

# **Dakota College Course Syllabus**

**Course Prefix/Number/Title:**

POLS 220 – International Politics

**Course Description:**

Concepts, theories, and issues in international relations. This course is an introduction to international politics with an emphasis on the international system, the major actors, the struggle for power, and the historical drive for that power.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have an understanding of political science worldwide – as well as the social, religious, economic, and diplomatic implications of the actions of nation-states. A relation to both historical underpinnings and current events will also allow the student to better understand the world outside the United States, a very important task in today's global constructs. Finally, the student will grasp the challenges looming for humanity to overcome in future years.

**Instructor:**

Steven J. Sathre

**Office:**

Thatcher Hall 2206

**Office Hours:**

MWF 9:00-10:00

**Phone:**

701-228-5456

**Email:**

steve.sathre@dakotacollege.edu

**Lecture/Lab Schedule:**

T-Th 2:00-3:15  
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**Textbook(s):**

*Essential Readings in World Politics*, Mingst, Karen, Norton Publishing, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 2008.

*Thirteen Days*, Robert F. Kennedy

*The Essential Writings*, Karl Marx

*The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair

*The Prince*, Machiavelli

*Walden Two*, B.F. Skinner

Various Handouts

**Course Requirements:**

The formula for grades is as follows.

6 exams (non-cumulative), 25 pts. each = 150 pts.

10 quizzes, 2 pts. each = 20 pts.

1 essay (details to follow) = 30 pts.

Total pts. available = 200 pts.

90-100% - 180-200pts. = A

80-90% - 160-179pts. = B

70-80% - 140-159pts. = C

60-70% - 120-139pts. = D

<59% - <119pts. = F

No Incompletes will be given.

Exams will be multiple choice and essay format. They are not cumulative. Closed book and notes. Assume you will be taking the final exam on Friday, May 12 - taking the exam early is not an option.

Quizzes will be 2 questions and given randomly. They cannot be made up under any circumstances. They cover material in that week's reading and are short answer in form.

The essay is thesis-based, 1800 words at minimum and written in *Chicago Style* format.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Week 1

Introduction to Political Science as a Social Science

Week 2

The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations

Week 3

The Historical Context of Contemporary International Relations

**Exam #1**

Week 4

Marxism and Communism

Week 5

The International System

**Exam #2**

Week 6

Democracy

Week 7

The Role of the Individual in World Politics

Week 8

International Organizations, Human Rights and Genocide

**Exam #3**

Week 9

War

Week 10

Spring Break

Week 11

Mitigating the Causes of War

**Exam #4**

Week 12

Mercenaries, Guerillas and Terrorists – Oh My!

Week 13

International Political Economies

Week 14

Globalization

**Exam #5**

Week 15

Gender and Race

Week 16  
Environmental Issues

Week 17  
Future Challenges

### **Finals**

Date and time to be determined

## **General Education Goals/Objectives**

### Goal 4: Demonstrates effective communication

#### Objective 1: Expresses ideas through effective writing

Skill 1: Uses the stages of the writing process to develop, organize, and present ideas in writing

Skill 2: Analyzes the demands and possible strategies of a writing task, based on topic, purpose, context, and audience, and then accomplish that task with clarity

Skill 3: Demonstrates competent writing that includes a clear, original thesis or claim, appropriate evidence and support, a logical structure, and a style of language that serves the writer's purpose and audience

Skill 4: Uses Edited Standard Written English in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax, and presents written work in a style and format consistent with the demands of an academic setting

### **Relationship to Campus Theme:**

A focus on the interaction between natural resources and the development of the United States. Discovering how technological developments have affected the history of the American population. Reviewing the political process of the United States and reflecting on how future events hinge on current decisions.

### **Classroom Policies:**

Reading the assigned text is the student's responsibility, and is essential to success in this course. It should be noted though that it is in your best academic interest to read material *before* the week of lecture/discussion as to aid in your understanding. Any deadlines are final and your work is due on the day specified (11:59:59 PM). Any late work will not be accepted for full credit.

Please refrain from doing anything that might be disruptive and disturb other students or the instructor, such as chronically arriving late, leaving early, talking with neighbors, or texting. Turn all electronic junk off. This class does not require the use of a laptop computer, therefore they are not allowed to be operated in lecture periods.

This academic environment is an open and harassment free one. Participation within the classroom is highly encouraged and is an integral part of the higher education experience. Ask questions – comment on discussions.

**Academic Integrity:**

*Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary* defines plagiarism as: "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work." There will be *zero tolerance* of any form of academic dishonesty. If any evidence appears of students not doing their own work, plagiarism, or outright cheating on quizzes/exams, the matter will be investigated. If it is concluded that such dishonesty occurred, the student in question will receive an automatic "F" for the course. Furthermore, the matter will be reported to the appropriate university office and the instructor will participate in any proceedings against the guilty party.

**Disabilities and Special Needs:**

Please inform the professor within the first week of classes if any assistance is required due to disabilities or special needs.