

# POLI203: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FALL 2023

**Course Title: POLI203 -- International Relations (CRN #21436)**

Room: HS167

Days and Time: MW 1-2.15pm

**Instructor: Professor Vikas Vohra**

Office Location: HS 185

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12-1pm; or by appointment

E-mail: [vikas.vohra@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:vikas.vohra@montgomerycollege.edu)

**Course Description:** Critical analysis of international problems. A survey of the concepts and problems of sovereignty and nationalism as well as the successes and failures of international institutions and organizations. Special attention is given to the role of the United Nations in today's world and to contemporary situations that affect world politics.

## **Course Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to-

- Use and apply the major terms and concepts in International Relations.
- Explain the relationship between historical events and the development of International Relations as a field of study.
- Analyze the power differentials and opportunity structures affecting the relationships among state and non-state actors in the international system.
- Explain, apply, and interpret the major approaches and theories of International Relations.
- Compare and evaluate explanations for war and prescriptions for peace in the international system.
- Analyze the concept of globalization and apply it to contemporary changes to the international system.
- Examine current challenges to the international system.

**General Education:** POLI203 fulfills a General Education Program Behavioral and Social Sciences Distribution requirement and the Global and Cultural Perspectives requirement. Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and personal lives. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop the following competencies: written and oral communication, critical analysis and reasoning, and information literacy. For more information, please see: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened).

**Required Texts:** *The Globalization Of World Politics- An Introduction to International Relations.* John Baylis, Steve Smith, Patricia Owens.

Additional texts, if any, will be available through the course Blackboard page (details in reading schedule below).

**Assignments and Grading:** The total weight for each assignment is provided below. This course uses the following grading scale: A (90-100%); B (80-89%); C (70-79%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%)

**Course Participation Grade (20% of course grade).**

**United Nations Peace Keeping Simulation (20% of course grade).** We will conduct a diplomacy simulation in class (see attached reading and assignment schedule). You will be required to complete a preparatory assignment and a reflection on the experience for the simulation. A detailed assignment handout will be provided. *If you are not present for the simulation or if you have not completed your preparatory*

# POLI203: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FALL 2023

*assignment*, you will be required to complete an alternative assignment.

**Exams (Midterm and Final @ 30% each = 60%).** We will have two exams in this course during class time. Exams will consist of essay questions. I will provide a study guide in advance of exams. If you miss the in-class examination, you must request the make-up examination date.

## **Classroom Policies:**

### ***Classroom Conduct.***

We will explore politically and socially sensitive issues. As such, it is important that we provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for each other. Keep in mind that it is often my job to play devil's advocate. The views I express in class are not necessarily my personal opinion. Similarly, you will have opportunities to express your own opinions, *and* you will be asked to recognize, consider and evaluate differing perspectives.

### ***Academic Honesty.***

Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct. You will receive a "0" on any assignment or exam where you have cheated or where you have plagiarized the majority of your work. Any plagiarism serious enough to warrant a "0" will also be reported to the Dean of Student Development. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism or cheating, ask me *before* the assignment is due. I strongly encourage you to take the MC Library's Plagiarism Tutorial.

According to [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org), a website produced by iParadigms, LLC, "[a]ll of the following are considered plagiarism:

- ✓ turning in someone else's work as your own
- ✓ copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- ✓ failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- ✓ giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- ✓ changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- ✓ copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not..."

Source: iParadigms, LLC. 2014. "What is Plagiarism." [Plagiarism Learning Center](http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism). Available at: <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>. (Accessed 1 July 2015).

**Important Student Information Link:** <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/student-resources/syllabus-resource-list.html> In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its website to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

## **Course Reading and Assignment Schedule**

Note: Any necessary schedule revisions will be announced on Blackboard and in class.

# POLI203: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FALL 2023

**August 28: Welcome and Course Overview**

**August 30: Realism Ch 9 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**September 4: Labor Day holiday**

**September 6: Globalization and Global Politics Ch 2 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**September 11: From the End of Cold War to a New world Dis-order Ch 5 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**September 13: Rising Powers and Emerging Global Order Ch 6 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**September 18-20: Nationalism, National Self-Determination Ch 31 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**September 25-27: Regionalism in International Affairs Ch 23 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**October 2-4: Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics Ch 33 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**October 9-11: Refugees and Forced Migration Ch 26 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition.**

**Oct 16: Revision**

**Read Case Studies in The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Women in Afghanistan pg 158,  
South and east China Sea pg 237,  
International Law pg 297,  
Black Lives Matter pg 346,  
North Korea's Nuclear program pg 477,  
Why States build nuclear weapons pg 480,  
Iran's Nuclear program pg 478  
LGBTQ Rights pg 514**

**October 18: Midterm exam in class.**

**October 23-25: Poverty, Hunger and Development Ch 27 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**October 30-Nov 1: Global Health Ch 25 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**November 6: The United Nations Chapter 21 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**November 8: Simulation Briefing.**

**November 13-Nov 15: Terrorism and Globalization Ch 29 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Nov 20: Global Trade and Global Finance Ch 28 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Nov 22: No Class. Thanksgiving holiday**

**Nov 27-29: Environmental Issues Ch 24 The Globalization of World Politics 9<sup>th</sup> Edition**

# POLI203: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FALL 2023

**Dec 4-6: The Digital Age- Digital Diplomacy**

**OER, Library Database**

**Dec 11: Final exam in class**

**Dec 13: Simulation**