

## SYLLABUS

Issues of Our Time --International

Political Science PSCI 105 (Section 004, CRN 56333)

PS 105-004, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00-3:15 p.m. in HH 115

### Description and Objectives

This course is designed to help students satisfy their General Education course requirements. It exposes students to significant political controversies and debates and to points of view that often differ from their own. Yet, rather than impose answers in response to controversies and debates, the course attempts to help students (1) find their own answers and solutions, (2) cultivate critical thinking, writing, and evaluative skills, and (3) enhance their awareness of the complexities of international issues. Beyond mastering the fundamentals, students will be evaluated based on their ability to derive logical, well-reasoned, and articulate positions on controversial international issues.

### Textbooks

The CQ Researcher *Global Issues* is required. The text is available for purchase at Barnes and Noble (campus) bookstore and online through the Cunningham library CQ database. Additional used back copies of the text may be borrowed (read) during office hours on Wednesdays (in HH 324). Thus, all students regardless of their financial circumstance will have access to the required readings.

### Grading and Course Requirements

The final course grade is the average score earned on the following three assignments:

Mid term exam, 50 objective, matching, short-answer, and multiple choice questions (1/3)

3-page paper & 15-minute in class-presentation, on a pre-approved topic (1/3)

Final exam, 50 objective, matching, short-answer, multiple choice questions (1/3)

Sample exams are available to students for review upon request.

### Grading scale

The grading scale in the course is: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and below 60 F.

### Academic Honesty

Cheating on exams or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Evidence of either will result in automatic failure of the assignment and most likely failure of the course.

### Extra Credit

Attendance will be taken during class via a student sign-in sheet. The sign-in sheet is for the Instructor's use only and will be used to document student attendance. An announcement of the students who have earned the extra credit will be made during the last regular class meeting of the semester. However, students are responsible for keeping track of their own class attendance. Students who miss no more than 3 class sessions will receive a maximum of 10 extra points to be added to their lowest assignment score. For example if a student's lowest assignment score on one of the three course assignments (see above) is 70, then 10 extra points will be added to this

score to bring the lowest score up to 80 for that assignment. But students who miss more than 7 class sessions will not receive the letter grade of “A” or “A-“ in the course except in cases involving excused absences involving documented medical or organized university athletic obligations by the student. Absence from class due to death in the family will not be treated as an excused absence. No other extra credit will be awarded in the course.

### **Student Responsibility (Please read very carefully)**

The Instructor will not provide course grade information via e-mail, telephone, or posted grades as student grades will be treated as confidential. Learning disabled students are required to contact Ms. Rita Worrall by Sept 8, 2004 at the Student Academic Services Center (237-2300). Students are responsible for attending class, completing the full in-class presentation assignment on time, completing the exams and reading the text.

The course Instructor shall reserve the right to assign the score of “0” to students who fail to complete the exam(s) and/or paper-presentation. Permission to complete a make up exam or presentation is not automatic and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or by appointment in Holmstedt Hall 324, (second floor) phone (812) 237-2519, e-mail: psrash@isugw.indstate.edu or Samory@kiva.net Students are encouraged to contact the Instructor in the event of questions or course-related problems. Students should leave cell phones OFF during class.

### **In-Class Paper Presentation**

All students must complete the in-class paper-presentation to receive a grade in the course. Each student will select a topic from a pre-approved list of topics, turn in a 3-page paper (at the time of the presentation) and provide a 15-minute in-class presentation on a controversial issue of our time. Topics must be approved in advance of the presentation and will be approved on a first-come-first-serve basis. Students must make formal requests for topic approvals IN WRITING that include the DATE the request is made. Written requests either in the form of e-mail correspondence or long hand written requests handed in during class or regular office hours will be accepted.

Paper-presentation grades will be assigned immediately following the presentation. Students must give the Instructor the 3-page paper prior to the presentation. The paper must (1) examine a pre-approved issue question in international affairs, (2) give the strongest pro and con positions linked to the issue question, and (3) give convincing arguments supporting either pro or con positions on the issue. Convincing arguments here means arguments that are based on strong evidence, logical consistency, and persuasively presented information. Students will be evaluated on how well they respond to questions posed by students and the Instructor immediately following the presentation. A list of possible topics is attached. Students are encouraged to select a topic as soon as possible.

A presentation schedule will be provided in class. The schedule will assign all registered students for in-class presentations in alphabetical order that will begin on Oct. 19, 2004. Students who

add the class late, i.e., enroll in the class after the official starting date of August 25, 2004 will be added to the in-class presentation schedule at a later time.

Students who fail to present their in-class paper presentation at the scheduled time will be automatically penalized 25 points if and only if excused medical or athletic absences are provided in writing and accepted by the course instructor. All other students who fail to make their presentations on time will receive a "0." Although students are encouraged to use visual aids, power-point or video presentations will not be allowed.

**Important Deadlines** Paper-presentation topics are due by, September 14, 2004, a Mid-term exam review will be is scheduled for Tuesday Oct. 12, 2004. The Mid term-exam is schedule for Thursday Oct. 14, 2004. In-class paper presentations will begin on October 19, 2004, and the final day of class is December 17, 2004. The final exam date will be announced in class (Please see the attached course outline for further details.)

**Important information sources including websites and readings for research purposes.**

Useful websites and bibliographic information are listed at the end of each chapter in your text. Copies of the Global Issues readings will be available to every student. A list of additionally useful website will also be distributed to students no later than the third week of class.