

## POLS 2401: Global Issues, Summer 2014

CRN 54046, Section 2: TR 12:30–2:50 p.m., Oak Hall 202 (WRC3)

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Office Hours: MTWR 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Oak Hall 109 (WRC3)

► **Catalog Description:** This is a survey of the principal historic forces molding the world today, with a focus on the nation-state and international organizations as responsive to these forces.

► **MGSC Core Requirements:** This course satisfies the “Global Perspectives” requirement in the MGSC Core Curriculum, as well as counting toward Area E in most associate’s and bachelor’s degree programs.

► **Expected Learning Outcome:** Students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcome, common to all sections of this course, in order to receive a passing grade (D or above):

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the key features of the international system and approaches to studying international politics.

Achievement of this outcome will be assessed as part of a comprehensive final examination for the course.

**Required Materials:** There are two books required for this course:

Bova, Russell. 2011. *How the World Works: A Brief Survey of International Relations*, 2nd ed. New York: Pearson. ISBN 978-0-205-08240-7.

Bova, Russell. 2009. *Readings on How the World Works: Current Issues in International Relations*. New York: Pearson. ISBN 978-0-321-40999-7.

They should be available, new and used, at the Middle Georgia State College bookstore location in Warner Robins; you may also be able to rent or purchase them on-line at a discount. You can also obtain the main textbook as an e-book rental online at [http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/5341742/9780205083114?\\_hdv=6.8](http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/5341742/9780205083114?_hdv=6.8). However, please note that e-book readers and other electronic devices *may not* be used during class.

**Note:** You are required to own, or have access to, a copy of each of the textbooks for the duration of the course (through the final examination).

Additional readings may be assigned at my discretion; I will provide them for you at the library reserve desk, on the course’s Desire2Learn site, or as handouts in class.

**Grades:** Your final grade in this course will be based on the following elements, weighted as follows:

Midterm Exam	25%	Participation	5%
Final Exam	25%	Group Presentation	10%
Quizzes	20%	Short Paper	15%

The overall average posted in Desire2Learn throughout the semester will also be weighted as above. *Your grade is not simply based on “adding up points” as it may be in some of your other courses.* You can review your current grades at any time in D2L.

The final grade in the course reported to the registrar will be converted based on this scale:

Final Weighted Average	Grade	Grade Points	Catalog Description
90.0 or above	A	4.0	Excellent work
80.0–89.9	B	3.0	Good work
70.0–79.9	C	2.0	Satisfactory work
60.0–69.9	D	1.0	Passing work
59.9 or below	F	0.0	Failing work

Numeric grades will only be reported for students in joint enrollment programs. At the college level, only the final letter grade in the course is part of your permanent record.

► **Grading Philosophy:** Your grades will be earned based my judgment of your performance in meeting the learning objectives of the course, and not on the basis of good intentions, whether or not you agree with my political or ideological views (you probably don't), or how much effort you put in to the course. To judge your performance comprehensively, my grading may include both objective and subjective assessments; sometimes there is a clear "right" answer, sometimes there is no one "right" answer, and sometimes there are a number of potential responses that vary in completeness and correctness, and so my approach to grading differs based on that reality. My commitment to you is that I will assign fair and appropriate grades, in a reasonably timely manner,<sup>1</sup> according to this philosophy, based on the work that is presented for grading. If at any time you believe I have not met that standard, see the section on "Grade Appeals" below.

► **Exams:** There will be two closed-book, in-class examinations, a midterm examination and a final examination, on the dates that are indicated on the syllabus, covering the assigned materials. Per departmental policy, the final examination is *comprehensive* and will cover *all* of the course materials. Exams may include multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions; they may also include items tested in previous quizzes or assignments.

During exams, no discussion among students is permitted of any kind, and all electronic devices (cell phones, calculators, pagers, computers, etc.) must be **switched off and stored away**.

► **Map Quizzes:** There will be six in-class *map quizzes* based on the maps included at the beginning of *How the World Works*, each focusing on one geographic region of the world. The map quizzes will call on you to identify countries, important cities, or other important geographical features (including bodies of water, rivers, and mountain ranges) in the assigned geographic region. These quizzes will be closed-book, with no notes, discussion, or collaboration permitted.

