

POSC 115 C: International Politics

Fall 2009

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Office Hrs: M & W: 11-12 Noon
OR by appointment

The students will learn to examine critically a number of issues and themes pertaining to the nature and structure of global politics. Selected topics include but are not limited to the origins and evolution of the modern world system, imperialism, "globalization" and its challengers, the global economic crisis, the "war on terror," global politics of energy, nature of capitalism, nationalism, internationalism, issues involving global cultural awareness, human rights, structural violence, international law, and global ecology. Special attention will be given to the role of the US in world politics as well. The course will attempt to make a critical assessment of the prospects for global peace, democracy, and prosperity. Students will also benefit from viewing a number of critical documentaries dealing with key aspects of the nature of life and politics in the global arena.

Required Books:

Parenti: The Culture Struggle; **Amin:** The World We Wish To See;
Klein: The Shock Doctrine; **Escobar:** Obama Does Globalistan

Course Requirements:

- a. **Class Participation (CP):** (10%)
 - 1) Informed and consistent CP will make a difference in students' grades. So keep up with the **readings** and the **news**.
 - 2) **Attendance Policy:** Regular class attendance is required. Each unexcused absence beyond the first will result in 20% loss of the CP grade. In case of an emergency the students must inform the instructor prior to the class. If appropriate the students must provide a note from a health provider.
- b. **A Critical Reflection Paper:** (10% each)

Write a critical 3-4 page typed essay about any of the materials or ideas encountered in class. Begin by formulating several questions that interest you or that you would like to pursue and then pursue one or more of them in your reflections. Here the quality of your questions and the subsequent reflections (developed thoughts) are decisive and largely determine the grading outcome. Deadline: the fifth week of classes.
- c. **Research Paper:** (30%)

Hand in a typed introductory paragraph the week after the midterm exam indicating 1) your research topic, 2) a significant research question(s), 3) why you think the latter matter and 4) the sources you will consult in your research. You must consult sources **outside** of those assigned in class. You may choose contemporary or historical topics so long as they can be shown to enhance our understanding of global politics. The paper should comprise 8-10 typed pages. Deadline: mid-November.
- d. **A Mid-Term Exam:** (20%): Date TBA.
- e. **Final Exam:** (30%)

THE final exam question is: How does the world work? (And how should it?)
The students may choose to bring to the exam AN index card (of whatever size) with notations outlining the final essay.

Evaluation* :	Class Participation	10%
	Critical Reflection paper	10%
	Term Paper	30%
	Mid-term Exam	20%
	Final Exam	30%

Class Readings will be assigned on a class-by-class basis.

Academic Honesty Policy: In cases of cheating or plagiarizing in any way, I will follow the appropriate procedures as they appear in the College Student Handbook.

* It is within my purview to apply qualitative judgment in the determination of any and all grades.