POL 260  International Politics: In Search of a New World Order
Summer 2017

8 Weeks session June 5 – July 27, 2017
Online Course

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Office hours: by appointment only

Description:
This course is meant to familiarize students with the central concepts and issues of international relations (IR) and IR theory. The goal of the course is to provide you with the basic tools to explain and understand current events using different approaches to the study of IR. We will start by addressing the questions of why study IR, and what do we hope to achieve studying IR? We then move on to learn about the different theoretical approaches to IR and how are those used when applied to real world events. The final part of the class would address some specific topics concerning IR including the environment, human rights, economic issues, terrorism, and war. The course provides an analysis of the political and economic problems of the world today. The emphasis is on current trends in international relations, problems of war and peace, and prospects for the development of a new world order or global chaos. This class should provide a solid foundation for other courses in international politics and you will be able to better understand some of the events happening in the world today.

Course Objectives:

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<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Learning Assessment Plan</th>
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<td>Students will learn and be able to recognize the major theories in international relations (realism, liberalism, constructivism, critical theories, and neo-Marxism) and the differences between them.</td>
<td>A question on exam 1 will ask the students to match concepts with the correct theory.</td>
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<td>Students will be able to identify the different actors of international politics (nation-states, IGOs, NGOs, MNCs, Global Civil Society, Transnational and supranational entities).</td>
<td>A series of questions on the exam 3 will ask the students to identify or recognize the different actors.</td>
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<td>Students will learn and understand the importance of topics in international politics including global environment, human rights, international political economy, international law, conflict and security, international organizations, and health.</td>
<td>During exams 2 and 3 students will be asked to identify and explain three components each of two topics covered in class, and to describe their relevance to international politics.</td>
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Students will be able to apply class material, terminology, theories, and concepts to current events and specific cases.

Throughout the semester students will be required to submit entries to an electronic blog every two weeks (7 times in the semester) in which they will apply class material to news stories of their choice.

Readings:
1. Textbook:
   How to get it?
   a. Directly from Oxford University Press and using our rep code for 20% discount (code: BURNS2016) $66 (after discount)
   b. At amazon.com buy or rent $22-$72 range
   c. e-book at RedShelf $39.95
   d. CSI bookstore $79.95
2. Additional articles and readings are posted on Blackboard in some Learning Modules so always check the syllabus schedule below and the readings tab in each module
3. Follow global politics events on the news media.

Assigned readings are mandatory and not an option and you are expected to complete assigned readings on time and as they relate to class progression and assignments. If you would like additional information on a specific topic let me know and I’ll provide you with more recommended readings.

Structure:
This course is taught in an online-only format and as such we will have no physical class meetings.
All schedules, materials, assignments, and exams are on our Blackboard course site.
You will be reading, watching, and listening to various materials and then complete assignments, and participate in mandatory discussions as well as take exams.

You are **required** to make sure you receive emails from me. I send emails through Blackboard which go to the email CSI has for you (mostly this is your CSI email account). You can update your email with Blackboard or send me an alternative email address to use – in any case, this is your responsibility and interest.

For assistance with Blackboard please contact the Center for Excellence in Learning, or call the HELP desk

Work online can be completed at your own time but has to confirm with the published deadlines and you must remain active on Blackboard at all times. You are highly encouraged to complete work ahead of time so not to risk missing due dates.
Keep an open communication channel with me and feel free to ask questions or consult me with any issue or difficulty (relevant to this class); contacting me through email is the best and fastest way

The online format allows you a lot of flexibility enjoy it but don’t abuse it.
Grading and assignments:
Module assignments: 30%
Weekly Discussion Board forums: 25%
Exams: 45% (15% each)

Module assignments: readings, power point slides, and other web-based materials will be featured in
the course Learning Modules (accessible from the corresponding tab). Assignments are posted within
the Modules and each assignment has its own instructions and deadline. You must complete all
assignments and do so on time (i.e. assignments can be completed whenever you want but always
before their due dates).
Each assignment has its own specific grading rubric that you should use as guidelines. But late
assignments are subject to 10% grade penalty.
There are 5 mandatory module assignments to be completed throughout the session (see schedule
below).