► **Reading/Lecture Quizzes:** There will be additional in-class quizzes based on the readings and in-class lectures; most will be announced at least one class period in advance, although some quizzes may be unannounced. These quizzes will be closed-book, with no notes, discussion, or collaboration permitted. Other brief in-class assignments may also count toward this grade.

► **Short Paper:** There is a short paper assignment as well; details on this paper assignment will be announced in class and/or posted in Desire2Learn.

► **Group Presentation:** After the midterm exam, students will be assigned to groups to develop a group presentation to the class on a contemporary international conflict or issue chosen by the professor. The group will be responsible for making a 15–20 minute presentation to the class on a day designated by the professor that describes the conflict or issue and presents perspectives from multiple approaches on how the United States or other important actors in the global system should attempt to resolve or otherwise manage the issue or conflict in question.

► **Participation:** The remainder of your final grade will be based on your level of participation in class. Your class attendance may be a factor in determining this grade; see below for details.

► **Exam and Quiz Content:** Questions on examinations and quizzes may be drawn from the textbook, materials presented in lecture, and/or additional materials provided by the instructor as announced in class or in Desire2Learn.

**Contacting the Professor:** My regularly-scheduled office hours are listed above. During those times, I generally do not schedule appointments; rather, meetings are "first come, first serve." When I am not busy with a student in-person, I will also be available "virtually" at these times by phone or web chat. If you wish to make a confirmed appointment to see me *outside* my scheduled hours, please do so at least two business days in advance. If you do contact me outside my office hours, please bear in mind that my other work and personal obligations may be on a different schedule than what is convenient for you; for example, I may be in class, in the midst of research, or at a meeting. Except under extraordinary circumstances, I will always get back to you within one business day, and frequently sooner.

If you call outside my office hours, please avoid leaving voice mail or messages with college staff; it is an

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<sup>1</sup>You should expect the grading of written work to generally take between 5 and 10 business days.

incredibly unproductive and inefficient means of communication. You will usually receive a much quicker response by email.

To protect the privacy of your educational records, all discussion regarding grades or other confidential information must be conducted in person, via Desire2Learn, or via your official *mga.edu* email address; I will not discuss confidential information over the phone or via any non-school email address. If you have not yet activated your official college email address, please see <http://www.mga.edu/technology/email.aspx> for detailed instructions.

**When contacting me outside of class, please be sure to specify both the course and section you are in, as it will allow me to respond more quickly to you.**

Finally, while you may find me in various guises on various social media sites, I will not “friend” current or past students who are still enrolled as undergraduates; please do not take this personally.

**Class Policies:** I believe that for our class to be successful, we must establish a supportive and respectful environment in the classroom and related settings (such as the class website on Desire2Learn). Accordingly, disruptive behaviors such as repeated tardiness, side conversations, reading materials unrelated to the course (such as the student newspaper), or use of communication technologies (e.g., web browsing/IMing/texting during class) will adversely affect your grade; repeated or egregious disruptive behavior may result in you being asked to leave class for the day, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

► **Electronic devices:** In the past I have found that while a few students are able to use laptops and tablets effectively as note-taking aids in the classroom, the vast majority find it difficult to avoid distractions from email, Facebook, and other sources online. Ordinarily this wouldn’t cause much of a problem, but in the classroom setting this creates what social scientists refer to as “negative externalities”; specifically, when you’re watching that funny YouTube video of the monkey washing a cat, everyone around you is also going to see it and be distracted too. Accordingly, I ask that you mute or switch off your cell phones and any alarms during class, and refrain from using laptops, tablets, e-readers, “smart” or “dumb” phones, and other portable electronic devices during class. There may be times in class when I *specifically* ask you to use your cell phone or a laptop or tablet (for example, to participate in a web-based activity); on these occasions, of course, it would be OK to do so.

► **Extra credit:** To be fair to all students, I do not offer individualized extra-credit opportunities. If you believe you might benefit from extra credit, I strongly advise you take advantage of any opportunities offered to the whole class as they are announced over the term.

