

The World of Politics (SOSC1300)

Instructor: Sunhee Park

TA: Stephen Choy

Email Address: sunheepark@ust.hk

choyho@ust.hk

Office: Room 3385

Class Hours: 9:00-10:20 (Mondays, Wednesdays)

Class: Room LTD

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30-11:30

Course Description

This class is designed to introduce two main subfields of political science—International Relations (IR) and Comparative Politics—to students. Through learning both theory and history, the section on International Relations seeks to help students develop an analytical perspective on major issues in international security and international political economy. Through learning about various institutions within states, the section on Comparative Politics seeks to help students familiarize themselves with the implications of differences in institutional settings on political outcomes. Throughout the class, students will be exposed to different methodological approaches that are used in studying international relations and comparative politics.

Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, student should be able to:

1. Explain the main concepts and theories in International Relations and Comparative Politics
2. Apply those concepts and theories to analyze international and domestic political events
3. Think analytically and critically about international and domestic political events.

Learning Activities

Lectures, documentaries, presentation, discussion

Grading

1. Examination (40%): There will be two exams: one on the International Relations portion (20%) and the other on the Comparative Politics portion (20%). The exams will cover all of the course materials on the respective topic (including the textbook, lecture notes, documentaries, news articles and news clips). The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions.
2. In-class pop quizzes (10%): Some classes will start with a short in-class quiz (Y/N and/or multiple choice questions) to check your understanding of the material covered during that class. The lowest of these pop-quiz scores will be dropped.
** Prepare by reading the lecture notes that are posted before class.
3. Group discussion (20%): In two class sessions, you will discuss a topic assigned to you prior to the class with a group of your classmates. You are expected to study the topic before the class and meet with your group during the class. After the group discussion, you will present a group point of view (and discuss/debate with other groups). The lowest of these group discussion scores will be dropped.
4. Presentation and discussion (30%): The presentation will have a group component and individual component. The details of the groups and presentations will be determined after the add/drop period, as they are based on the number of students enrolled.
** Free-riding: Each group should attach a detailed division of labor for the work that went into preparing the presentation. The final grade for each individual student may be adjusted based on the division and quality of labor.
5. Class attendance and participation: An extra 5 percentage points will be given for students who contribute actively to class discussions. Attendance will be taken on an ad hoc basis.

A+: 97~ ; A: 93~97; A-: 90~93

B+: 87~90; B: 83~87; B-: 80~83

C+: 77~80; C: 73~77; C-: 70~73

D: 60~70 ; F: ~60

Course Materials

- Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. Eds (BSO). 2021. *The Globalization of World Politics*. Third International Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Garner, Robert, Peter Ferdinand, and Stephanie Lawson (GFS). 2020. *Introduction to Politics*. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Non-textbook materials or additional materials necessary for class will be uploaded to Canvas.

Notice

- 1) Lecture notes: Lecture notes will be posted to Canvas on the day before class.
- 2) Cheating and plagiarism: If cheating or plagiarism is detected for any assessments, the student will be given a score of zero on that assessment and will be barred from inputting the course evaluation.

Rule of thumb: To avoid plagiarism, nothing should be copied and pasted unless it is a properly cited quotation.

- 3) Late assignment submission: If an assignment is submitted after the deadline, 3 percentage points will be deducted.
- 4) Additional exams: In principle, there are no additional exams.
- 5) Syllabus: This syllabus lays out the future lesson schedule and lesson policy. The schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. If there are any changes, students will be notified in class.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction to Course

- Reading: BSO Introduction & GFS Ch. 1 (pp. 2-5)

Week 1. Main concept of IR and Comparative Politics

- Reading: BSO Ch.2, GFS Ch. 8 (pp. 165-172) & Ch. 16 (pp. 370-373)

Section 1: International Relations Theories

Weeks 2-3. Theories of International Relations: (Neo)Realism, (Neo)Liberalism, Marxism

- Reading: BSO Chs. 6-8, Additional Reading

- Documentary

Special Topic 1: State Death***

Section 2: Main Topics in International Relations

Weeks 4-6

Topic 1: WWs, Cold War, International Security, Ukraine-Russian War

- Reading: BSO Chs. 2-4, 12, 14
- Documentary

Topic 2: International Political Economy

- Reading: BSO Chs. 13, 22

Topic 3: International Organizations

- Reading: BSO Chs. 16-17

Week 6 (7)

IR Part Exam

Section3: Main Topics in Comparative Politics

Weeks 7(8)- 10(11)

Topic 1: Democracy

- Reading: GFS Chs. 4, 15

Topic 2: Political Regimes

- Reading: GFS Ch. 15

Special Topic 2: Arab Spring***

Topic 3: Elections

- Reading: GFS Ch. 11

Topic 4: Government System

- Reading: GFS Ch. 13

Week 11 (12): CP Part Exam

Weeks 12-13

Presentation