

**Los Angeles Mission College**

**Political Science 7: Contemporary World Affairs**, Spring Semester 2008, Section 0323

**Instructor: Som Chounlamountry**

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## **I. Mission College Catalog Course Description**

### **7 CONTEMPORARY WORLD AFFAIRS**

Prerequisite: None | Lecture: 3 hours. UC:CSU 3 UNITS RPT1

Deals with dynamics of geo-politics of international relations, causes of revolution, war and peace between major European powers, U.S., former Soviet Union, Peoples Republic of China and the Third World. Acceptable for credit: UCLA, CSUN: Political Science 225.

## **II. Course Overview**

This course examines relations among nation-states, and explores why countries sometimes cooperate and sometimes go to war. The international system of states, intergovernmental organizations like the UN, WTO, and NATO, and non-governmental actors like Amnesty International and al-Qaeda, are studied for their impact on interstate processes. Topics include war and peace, terrorism, international trade and finance, and diplomacy.

This survey course introduces students to the international system: (1) Who the major actors are (nation-states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations), (2) What organizational principles and structural factors (institutions) influence the actions and behaviors of the actors (war-peace), and, (3) the evolution of the international system from bi-polar configurations of power during the Cold War to the present globalization trends.

### **Content Standards**

Upon completion of PS 7, students will know about the expanding number of actors (nations, international organizations and multinational enterprises) and factors (including communications, technology proliferation, and economic integration) shaping the structure and evolution of the international system.

### **Application Standards**

Students will be able to (1) analyze from print and electronic media sources how the growing diversity of nation-states and their domestic political processes are making the functioning of the international system increasing complex, (2) evaluate the structural processes between highly industrial and developing countries that are influencing trade flows and financial stability, and, (3) identify the emerging new forms of international political interaction between actors (e.g., ad hoc protests against the WTO, and the IMF).

## **II. Required Texts/Materials**

Joshua Goldstein and Jon Pevehouse, *International Relations, 8th Edition*, New York: Longman, 2008.

### III. Assessment

Assessment & Date Due	Points	%	Your
Online Discussions 1 to 7 (March 17 <sup>th</sup> by 11 pm)	50 points	10%	
Midterm Exam (March 21 <sup>st</sup> by 11 pm. Take only one.)	100 points	20%	
Online Discussions 8 to 14 (May 19 <sup>th</sup> by 11 pm)	50 points	10%	
Online Quizzes on Welcome & Chapter Readings	50 points	10%	
Research Paper Part I (April 18 <sup>th</sup> by 11 pm)	65 point	13%	
Research Paper Part II (May 9 <sup>th</sup> by 11 pm)	35 points	7%	
Final Exam (Monday, May 27 <sup>th</sup> by 11 pm. Take only one.)	150 points	30%	

Grade	Point Totals	Assessment Criteria
A	450-500 points	Indicates mastery of the relevant course standards
B	400-449 points	Indicates above average proficiency of the relevant course standards
C	350-399 points	Indicates satisfactory proficiency of the relevant course standards
D	300-349 points	Indicates partial proficiency of the relevant course standards
F	0-299 points	Indicates little or no proficiency of the relevant course standards

**Weekly Online Discussions of Readings and Video Clips from Newshour:** Each week, students are required to participate in online discussions. It is required you post an Original Posting consisting of at least an one-paragraph reaction to the questions posed in the Discussions and Private Messaging. It is suggested that you compose your response in a word processor and then cut and copy your response to the Assignment section and also the Discussion Forum. Please read other students comments and reactions. It is required each students QUOTE and comment on another student's reaction.

To receive credit, students will simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) their original response to the question and their reply of another student's posting into the text book of the appropriate assignment in the ASSIGNMENTS section. To receive full points you must submit a copy of your REPLY and QUOTE as an ASSIGNMENT to be graded. Some assignments have been combined for your convenience.