Weekly Discussion Board forums -- Discussion forums will open up weekly focusing on topics relevant
to the covered material and/or current events. You are required (i.e. this is mandatory and graded) to
participate in these discussions by either addressing my original questions or by commenting on
another student’s entry (the latter is highly encouraged). Those discussions are designed to help you
understand the material and its real-world applications while also providing you with an interactive
format to enhance the learning experience.
Grading: ongoing participation (posting at least once in a 5 days period) (80%) and entries showing
interest and understanding of the material (20%)
Please remember that these forums are not optional and are graded.
Extra Credit -- by posting more on the discussion boards you can earn up to 3% more towards your
overall course grade which; to earn this credit you'll need to post more than the required minimum and
to do so consistently

Exams: We will have three exams to be completed online. Each exam will cover about 1/3 of the
material. Exams are open for completion over a 2 day window as specified below – students can
choose when to take the exam within this window and should allow up to 2 hours for completion. Once
you start the exam, you must complete it.
Exams format -- a combination of some but not always all of these: multiple-choice, T/F, matching,
and short answer questions; Exams are open book/open notes (but this should not be the first time you
encounter the material...)
Exam windows: exam I -- June 19-20, exam II -- July 6-7, exam III -- July 25-27
**Important Policies:**
- You are encouraged to argue and debate your opinions with me and your fellow students, but you should always remain respectful and on substance especially when dealing with sensitive issues and ideas.
- Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct would not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the university’s policies and guidelines. Please always consult with me first if you’re not sure what is considered to be plagiarism. Whenever you are using any source – you must cite it. All assignments will be submitted using the scanning and filters of Safe Assign
- You should complete and submit all class assignments and exams on time as they are scheduled. But if you missed a due date, my advice is to still submit the work. Late work will carry a grade penalty per the grading rubrics, but it is still much better than a “0” grade.
  Rescheduled exams are generally not an option unless there is a real emergency, to which you can provide some form of documentation, and of which you notified me at the earliest possible time (by e-mail, voicemail, phone, a message with the department staff, or other form of communication)

**Physical/Learning Disabilities:**
CSI is committed to providing equal access to students with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, located in the Center for the Arts (1P), room 101 (718-982-2510), in order to receive them. Those who are granted such accommodations as note takers, extended exam time, access to a distraction-free environment, etc. by the Office of Disability Services should notify me directly as soon as possible.

**The Writing Center**
Writing is an important part of your college education and is an acquired skill that is critical to your success at CSI and beyond. You are encouraged to visit the Writing Center and use their services. The Writing Center is staffed by a number of highly qualified and trained individuals, who will work with you in direct consultations to develop and perfect your writing skills. To learn more or to make an appointment please call the Writing Center at 718-982-3635, or stop by 2S-216
### Class Schedule, readings, assignments, and tasks (subject to change with notice)

<table>
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<th>Unit/Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Readings, slideshows, and recordings</th>
<th>To Complete</th>
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<td><strong>Module 1:</strong></td>
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| Introduction                        | June 5 – June 12 | Read: The Syllabus  
|                                    |             | Tips and Guidelines  
|                                    |             | Lamy Chapter 1  
|                                    |             | Lamy Chapter 2 (quick read; just skim)  
|                                    |             | Lamy Chapter 4  
| Why study global politics          |             | Slideshows: For chapters 1, 2, & 4  
|                                    |             | Recordings: Chapter 1 part 1 and 2  
| The Nation-State                    |             | Chapter 4                                                                                           |
|                                    |             | Discussion forums: #1 (introductions)  
|                                    |             | #2 (maps)                                                                                           |
|                                    |             | Assignment 1 due by June 12                                                                       |
| **Module 2:**                       |             | Assignment 2 due by June 21                                                                        | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| Levels of Analysis                  | June 13 – June 23 | Read: Lamy Chapters 3  
|                                    |             | Slideshow: For chapter 3  
| Theories:                           |             | Supplemental on theories  
| Realism                             |             | Recordings: Chapter 3  
| Liberalism                          |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| Constructivism                      |             | Discussion forums: #5  
| Radicals                            |             | #6  
|                                    |             | Exam II: July 6-7                                                                                  |
|                                    |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
|                                    |             | Discussion forums: #7  
|                                    |             | #8  
|                                    |             | #9  
|                                    |             | Exam III: July 25-27                                                                               |
| **Module 3:**                       |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| Global Governance                   | June 24 – July 7 | Read: Lamy Chapter 5  
| International Organizations         |             | Slideshow: For chapter 5  
| International law                   |             | Recordings: Chapter 5  
| Other entities                      |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
|                                    |             | Discussion forums: #5  
|                                    |             | #6  
|                                    |             | Exam II: July 6-7                                                                                  |
|                                    |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| **Module 4 & 5**                     |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| Topics I:                           |             | Discussion forums: #7  
| War and Conflict                    | July 8 – July 27 | #8  
|                                    |             | #9  
| International Political Economy     |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
|                                    |             | Discussion forums: #7  
|                                    |             | #8  
|                                    |             | #9  
|                                    |             | Exam III: July 25-27                                                                               |
|                                    |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| **Module 4 & 5**                     |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
| Topics II:                          |             | Discussion forums: #7  
| Human Rights                        |             | #8  
| Development                         |             | #9  
| Global Environment                  |             | Assignment 3 due by July 5  
|                                    |             | Discussion forums: #7  
|                                    |             | #8  
|                                    |             | #9  
|                                    |             | Exam III: July 25-27                                                                               |