

**Syllabus
INR 3203
WORLD POLITICS**

MW 18:25-21:05

Professor: Eric Messersmith

Course Name: World Politics

Instructor: Eric Messersmith, Ph.D. office: VH 222 by appt.

305-348-0227

Number/Section: INR 3203/Sect. 01 email: messerse@fiu.edu

Introduction:

The end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union ushered in a new era of international politics, one that people have been trying to get a handle on ever since. This course will challenge all of us to try and figure out what forces are driving world events and how we as Americans should respond. What is more important, ideology, culture, or power? What lies ahead, order or chaos? What is democracy? How strong is the United States, and for what purposes should it use its strength? How vulnerable is it, and what must it do for protection? The class will address these and many other questions, often directly engaging us in arguments and educating the rest of us in the process.

Core Text:



Global Politics

9/e, ©2008

[James Lee Ray](#), Vanderbilt University

[Juliet Kaarbo](#), University of Kansas

ISBN-13: 978-0-618-78343-4 ©2008

ISBN -10: 0-618-78343-1

578 Pages Paper

Rules and Obligations

Students are asked to have read the assignments prior to class. Punctuality counts! (those arriving more than 10 minutes late will be penalized ½ % of their attendance grade for that class). There will be no make-up exams except under extraordinary circumstances and in the sole determination of the instructor. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES!**

Although this course is designed as a lecture format, students are encouraged to interact with the subject matter being presented. To this end students will be asked at random to summarize the reading for that particular class. In other words...**come prepared** to participate. The instructor reserves the right to add additional reading assignments not mentioned in this syllabus from time to time.

4 Position papers of 1 page will be required throughout the semester on a current political subject of the student's choice. The paper is to be 12pt. and one and half spaced. **Citations are mandatory**. Students will be selected at random to discuss their papers and encourage discussion from the rest of the class. The papers are due on **Thursdays** of

Syllabus
INR 3203
WORLD POLITICS

MW 18:25-21:05

Professor: Eric Messersmith

the week. LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY THE FOLLOWING CLASS WITH A 10% GRADE REDUCTION!

Class Presentations: Groups will be formed to make a PowerPoint presentation on a particular world political subject of their choosing. The presentations should be from 15-20 slides and be roughly 20 minutes in length. All members of the group must participate in the presentation in order to receive a grade. Presentations should include among others, the following information:

- Development overview
- Parties involved
- Significant incidents
- Collateral effects
- Prediction(s)
- Your group's Opinion

CLASS BEHAVIOR: Eating is not appropriate in class. Neither is walking in and out during class time.

Since many of the topics discussed in this class involve controversial and dissenting opinions, students are asked to raise their hands before speaking. This is necessary to maintain a semblance of order in the discussions. NO PERSONAL ATTACKS PERMITTED! YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

Grading ***A: 95-100, A-:90-94, B+:87-89, B:84-86, B-:80-83, C+:77-79, others***

Grading will be based on the following:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Attendance (punctual) | 5% |
| • 4 Text based quizzes | 30% |
| • Mid-Term Exam (Objective) | 15% |
| • 4 Bi-weekly Position Papers (1 page limit) | 20% |
| • Class Presentations | 15% |
| • Final Exam (Objective) | 15% |

Reading Schedule: There are 14 chapters in the text so you should plan on reading one each week.

A detailed schedule of papers, quizzes, exams, and team presentations will be published on a yahoo site dedicated to the class.

**Syllabus
INR 3203
WORLD POLITICS**

MW 18:25-21:05

Professor: Eric Messersmith

The instructor reserves the right to make minor changes to this schedule with due notice in advance.