**Research Paper:** Each student will write a 7 to 10 page research paper based on scholarly sources on a current topic of international politics to be assigned by the instructor. All papers must be double-spaced, and paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), have standard margin, and use APA citations.

**Online Quizzes:** All the quizzes will be AVAILABLE according to the ETUDES-NG schedule. Students may take the quizzes anytime during the AVAILABLE period. Once a student has elected to OPEN a quiz, it must be completed within 30 minutes. It is important to have reliable access to the internet and to be able to log on to ETUDES-NG. Although the quizzes are open

most of the semester, it is recommended that all quizzes be completed by the due date in preparations for Exams. Practice Quizzes are available in the MODULES area.

**Online Exams:** Both the Midterm and the Final Exam will be given online. You will have 2 hours to finish each exam once opened. You may use your textbook and lectures notes. However you must cite the source of the information that you are using to AVOID PLAGIARISM. You ARE NOT permitted to cut or paste ANY material from other sources or this will constitute CHEATING. Review sheets are in the MODULES Area. Please practice your outlines and essays and answer them completely and thoroughly. TAKE EACH ONLY ONCE. IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, EMAIL [chounlam@usc.edu](mailto:chounlam@usc.edu) IMMEDIATELY.

**Late Assignments, Early Exams and Exam Make-ups:** Late assignments will result in a lower score, unless otherwise noted one grade level per school day for that assignment. Early exams are not allowed except under conditions of a make-up exam. Make-up assignments will be available only in cases of demonstrated medical emergencies, religious holidays, or university business. Typically a make-up exam will be taken at the end of the semester and may have a different format than the original.

**Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:** As university students, you are a member of an academic community that strives to maintain the highest standards of academic quality. Students engaging in cheating or plagiarizing, will receive zero (0) points for that assignment or exam. Further disciplinary action may be taken, including failing the class and/or reporting to the university.

**Policy on Withdrawals:** You are responsible for withdrawing from courses in which you enrolled. College policy on withdrawals applies. Please refer to current Catalog and Schedule of classes for more detailed guidelines. IF YOU DO NOT MAKE PROGRESS YOU MAY BE DROPPED BY THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK ON DURING EXCLUSION WEEK.

**Policy on reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities:** The Students with Disabled Student Programs and Services can be reached on (818) 364-7732. For students with disabilities the DSP&S office provides special assistance areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals, and job placement.

#### **IV. ETUDES-NG and Email Etiquette**

**ETUDES-NG:** Students are required to access the ETUDES-NG site for this course.

**Email Etiquette:** Your real name will be identified as “Sender.”

**Use the Subject Line:** All email in this course must be addressed as if it were a business letter, including on the subject line the student’s Full Name, Class Number and Topic of the correspondence. The content must be formatted as a business letter, including a Real Name Signature and Phone Number. Emails not fulfilling these requirements will be considered spam or spyware and may not be opened by the instructor. Again, be sure that your real name appears as the sender, not the email address. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours, except for the weekends. Please follow up with another email if there is no response.

