

## World Politics

**Political Science 231 -002, Fall 2007 T/R 2:30 – 3:45pm**  
**003, Fall 2007 Friday 2:30- 5:20pm**

Instructor : Fumiko Sasaki  
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### 1, Course Objectives

The goal of this course is for the students to understand how the world politics works, and why so. To achieve this goal, the students will first acquire the tools to analyze, understand, criticize, and challenge the political events and phenomena in the world through the course. They includes IR theories, Historical perspective, Economic aspects, International Laws etc. Then we will apply such tools in practice to examine current issues in the world. We will learn, for example, what is the problem, why it is so, how it becomes a problem, what should be done, and what will be the desired situation in the Iraq War. The study here will deepen our understanding and to train critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, and developing new interest and ideas.

### 2, Structure and sequences of class activities

The class consists of the following matters: lectures, discussions, midterm exam, final exam, and Research Paper, today's topic.

Lectures: will be based on the textbook, but not limited to it. The topic of each class is on the following pages. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters in advance.

Discussions: I believe that Socratic dialogue ( Q & A ) as the best way to develop and understand the issue in question. So I will throw some questions or problems which will enable the student understand better the world. Students are expected to participate actively, and not to leave any questions and issues unsolved.

**Midterm: is due on March 20<sup>th</sup> (Tu) for 002 , and March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Fri) for 003.** It is closed-book sit-down exam on the issue covered earlier. Essay style. It will not take more than one hour.

**Final exam : is due May 8 ( Tu) 3:10 pm for 002, and May 11<sup>th</sup> ( Fri) 2:30 for 003.** It is

also closed-book, sit-down exam on the issue covered throughout the course. Essay style. It will be one-hour exam.

Research Paper: Students are assigned to make a research paper on any issue they choose. Each student must have a presentation of their research about 10min. The research must include the analysis of what the issue is, why it is so, what is its background, what should be done, what is the desirable situation.

Today's Topic : Students are expected to pick up one article or essay from newspaper, magazine, or internet on the world politics every class. The subject and country are their choice. I will ask some students at the beginning of every class to report briefly their topic. No specific analysis is required, but opinion is. No written paper of this report is necessary.

### **3, Textbooks**

Charles W. Kegley Jr. Gregory A Raymond, *The Global Future: A Brief Introduction to World Politics*, 2005 Thomson

### **4, Grading procedures**

The grade consists of the following: Class participation ( including Today's Topic ) 20%  
Midterm 20%  
Final 30%  
Research Paper 30%

### **5, Course policies**

Attendance -- required for all classes except emergency.  
Cheating -- strictly prohibited.

### **6, Statement for students with physical disabilities**

“ Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his other abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities ”

## **7, Class Schedule**

Week 1, Orientation

Week 2, What is social science? What is Political Science?

Week 3, Exploring Twenty-First Century World Politics ( Chap 1)

Week 4, Theories of World Politics ( Chap 2)

Week 5, Foreign Policy Decision Making ( Chap 3)

Week 6, Great –Power Rivalry and the Lure of Hegemony , Cycles of War and Peace in Modern World History ( Chap. 4 )

Week 7, Rich and Poor in World Politics: The Plight of the Global South ( Chap 5)

Week 8, Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance ( Chap 6)

Week 9, Midterm Exam / Armed Conflict in the Twenty–First Century ( Chap 7)

Week 10, Military Power and National Security in a Turbulent World ( Chap 8)

Week 11, Realist Paths to Peace: Alliances, Arms Control, and the Balance of Power ( Chap 9 )

Week 12, Liberal Paths to Peace: International Law and Organization (Chap. 10)

Week 13, The Globalization of World Politics ( Chap 11 )

Week 14, Markets and Money in a Global Political Economy (Chap 12 )

Week 15, Human Rights and the Quest for Global Justice / Population Growth, Resource Scarcity, and the Preservation of the Global Environment ( Chap 13, 14)

**Final 002 May 8<sup>th</sup> , 003, May 11<sup>th</sup>**