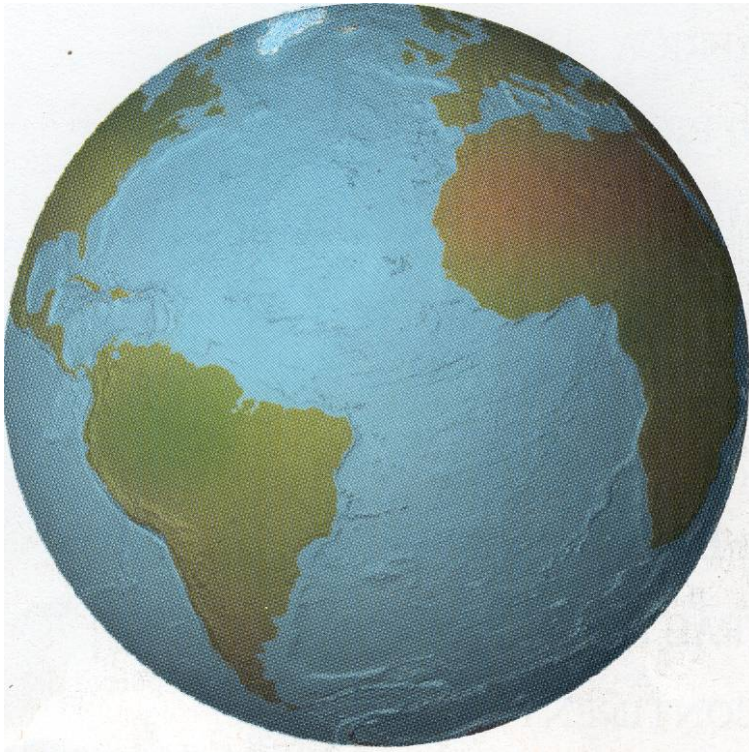


*WELCOME TO YOUR COURSE ON  
Contemporary World Affairs: GLOBAL  
POLITICS, A WORLD OF CONFLICT  
AND COOPERATION!*



**“The introduction to the study of international relations in our time is an introduction to the art and science of the survival of mankind”**

**Karl Deutch (1912-1992)**

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/)

<http://www.ipasa.org/awards/karl-deutsch>

<http://www.templetonprize.org/abouttheprize.html>

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/ WORLD POLITICS

Political Science 7 Section# 1749 Spring Semester 2015

T-TH 9:35-11AM Room: General Classrooms (GC 140)

Instructor: Olga Shewfelt

Office: B4-104 (first floor)

Office Tel: (310) 287-4223

E-mail: shewfeo@wlaac.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, from 11:01 AM-11:36 a.m. in the classroom after class or at my office.

## Course Materials:

1. **Goldstein, S. Joshua: *International Relations*, 10th edition . Longman, New York, 2013-2014 (For instructions on weekly reading materials this book would be referred to as “G.” followed by chapter or page number)**
  2. Lectures, case studies, first sources (documents ) and selected articles from various magazines, newspaper and web links.
  3. Updated political map of the world: <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-political-map.htm>
  4. CIA Factbook at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
  5. U.N. Charter at : <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>
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## Week of **Concepts & Theories**

- 2/10**      **Understanding International Relations. International Politics in a globalized world. Conflict & cooperation among nations & institutions.**  
International Systems, actors and Theories. The Cold & Post Cold War “G” Ch. 1
- 2/17**      **International Security & Power Politics: The School of Realpolitik.**  
The International System Today. 9/11. The West & the Middle East “G” Chapter 2
- 2/24**      **International Political Economy (IPE)**  
Trade Theories, International Trade Regimes & globalization. “G” Chapter 8
- 3/3**      IPE continues.
- 3/10**      **Exam 1**
- 3/12**      **Supranationalism: The European Union.**  
History. Membership. Economic & Political Power. Institutions. “G” Chapter 10.

## **ECONOMIC REGIONS AND CULTURAL BLOCKS**

- 3/17**      **Supranationalism: The European Union, continues.**
- 3/24**      **The New Asia: China & India**  
Economic Development & Political conflicts. “G” Chapter 13
- 3/31**      **Cesar Chavez Holiday. College closed.**
- 4/2**      **The New Asia continues.**
- 4/4-4/10**      **Spring Break. College closed.**
- 4/14**      **The Americas: The United States, NAFTA & The FTAA**  
History: Winners & Losers. “G” Ch. 13 p. 589-590 & handout.
- 4/21**      **Exam II**
- 4/23**      **The North-South Gap.**  
The state of the global North and South & their relations. “G” Chapter 12

## **WORLD POLITICS**

- 4/28**      **The North-South Gap continues.**
- 5/5**      **Diplomacy , International Law & Organizations**  
International Law Sources. UN history, goals & institutions.  
The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human rights violations in the global world. “G” Chapter 7
- 5/8**      *Last day to drop classes with a “W”.*
- 5/12**      **The Environment: resources & population. “G” Chapter 11**
- 5/14**      **Mid-Term paper due.**
- 5/19**      **International Conflict. Theories and Causes of War.**  
G. Chapter 5
- 5/26**      **Foreign Policy & World Leadership: U.S. foreign polic Post 9/11. The War on Terror and the Bush & Obama’s Doctrines. “G” Chapter 4 & Handouts**

## Course Student Learning Objectives:

### 1) Critical Thinking & Communications skills:

The student will be able to differentiate and describe which are the current main actors in world politics such as the Nation-states, IGOs, NGOs, MNCs and other non governmental groups such as terrorist organizations.