► **Notes:** I do not provide lecture notes for students under any circumstances. If you miss class, you will have to rely on the generosity of a classmate or make use of any materials provided on the textbook website or its study guide, if applicable. (Students with disabilities who require notes or other learning environment accommodations should consult with me and the MGSC Disability Services Office to arrange notetaking assistance.)

You may make audio recordings of in-class lectures; recordings are for your own, personal use, and may not be shared with students who are not enrolled in this course.

► **Revisions to the syllabus:** While I will make every effort to follow the syllabus as-written, if unforeseen circumstances arise during the semester I reserve the right to amend any policy in this syllabus.

► **Attendance and absence policy:** To encourage regular attendance and participation in class, I will take daily attendance.

Attendance is an important factor considered when assigning students’ participation grades; however, perfect attendance does not guarantee a perfect participation grade, and it is possible, but perhaps unlikely, that you could receive a perfect participation grade if you have missed a class or two.

Arriving late, leaving early, or unexplained/frequent trips outside of the room during class time for non-medical reasons will adversely affect your participation grade.

Students who have not attended any classes as of the reporting period (generally, during the second week of classes) may be reported as a “no-show” and may lose financial aid as a result. Failure to attend after midterm, without formally withdrawing from the course, may also have serious financial aid consequences. Please refer to

the “Satisfactory Academic Progress” policy on the Financial Aid website for details.

► **Make-ups:** Make-up examinations must be scheduled in advance in the case of an unavoidable planned or reasonably-foreseeable absence; otherwise, make-ups will be given only in the case of an illness or other emergency that is properly documented, after the fact. To be fair to all students, make-up exams must be completed within two weeks of the originally scheduled exam date; also, make-up exams may be administered in a different format than the original exam offered to the rest of the class, at my sole discretion.

Make-up quizzes will not be arranged under any circumstances. There are also no make-ups for missed classes; however, students with an excused absence will receive credit for attending any classes missed with a valid excuse (such as student illness or participation in class-related or sponsored activities), and any missed in-class quiz will be dropped from the grade.

**Late Assignments:** Late papers will be penalized 25 percentage points per 24-hour period they are late; after 96 hours, no papers will be accepted for credit or graded.

Notwithstanding this policy, any work received after the scheduled final examination will not be graded, resulting in a zero (0) on any assignments outstanding at that point in the semester. (Please refer to the college policy on incomplete grades, discussed below, for exceptions.)

► **Grade Appeals:** Like everyone else, I am fallible and sometimes make mistakes. If I simply misrecorded a grade (for example, if I enter “70” in the gradebook when you earned an “80”) or made an arithmetic error, please bring me the returned assignment, and I will immediately correct the error.

If you believe you received an *unjust* grade, I am happy to discuss the grading of the assignment with you, in-person during regular office hours or at a scheduled appointment; please bring the graded assignment with you so we can have a productive conversation. If you remain unsatisfied with my explanation of the grade, to give us both ample time to consider the dispute, you will need to type a brief (one-page) explanation of your position and turn it in, along with the original graded assignment, *at least one week after* the assignment was originally returned to you. I will then consider your appeal and make a determination. Appeals must be submitted in hard copy format; no appeals submitted via email will be considered. Please refer to the Student Handbook and Catalog for policies regarding appeals of *final letter grades*.

► **Academic Misconduct:** I take academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, cheating on exams and plagiarism of written work) very seriously. So does Middle Georgia State College.

You are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the Student Code of Conduct; this is included in the current edition of the Student Handbook, which is available online at [http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/docs/MGSC\\_Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.mga.edu/student-affairs/docs/MGSC_Student_Handbook.pdf).

In this course the *minimum* penalty for academic misconduct is a grade of zero (0) on the assignment in question, with no opportunity to repeat the assignment, along with referral to the testing center to complete an examination on plagiarism, cheating, and the Student Code of Conduct. Second or subsequent violations, or egregious misconduct (for example, an organized effort to cheat involving multiple students, or academic misconduct that causes harm to other students), will automatically be referred to the Office of Student Affairs for a college-level resolution which may include a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, and/or academic suspension.

