

POLI 4044  
Contemporary International Systems  
Spring 2016  
5:00-7:50 Wed./218 Coates Hall

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Harry Mokeba  
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OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-9:00 MWF  
11:30-12:30 MWF  
3:00-4:00 W

OBJECTIVE: This is an upper-level course that supplements the knowledge gained in POLI 2057. The goal is to introduce you to various themes and perspectives that dominate the study of world politics. Students are expected to fully grasp the "System Concept" and be able to understand how the world operates on a regional and issue standpoint. Although taught in Political Science, 4044 is designed to be interdisciplinary and global. It explores today's world in an exhaustive and comprehensive fashion. By the end of the semester, students should have gained a robust understanding of world affairs.

TEXTBOOK: Frieden, Lake, Schultz: *World Politics: Interests, Interactions and Institutions*  
W.W. Norton & Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

In addition, students are **required** to pick up copies of the New York Times regularly to gain even more knowledge of the contemporary world system

EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS: There will be an early Take-Home exam (that covers introductory material), a Midterm exam in class, and a Final exam. There will be a System paper toward the end of the semester where you pick a topic and reflect on its system attributes, as well as a presentation of your findings.

GRADES: Your final grade for the course will be determined according to the following formula:

Class Participation	10 pts Weekly
Early Take-Home Exam	10 pts Due Feb. 10
Midterm Exam	20 pts March 02
System Paper	20 pts April 20
NYT Multiple Choice (2)	10 pts (1 before Midterm; 1 before Final)
Presentation	5 pts April 20-27
Final Exam	<u>25 pts</u> Wed. May 04 (5:00pm)
	100 pts

A+ 100 - 95	B+ 86.9 - 85	C+ 76.9 - 75	D+ 66.9 - 65
A 94.9 - 90	B 84.9 - 80	C 74.9 - 70	D 64.9 - 60
A- 89.9 - 87	B- 79.9 - 77	C- 69.9 - 67	D- 59.9 - 57

## LECTURE OUTLINE

- Jan. 13 - 20      Course Introduction: Making Sense of the System Idea
- The World Today: Globalization
  - The Change vs. Continuity
  - Elements of Conflict and Cooperation
  - History & Evolution: The Centenary
- Readings Chap. 1
- Jan. 27 - Feb. 03      Foundational Basis: The Theories and the Actors
- Theories of Contemporary International System
- Realism
  - Liberalism
  - Constructivism/Feminism
  - Marxist-based Theories
- Readings Chap. 2
- Actors of Contemporary International System
- The Nation State
  - I.O.s & N.G.O.s
  - Individuals
  - MNCs
  - Group/People's Power
- Readings Chap. 2
- Feb. 17 - 24      Warfare in the International System
- The Conduct of Conflict
  - Why War?
  - Domestic Politics
  - Wars and I.O.s
  - Non-State Actors
- Readings Chaps. 3, 4, 5 & 6
- March 02      NYT multiple Choice (1)/Midterm Exam (essays/definitions)
- March 09 - 16      Economic Attributes: Growth, Development, Poverty
- Labor Needs & Strains
  - Finance, Trade & Inequality
  - Global Capitalism: Persistence in midst of crisis
- Readings Chaps. 7, 8, 9 & 10

March 30	<u>Transactional Attributes in the World System</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Law Readings Chap. 11</li>   <li>• Environment &amp; Health Issues Readings Chap. 13</li>   <li>• Movement for Human Rights Readings Chap. 12</li> </ul>
April 06	<u>A Borderless World?</u> Today's Transitional Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration</li> <li>• Refugees</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Religion</li> </ul>
April 13	<u>Class Debate: to help sharpen your Research Topics: System or Non-System?</u> Readings Chap. 14
April 20 - 27	<u>Paper Due / Presentations Begin / Review Session / Course Evaluation</u>
May 04	<u>FINAL EXAM Wednesday 5:00pm (essays, definitions, multiple choice)</u>