the course: I have found that the course material challenges those whose knowledge of other cultures and politics is limited to occasional headlines. It will therefore help **greatly** if you do the required reading **BEFORE** class discussions and lectures. For my part, I have chosen books that are quite readable and motivational. A willingness to read carefully will definitely help you in the first third of the course, which tends to be the most difficult for those with insufficient background (which means most American students). I simply do not have the time to explain all the supporting material needed to understand my course and to be ready for tests and exams. My lecture style is quite informal-I expect you to ask questions and give your two cents! This contribution is especially valuable when we discuss breaking events and relate them to course material.

The books required for the course are:

Taking Sides

Clashing Views in World Politics

by John T. Rourke Editor, **Seventeenth Edition**, McGraw Hill, 2016

The New World of International Relations

by Michael G. Roskin and Nicholas O. Berry, **Eleventh Edition**, 2018, Pearson Publishers

BE SURE TO OBTAIN THE CORRECT EDITION OF EACH TEXT: the nature of the course demands the latest iteration of the material!

I will be sending you selected articles on email from mainly the NYT which need to be printed out promptly or stored in a permanent way as the url's will go away!

Course Requirements:

Quizzes (4+/-)	20%
Mid-term	20%

Paper	20%
Final	25%
Participation	15%

Student Learning Activities:

*Tests will be a combination of multiple choice, sentence answers, and short essays. Authoritative evidence will be required if tests are missed, such as a note from a doctor or boss.

*The paper will be a six-page policy memorandum on a global issue of *your* choice, such as genocide, arms control, or climate change. It will require you to take a position and recommend a preferred policy among several. You will be someone important and influential!

*The final will have a similar format to the tests.

*Participation includes: contributions to class discussion, bringing in requested articles on issues of the day, written reactions to the readings, or questions for class discussion on them. Too many absences will detract from this grade, as will showing up late.

*Quizzes will be on the readings, mainly from the Taking Sides and will be announced in the class previous to the quiz day.

*Selected extra credit will be made available, usually attendance at a GLI event or a campus film. These will help to atone for a missed or blown quiz, as make up quizzes are unavailable!

Grading Scale

A 92-100

A- 90-91

B+ 87-89

B 82-86

B- 80-82

C+ 78-79

C 72-77

C- 69-71

D 65-68

D- 60-64

F 0-59

How to do well in the course: You are responsible for all readings: tests and occasional quizzes will include current information from the New York Times.com, assigned text material, lectures, and discussions. *I may* give small study guides but have designed the course to reduce the need for them.

Student study groups are valuable before tests and exams; often peers can explain material to each other better than a professor. If you and others are working long hours outside of classes, you might split the readings up and compare them with others in your group. Just a paragraph or two summarizing each reading will help you at exam time or to gain participation points in class discussion. Papers need advance preparation using the Writing Center if necessary and Turnitin will be required. (I used to be an English teacher!). I often find that students understand far more than their writing implies, so it is in your interest to write carefully and clearly for both papers and essay components on tests. Confused or non-assertive students who come to office hours for assistance will receive greater consideration than those whom I fail to see. This is particularly true if you have been absent and neglect to pick up corrected work later in my office. Finally, those who do not clear late assignments with me several days beforehand will receive zero credit. Missed tests without documentation from a doctor or other authority will count as a zero. There is no make up for quizzes; extra credit opportunities may be available. Make-up tests will be more inclusive and challenging than ones taken with the rest of the class.

Student Code of Conduct: The Political Science Department abhors all forms of academic misconduct, and faculty members aggressively investigate all incidents of suspected cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, using turnitin.com. Please click on the enclosed link to read the enclosed policy in detail:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/plsc/PLAGIARISM/%20AND%20MISCONDUCT.doc>

For cell phone and laptop policy see:

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/artscience/AppropriateUseApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf>

Attendance Policy: Over three unexcused absences during the semester will result in a significantly lower **participation** grade. Missing more than 25% of classes will result in a **failing** grade. Chronic lateness is an imposition on other students and will also count against the participation grade.

Office of Accessibility (OA): Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility (OA) at 803-323-3290, or, accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from this office.

Dropping the Course: This course needs to be dropped before **October 20** if it does not fit your needs. After this date, you cannot drop it for any reason unless approved by the Registrar.