## V. Schedule (Please check ETUDES-NG for changes)

Week & Meetings	Reading & Deadline	Topics
Week 1 (2/4 to 2/8) Week 2 (2/11 to 2/15) Week 3 (2/18 to 2/22) <b>Email Som</b> <a href="mailto:chounlam@usc.edu">chounlam@usc.edu</a> Full Name, Class & Section #, Brief Bio, Major, Phone & Joke	Chapter 1: The Globalization of International Relations Chapter 2: Power Politics Chapter 3: Alternatives to Power Politics  <b>Quiz1: Welcome Quiz due ASAP</b> <b>Quiz2: Ch. 1-3 due Feb 22</b>	Welcome, Syllabus & Course Overview, Form Groups Study of IR Actors and Influences Global Geography International Systems Realism, Power, Alliances Alternatives to Power Politics
Week 4 (2/25 to 2/29) Week 5 (3/3 to 3/7) Week 6 (3/10 to 3/14) Week 7 (3/17 to 3/21)	Chapter 4: Foreign Policy Chapter 5: International Conflict Chapter 6: Military Force and Terrorism  <b>Quiz3: Ch. 4-6 due Mar 14</b> <b>Discussion 1 to 7 due Mar 17</b>	FP Formulation: Decision Making, Domestic Politics International Conflict, Wars, Ideas and Interest Conventional Warfare, WMD, Terrorism
<b>Midterm Exam on Mar 21<sup>st</sup> by 11PM</b>		
<b>Week 8 (3/24 to 3/28)</b> <b>Spring Break</b>	<b>No Classes</b>	<b>THINK ABOUT RESEARCH PAPER</b>
Week 10: (4/7 to 4/11) Week 11: (4/14 to 4/18) Week 12: (4/21 to 4/25) Week 13: (4/28 to 5/2)	Chapter 7: International Organization, Law, and Human Rights Chapter 8: International Trade Chapter 9: Money and Business Chapter 10: International Integration <b>Paper Part I due Apr 18</b> <b>Quiz4: Ch. 7-10 due May 2</b>	Roles of IO, United Nations International Law, Sovereignty, Human Rights Theories of trade, Trade Regimes, Globalization Money, Currency System, Multinational Business Supranationalism, Integration, European Union
Week 14: (5/5 to 5/9) Week 15: (5/12 to 5/16) Week 16: (5/19 to 5/23)	Chapter 11: Environment and Population Chapter 12: The North-South Gap Chapter 13: International Development  <b>Paper Part II Due May 9</b> <b>Discussions 8 to 14 due May 19</b> <b>Quiz5: Ch. 11-13 due May 23</b>	Environment, Natural Resources, Population State of the South, Accumulation Theories, Imperialism Industrialization, North-South Capital Flows, Foreign Assistance
<b>Final Exam: Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> by 11 PM</b>		

## VI. ETUDES-NG Tutorials

<http://www.lacitycollege.edu/online/menu.htm> Tutorials Courtesy of Sarah Phinney at Porterville College.



The ETUDES-NG Portal is located at <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

Access to classes is determined by semester start date and/or instructor preference. Student user IDs and *initial* passwords are automatically generated.

Your unique username is:

\*First two letters of your first name, plus the

\*First two letters of your last name, plus the

\*Last five digits of your NEW student identification number.

Your password is: \* The Month and Day of your birthday, *as given in the school records*, with the format MMDD

*This password information applies to students accessing Etudes for the first time. Changes you make to your account, including your password, will persist to new semesters.*

Each tour will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. For Tours 1- 5, you will need the Flash player plug-in to take these tours. If you don't have the Flash player, you can [download the free Flash player here](#).

- [Tour 1 - Logging In](#)
- [Tour 2 - Reading Modules and Participating in Discussions](#)
- [Tour 3 - Taking a Test](#)
- [Tour 4 - Submitting an Assignment](#)
- [Tour 5 - Sending a Private Message](#)
  - Note: This is for communicating with other students. Please email instructor at [chounlam@usc.edu](mailto:chounlam@usc.edu)
- [Tour 6 - Discussion Forums Overview](#)
- [Tour 7 - Test Center Overview](#)

## VI. Weekly Online Discussion Grading Rubric

	Quality	Relevance	Contribution	Bigger Picture	Quote
Excellent 100%	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.	Clear reference to assignment or prior posting being discussed	Furtheres the discussion with questions, or statements that encourage others to respond.	Clearly connects the posting to text or reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.
Fair 75%	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,	Some reference but taken out of context, the reader would not understand.	Participates, but does not post anything that encourages others to respond to the posting.	Vague or possible connection to reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,
Poor 50%	Responds, but with minimum effort or detail. (i.e. "I agree with the statement")	Posting is attached to the right discussion board, but does not clearly reflect the assignment.	Less than required number of postings. Does not further any discussions	Mentions the videos, text or previous activity without logical link to topic.	Responds, but with minimum effort. (i.e. "I agree with Bob")