I offer some free advice, drawn from past experience as both a student and a professor: do not turn in plagiarized work because you have run out of time and feel as if you need to turn in *something*—taking the late penalty is better than the sanctions for academic misconduct. Similarly, if you forgot to study, it’s better to get a low grade on the exam than the zero you’ll get if you cheat.

One of the early computer programmers, Admiral Grace Hopper, is reported to have said that “[i]t’s easier to ask forgiveness than it is to get permission.” That advice does not apply in this situation. If you have the slightest doubt about whether something is academic misconduct, *ask me before handing in the assignment for grading*.

► **Plagiarism Prevention Policy:** A plagiarism prevention service is used in evaluation of written work submitted for this course. As directed, you are expected to submit or have their assignments submitted through the service in order to meet requirements for this course. The papers may be retained by the service for the sole purpose of

checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

► **Disability Accommodations:** While you are welcome to discuss any special needs with me in private, to be fair to all students, accommodations are only provided when supported by appropriate documentation from MGSC Disability Services (478-471-2985; Student Life Building, Room 266; <http://www.mga.edu/ds>).

► **Tutoring:** Middle Georgia State College provides tutoring services for political science courses, free of charge, on its campuses. In Warner Robins, the Academic Resource Center on the first floor of Oak Hall provides tutoring services. Hours when political science tutors are available are posted at the ARC website, <http://www.mga.edu/arc>. Note, however, that tutoring is not a substitute for completing the assigned readings, reviewing the lectures, and regular class attendance. All students are encouraged to take advantage of these *free* services.

**Withdrawal Deadlines:** The last day to drop the course without it appearing on your transcript is Monday, June 2. Students may withdraw from the course and earn a grade of “W” up to and including the midterm date, which occurs on Wednesday, June 25. After this point, students who withdraw will receive a grade of “WF.” The MGSC Withdrawal Form, which is available online or in the Office of the Registrar, *must be signed by the instructor in advance of withdrawal*.

**Course Outline:** Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class and will be posted to the course calendar and in Desire2Learn. We will not necessarily read books in the order they appear on the syllabus; please be sure you read the correct chapters *in advance of* the designated class dates.

While I may periodically remind students of upcoming scheduled events, it is ultimately **your responsibility** to be familiar with this schedule and any changes to it.

**Class Schedule:** Please note that the reading next to a specific date or set of dates is the reading that is required *prior* to the class in question. *HTWW* is an abbreviation for the primary text, *How the World Works*. *Readings* refers to the companion text, *Readings on How the World Works*.

On the full schedule below, some dates have the annotation *MQ* next to them; these are dates of map quizzes. Reading quizzes (announced or unannounced) will be scheduled on days there is not a map quiz. Both types of quiz will be at the *beginning of class*; after the quiz, we will cover additional material.

Date	Topic	Reading(s)
May 29	Introduction to the Course	HTWW 1, pp. 1–8
Jun 3	Realism and Its Alternatives	HTWW 1, pp. 8–31; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 1
Jun 5 (MQ1)	The History of the International System	HTWW 2; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 2
Jun 10 (MQ2)	Levels of Analysis	HTWW 3; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 3
Jun 12, 17 (MQ3)	War in International Politics	HTWW 4; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 4
Jun 19	<b>Midterm Exam: Chapters 1–4</b>	
Jun 24, 26 (MQ4)	International Law and Organization	HTWW 5; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 5
Jul 1	Human Rights in International Politics	HTWW 6; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 6
Jul 3	<b>No Class—Independence Day Holiday</b>	
Jul 8 (MQ5)	Economic Integration and Globalization	HTWW 7; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 7
Jul 10	Transnational Challenges	HTWW 8; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 8
Jul 15 (MQ6)	Potential Futures of the International Order	HTWW 9; <i>Readings</i> , Ch. 9
Jul 17	<b>Group Presentations</b>	
Jul 22	<b>No Class—IPSA Conference</b>	

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, July 29, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

► **Map Quizzes:** Scheduled as below.

Quiz	Date	Area/Region
MQ1	Jun 5	North America
MQ2	Jun 10	South America
MQ3	Jun 17	Africa
MQ4	Jun 26	Europe
MQ5	Jul 8	The Middle East
MQ6	Jul 15	South Asia, East Asia, and Oceania