Course Schedule:-Some units will take more time than others: I will decide in this case whether to utilize additional Taking Sides readings or assign a research project on the Internet to improve understanding. Guest speakers may also visit the class. **I reserve the right the rearrange this syllabus, particularly if evolving world events or a visiting speaker makes such a change pedagogically valuable. We will discuss a Taking Sides Issue the second class of each week unless the time period is short.**

I.Methodology and Introduction. Roskin: Chapters One and Two, (August 21-August 30)

- How do we organize human events for use in prediction and analysis?
- Do national leaders have any theories about how to structure their world? Do citizens?

II. War in the world and America's Role

Roskin: Chapters Three and Four, TS 1.1 (September 4-6)

- Did the Cold War have to occur as it did?
- Theory and practice in foreign policy

III. The Challenge of Rising Powers

Roskin: Chapters Five and Six, TS: Issue 1.2, (Sept 11-13)

- How did nationalism destroy the largest country on earth?
- What forces tend to reduce the power of nationalism?

IV. The Middle East

Roskin: Chapters Eight and Nine, TS Issue 2.1, (Sept 18-20)

- Does every nation require a state?
- Is there a clash of civilizations?

V. The North-South Conflict

Roskin: Chapters Seven, Ten, Eleven, TS Issue 6.2 (September 25-27)

- Is it in our interest to help poor nations?
- Should First World lifestyles fundamentally change?

VI. The Persistence of Conflict

Roskin: Chapters Twelve, TS Issue 4.1 (October 2-4)

- Is force now too terrible to be useful?
- Is there a war culture?

Mid Term Test (October 9)-Just bring a pen and no. 2 pencil

VII. Terrorism and Asymmetrical Warfare, Roskin Chapter Thirteen, TS: 4.2 (October 11)

- Is terrorism the new form of warfare?
- Are the ways we respond to terror an over-reaction?

Fall Break (October 12-15)

Test Return and Discussion October 16. Taking Sides 4.3.

VIII. The Politics of the European Union

Roskin: Chapter Fourteen, Taking Sides 3.1 (October 23-25)

- Does one nation better its economy only at the expense of others?
- Should we redesign the world's economic institutions?

IX. International Economics/Globalization, Roskin Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen, Taking Sides 1.3 (October 30-November 1)

X. The World of Diplomacy Roskin: Chapter Seventeen, TS Issue 5.2, See list of unratified US treaties on Blackboard. (November 8) No class on the 6th due to Election Day!

- How has diplomacy changed in the twenty-first century?
- How effective is international law?

XI. International Law and Human Rights. Roskin Chapter Eighteen, and TS 5.3 (November 13-No class on the 15th due to SRMUN!)

- Does International Law rule states more effectively as the world modernizes?
- Are Human Rights universal or only relative? Which ones?

XII. The United Nations Roskin: Chapter Nineteen, TS. Issue 5.1 (November 20)

- Should the UN be redesigned, rejected, or renewed?
- What is relation of peacekeeping to peace enforcement?

XIII. The World Environment

Roskin: Chapter Twenty, TS 6.1 (November 27-29) **Gadget Day** for evaluations.

- Can democracies make difficult long-term choices?
- Should our foreign policy have more environmental emphasis?

Class Memorandum Paper: Due the first class after Thanksgiving: November 27.

Final Exam Date: 11:30 pm Friday, December 7

Important Reminders:

Class Listserv: I will make frequent use of the class listserv provided by the Division of Computing and Information Technology, and you are required to subscribe to it. For additional information, go to:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081>

Winthrop's Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination

and application process. ONCA is located in Dinkins 222B. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of the ONCA webpage www.winthrop.edu/onca and email onca@winthrop.edu for more information.

Winthrop's Academic Success Center is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu or www.winthrop.edu/success.

Winthrop's Office of Victims Assistance (OVA) provides services to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking as well as educational programming to prevent these crimes from occurring. The staff assists all survivors, regardless of when they were victimized, in obtaining counseling, medical care, housing options, legal prosecution, and more. In addition, the OVA helps students access support services for academic problems resulting from victimization. The OVA is located in 204 Crawford and can be reached at (803) 323-2206. In the case of an after-hours emergency, please call Campus Police at (803)323-3333, or the local rape crisis center, Safe Passage, at their 24-hour hot-line, (803)329-2800. For more information please visit: <http://www.winthrop.edu/victimsassistance/>

Plagiarism

Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. Consult your Writing 101 Writing Manual for proper citation techniques. Please consult the Political Science Department Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct for further clarifications:

<http://faculty.winthrop.edu/kedrowskik/academicmisconduct.htm>.

HAVE YOU REALLY READ THIS SYLLABUS?