

International Relations
POL– K103
Mr. Phil Mayer

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OFFICE HOURS (faculty office #C208)

Monday 11am-noon; 12:15-1:30pm

Wednesday 11am-noon; 12:15-12:50pm

Friday 11-noon tutoring in C117; 12:15-1 (second Friday of the month unavailable after noon)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will learn about how countries conduct relations with each other and the various theories about how they should interact. In addition, we will discuss where power comes from and ways to create a more peaceful and prosperous world.

REQUIRED TEXT: *Introduction to Global Politics* by Steven Lamy et al.

GRADES

5tests (8% each, dropping your

lowest test score*)	40%	100-94 = A	79-77 = C+
Homework	10%	93-90 = A	76-73 = C
Country Project	20%	89-87 = B+	72-70 = C-
Final *	10%	86-83 = B	69-67 = D+
Research project	20%	82-80 = B-	63-66 = D
			62-60 = D-

* If you have a “91” test average – including all tests – then you are exempt from the final as long as you have completed the homework and the projects in a timely fashion. I will NOT drop your lowest test if you have 5 or more unexcused absences, latenesses, or leaving class early or have not completed **all** the assignments in the class.

ATTENDANCE: It is important that you attend class; you cannot learn if you’re not there. Numerous absences will affect your grade. It is your responsibility to get all notes, materials, and assignments for any classes that you miss. If you regularly miss or disrupt class, or are consistently late and/or consistently leave early, that will be a clear signal to me that you do not care about grade; consequently, if you have a borderline average, and come to class, you will be given the higher grade; if you demonstrate that you don’t care about your grade, you will be given the lower grade.

I expect all of my students to have the integrity and character to be honest at all times. Students caught cheating will get a “0” on that test, and it will not be dropped. In addition, you may get an “F” in the class regardless of your average.

We will at times discuss issues which people have different opinions about. Please remember to respect each other and act civilly at all times.

Make-up exams will be given ONLY if the student has contacted the instructor PRIOR to the test. Make-ups will be administered during my regular office hours ONLY. Students MUST take the exam BY THE NEXT SCHEDULED CLASS TIME – NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to follow this policy will result in either a grade of 0 on that test, a penalty of 10 to 20 points, and/or a make-up exam that is all essay. You will be allowed to take one make-up exam per class per semester.

Ten points per day will be deducted from any assignment that is late. In the real world, those who can't meet deadlines are fired.

Snow: In the event of wintery weather, please listen to 106.5, Q105, I-98, 1350AM, or WSUB for cancellations. If you do not hear that Three Rivers Community College is closed, that means we are open. You can also look at the website www.trcc.comnet.edu or call the switchboard at 886-0177 for weather info. If you do not hear we are closed, TRCC is open and class will be held. However, if you believe that it is too dangerous to come to class, that's understandable; you are still responsible for finding out what you missed (see tentative course outline on third page) and learning that material.

*** The best way to study for my tests is to study my lecture notes and the homework I assign. It is important that students learn ALL of the definitions we discuss in class; toward that end, students will find making "flashcards" with the word on one side and the definition on the other useful. These flashcards can be used to learn about the various graphs we discuss as well.

COURSE OUTLINE

NO CLASS MONDAY Sept. 3

test 1: Chapters 1, 2, and 3: Thursday, Sept 22
test 2: chapters 4, 5, and 6: Thursday, Oct. 13
test 3: Chapters 7, 8, and 9: Tuesday Nov. 1
test 4: chapters 10 and 11 Thursday, Nov. 17

NO CLASS TUESDAY NOV 24

test 1: Geography quiz: Wednesday, Sept 5

Oral presentations: week of Nov. 29

Final: take-home, due **Monday, Dec 12 at noon** (NO CLASS – please email me the final or drop off at my office)

COUNTRY PROJECT: Part 1 due Tuesday, Sept. 29; Part 2 is due Tuesday, Oct. 24; Tuesday, Dec 9. PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL ME THE PROJECT! Each part of this project will be approximately 20-25 pages doublespaced; each country should be 1.5 to 2.5 pages doublespaced. While that sounds like a lot, this project is very easy as it

simply involves going to a website and looking up information and putting it in your words. I want you go to state.gov, (the Secretary of State's website, and click on "countries and regions" at the top. Complete the countries' project template for each country on the country's project list, which is located on p.2 of the countries' project template.

RESEARCH PAPER: Due Thursday, Nov. 10. Research a topic in International relations that interests you. Write a 5-6 page research paper on that topic, using at least 8 sources, only 3 of which may be the internet. There are numerous suggested topics at cia.gov: you can go to "Policy issues," "economics and energy", "Arms control and security," and Democracy and global affairs," (links located at the top of the cia.gov home page) for a list of numerous topics that may interest you. You may do a book review (critiquing a book about our relationship with another country, the war and stating what you liked and didn't like and whether in your opinion the book was accurate or biased). The book review should be at least 5 pages long. The book must be approved by me; suggested titles available at TRCC library: "Osama bin Laden" by Michael Scheuer, "One Nation Under Contact" by Allison Stranger (about the use of contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan, and "Superpower Illusions" by Jack Matlock.

Other suggested topics:

Terrorism,, ISIS, global water shortage, effects of climate change, Syria's civil war, Afghanistan war, Iraq war, nuclear agreement with Iran, Israel/Palestine, Robert Mugawbe in Nigeria, Britain's leaving the European Union, and human trafficking.

College Withdrawal Policy: A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar's Office. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without being in good standing or obtaining prior permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Students who fail to properly withdraw and discontinue coming to class will receive an "F" grade. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal when received by the registrar. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities Statement: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Disabilities Counseling Services at 383-5240. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the counselor as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based on disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Students are notified that cellular phones and beepers are allowed in class or in the Learning Resource Center only if they are turned off or turned to a silent mode. Under no circumstances are phones to be answered in class. When there are extenuating circumstances that require that a student be available by phone or beeper, the student should speak to the instructor prior to class, so that together they can arrive at an agreement.