

STS 325 006: Global Politics

Professor: Dr. Kathleen Pullum

Meeting Time: Wednesday/Friday, 1-2:20 p.m.

Meeting Place: Faculty Memorial Hall, room 411

Office Hours: email for an appointment

Contact: kathleen.a.pullum@njit.edu [** messaging through Canvas is preferred **]

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the political map of the world, including a number of important events and issues affecting most – if not all – of the world today, by examining the impact they have and how they are addressed by different political systems and global actors.

Our emphasis will be on understanding the issues and assessing the responses to these issues critically – that is, from a rigorous consideration of the facts (data), processes/interconnections, and outcomes involved. From this process, we can then better understand how certain issues have arisen and why particular policy choices are made (or not made), and what viable potential alternatives there might be.

Please note, however, that time prohibits us from adequately exploring every major global issue that the world (or parts thereof) is experiencing or has recently. In class, we shall endeavor to dig deeply into some of the more pressing and far-reaching issues, but you will have the opportunity to focus on and research issues of particular interest to you through individual research and writing projects and group presentations.

Course Objectives:

- To acquaint students with current issues in global affairs; to develop a clearer understanding of the issues facing the countries in the world today, how these issues arose, ways to address them and the consequences, and the similarities and differences among different political systems in response to them
- To provide historical, geographical, and political context to the places, people and issues in the international scene
- To gain ‘media literacy’ in international affairs, that is to say, to develop a working understanding of global topics in current news media
- To analyze, evaluate, and critique aspects of global politics in relation to our positionality in the United States and as members of the global community
- To develop the skills to articulate critical understanding of the subject matter through in-class discussions and written responses

Required Text:

There are no required texts, but students are required to subscribe to *The Economist* Espresso and are highly encouraged to purchase a digital subscription to the Economist (the student rate for a 1-year digital subscription is \$114.75).

Students are also required to register for a *New York Times* digital subscription (free for NJIT students).

All other assigned readings and video links will be posted on Canvas.

Grade Breakdown:

Map Quizzes (15%) These will be given regularly in class and will test students' knowledge of the region studied that week, including map of the region, local news, and assigned readings.

News Notebook (25%) There will be four prompts which will require you to write a 1.5-2 page (~500-600 word) response and analysis of a global news topic covered in class. Assignment details and submissions are through Canvas.

Final Project (30%) This will be a research project on a topic of your choice. 50% of the grade will be the written research report, and 50% a presentation given in the last week of the semester.

Participation (20%) Credit for this portion of the grade is assigned according to the amount that you contribute constructively in some way to the discussion in class, either by asking a question, answering a question, or participating in relevant discussion with your classmates. Significant absences and/or tardies will result in a lower participation grade.

Presentation (10%) Every student will do a short presentation during the semester based on that week's assigned reading. (Note: this is separate from the Final Project presentation.)

Grading Scale:

A (94% and above) **A-** (90 to 93%)

B+ (87%-89%) **B** (83%-86%) **B-** (80 to 82%)

C+ (77%-79%) **C** (73%-76%) **C-** (70%-72%)

D+ (67 to 69%) **D** (60 to 66%)

F (60% and below)

Late Work:

Assignments should be submitted on time through Canvas, no exceptions.

Final Project will not be re-scheduled or accepted late.

Other late work will receive an automatic -10 points in the first week; -20 points in the second week, and so on. After 3 weeks, late work will no longer be accepted.

Any accommodations for test-taking or extensions on major deadlines must be arranged well in advance and agreed with the instructor.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend every class and to be on time. Beyond 2 unexcused absences, participation grades will be reduced by 5% per absence. Excessive (and repetitive) lateness counts as absent. Students are not permitted to enter class after this point.

Transport issues do not count as excused absences or tardies. If you find that you are consistently having trouble getting to class on time, it is your responsibility to work this out. It is extremely disruptive to the teacher and students in the classroom to have individuals entering the classroom once the lecture has started.

Once you have entered the room, you are there for the class. Students should not be going in and out throughout the lecture, or leaving early.

Other Policies:

Mobile electronic devices should not be used in the classroom unless explicitly instructed and should remain in your bag for the entirety of class time. Laptops may be used for note-taking, but if I notice that you are not participating in the class as a result, I will ask you to put them away.

There will be no eating allowed in class, and drinking should be kept to an absolute minimum.

University Policy on Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary

action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu

Accessibility:

NJIT's Office of Accessibility Resources and Services works to provide students with reasonable accommodations for students. If you need reasonable accommodation to complete the course, please see the website for details (<https://www.njit.edu/studentsuccess/accessibility>) or reach out to the office via email at oars@njit.edu or by phone at 973-596-5417.

Calendar:

**** Readings and assignment due dates subject to change depending on class progress****

Week 1: Introduction to Global Politics

Week 2: Great Power Politics & the International System
Discussion Board 1

Week 3: Europe & the EU
News Notebook 1

Week 4: The Cold War - Russia / USSR

Week 5: China

Week 6: Asian Tigers
News Notebook 2

Week 7: India & Pakistan

Week 8: Afghanistan

Week 9: The Middle East
News Notebook 3

Week 10: Africa

Week 11: Brazil & South America

Week 12: Central America

Final Project Proposal due

Week 13: Global Politics in film

News Notebook 4

Week 14: Cuba / Mexico

Final Project Revision due

Week 15: Course Wrap-up: Final Projects