

# The World of Politics (SOSC1300)

**Instructor: Sunhee Park**

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

**Class: Room 2465**

**Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30-13:30**

## **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, International Relations part seeks to help students develop an analytical perspective on major issues in international security, international political economy. Through learning various institutions within a state, Comparative Politics part seeks to help student familiarize the concepts, similarities and differences and implication of various domestic institutions. In addition, throughout the class, students will be exposed to methodological approaches that are used in studying international relations and comparative politics.

## **Learning Outcomes**

After taking this course, student should be able to:

1. Obtain the knowledge about the main concepts and theories in International Relations and Comparative Politics
2. Apply those concepts and theories in analyzing 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 (30%): The exam will cover the whole materials. The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answers.
2. In-class pop quiz (20%): Some classes will start with a short in-class quiz (multiple choice and/or short answers) to check your understanding of the material covered during that class. The lowest of these pop-quiz scores will be dropped.  
\*\* How to prepare: Prepare by reading the lecture notes that are posted before class.
3. Group discussion (15%): In some classes, you will discuss a topic given prior to the class. 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 opinion (and discuss/debate with other groups). The lowest of these group discussion scores will be dropped.
4. Team presentation and discussion (35%): The detail for presentation will be determined after the add/drop period.  
\*\* Free-riding: Each group should attach detailed division of labor for preparing presentation. The final grade of 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 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 and

- Reading: BSO Introduction

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**\*\*\*

Week 4

**Special Topic 2:** Literature Review + Research methods (statistics + game theory)

## **Section 2: Main Topics in International Relations**

Weeks 4-6

Topic 1: WWs, Cold War, International Security

- 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 7

Presentation 1

## **Section 3: Main Topics in Comparative Politics**

Weeks 7(8)-9(10)

Topic 1: Democracy

- Reading: GFS Chs. 4, 15

Topic 2: Political Regimes

- Reading: GFS Ch. 15

Topic 3: Elections

- Reading: GFS Ch. 11

#### Topic 4: Government System

- Reading: GFS Ch. 13

Weeks 10-12

Presentation 2

Week 13: Exam