Every topic in this course requires a great deal of reading, analysis and comprehension of complex world issues. The student will be able to understand the difference between facts and opinions and between logical arguments and propaganda. The student will be able to list and describe which are the main actors in international relations, which are the global institutions established by the United States in the Bretton Woods Agreement and give examples of other international organizations.

### 2) The student will be able to distinguish and analyze the main political socio-economic forces that dominate world politics today. From liberal capitalist global markets, to regional blocks, Theories of International Relations, global environmental challenges, the North-South Gap and international conflict. This course objective will be graded in the mid-term paper and the final exam.

### 3) Global citizenship .

a) **Civic Responsibility.** “Think globally, act locally” The mid-term paper is designed to encourage the development of a level of awareness and possible participation of each student in an international topic/issue or organization of his/her choice.

b) **Cultural Diversity.** Each student’s cultural background provides all students with the first exposure to the variety of cultures and sub-cultures that form the particular group of students taking this course. Furthermore, a student will be able to differentiate the various complex assumptions/value systems and theories that shape the discipline of International Relations in analyzing specific issues in world politics and assessing these diverse views in the analysis and prediction or formulation of potential solutions.

c) **Ethics:** Topics ranging from human rights and poverty to environmental disasters, require that the student goes beyond the learning of facts, theories, and international law, to examine the cultural and economic/ political values upon which political & economic decisions are made. The student is encouraged to think and formulate ethical alternatives for the resolution of these problems. This aspect of the course is addressed in class discussions and in the conclusion of the position/research paper.

## Grade System:

**3 in-class written exams: 65% of the course grade**

**Term Paper: 25% of the course grade.**

**Class Participation 10%.**

**3 Exams: 65% of your total course grade.**

Exam I & Exam 2 are worth each 20% of your final course grade. The final exam is worth 25%. Each exam has 3 sections: Multiple Choice (25 questions(2pts each=50 points). Be sure to bring a scantron form 882E(100 questions) to your test. Fill-in-section, 5 questions=(2 pts each=10 points) and an Essay Section( 2 essays-each worth 20 pts= 40 pts). These 3 sections add to a total of 100 points, or an “A” letter grade for each exam.

**Term Paper** (7-10 pages paper).This is a very important part of your course learning and grade. It is worth 25% of your total course grade. The student will choose an international topic in the course area of “World Politics” and will take a position on it. I will give you a written rubric with detailed instructions for your paper. Your paper is due on 5/14/15. NO EXTENSIONS!

**Class participation: It is strongly recommended and encouraged! It is 10% of your total course grade!** It includes but is not limited to your class preparation and participation in class discussions,( questions, & comments) and up to 3 short (2-3 pages) homework assignments during the semester. There is NO make ups for this part of your grade.

**Grade Breakdown:**

100% .....A+	88-89% .....B+
94-99%..... A	84-87%.....B
90-93%.....A-	80-83%.....B-
78-79%.....C+	68-69%.....D+
74-77%.....C	64-67%.....D
70-73%.....C-	60-63%.....D-
	59% and below F

*Note: Final course grades will be solid letter grades. No minus or pluses are accepted at the office of admissions and records. Therefore, your final course grade will be the result of computing the percentage value of each one of the 3 exams and the Term Paper. These four grades will made 90% of your final course grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will be determined by the level of your class participation. See the definition of this portion of your grade in the paragraph above the grade breakdown.*

**Make Up Exams:**

If you failed to take an exam on the scheduled date, you may take a make-up exam provided that you present a valid excuse before or immediately after the scheduled exam. **YOU MUST schedule a new exam immediately after the missed exam, and no later than one week from the date of the scheduled regular exam.** If you do not take the make up exam at the agreed upon date and time, your missed exam will be graded with a letter “F”.

**Attendance :** Good attendance is proven to be an essential part of your academic success. I keep strict records of attendance. It is your obligation to attend class and be current with class materials and exams. If you choose to drop this class and you do not want a “W” in your records, you must do so officially with the office of Admissions by 2/20/15. The deadline to drop with a “W” is 5/8/15 If you

don't drop the class officially, you may remain listed as a student in this class even if you are not attending the class, and will be given an "F" as a final course grade. If you fail to attend 3 classes, you will be dropped out from the class. 3 late arrivals or early departures will be considered as one absence.

**Course Materials:**

It consists of the assigned chapters in both books, plus study questions, handouts, videos and lectures. The student is responsible for keeping track of all course materials and studying them for every exam.

**Student Conduct:**

You are expected to abide by the norms of the LACCD Board of Trustees and the California Education Code. (See West Catalog and class schedule). Student use of electronic devices during class, or voice taping and/or video taping of my lectures are not permitted unless there is a written request for accommodation of DSP students, or the use of these devices is directed by the instructor as part of a learning exercise.

**Academic Honor Code: Each student understands and honors the value of academic integrity in all his/her academic endeavors including tests, quizzes, written assignments and final paper. Cheating and plagiarism in a particular test or written assignment will result in an "F" grade for that particular assignment and any other appropriate disciplinary actions related to student conduct.**

**Communication with Instructor:**

**The best way to contact me is after class during my office hours listed on the first page of this syllabus.** However, you can also send me an email to [shewfeo@wla.edu](mailto:shewfeo@wla.edu), or call and leave a message in my office. **Last, ONLY in case of an emergency contact me at my cell phone at (213) 392-0489.**