



POL 1630: Introduction to International Studies

2022 Winter Session	
Total Class Sessions: 25	Instructor: Dr. Yang Da
Class Sessions Per Week: 6	Email: Day@cdutglobal.com
Total Weeks: 4	Classroom: TBA
Class Session Length (Minutes): 145	Office Hours: TBA
Credit Hours: 4	Language: English

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the broad arena of international studies. It explores the roots, consequences of various challenges in the contemporary world of international affairs. The topics are interdisciplinary touching upon a wide range of subjects, such as political studies, demography, environmental studies, food studies, security studies, etc. Four interrelated themes, global interactions, the tensions produced by these interactions, the global forces that influence those interactions, and various internal and external dynamics that shape those interactions will be discussed. The course is a perfect introduction to any student interested in a career in international arena, international organizations, or global business or politics.

Course Materials:

1. “International Studies – Global Forces, Interactions, and Tensions” 2nd Edition, Stott Strauss & Barry Driscoll, ISBN: 9781071814390, CQ Press/Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA, 2022. (S&D) in the syllabus
2. “The New Silk Roads: The Present and Future of the World”, 1st edition, Peter Frankopan, ISBN: 9780525656401, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY, 2019 (NSR) in the syllabus)

Recommended:

Lecture Notes and recommended articles from specialized professional academic and business publications, provided by the instructor and recommended professional articles listed in the syllabus. NOTE: the articles listed below are optional, yet instructor might assign some that will be required to read.

Course Format and Requirements:

Class time will be used for a combination of lectures based on textbook and additional materials as required by the instructor, class discussions, and research and scholarly writing assignments directed by the instructor. There will PowerPoint presentations of materials and use of online



resources from different venues. The course involves a mix of lectures and active-learning activities aimed at developing students' ability to analyze facts in critical thinking mode. practice.

Attendance:

Attendance at lectures is vital to get a thorough understanding of the material. This course requires verbal participation in-class exercises, activities, and contributions to class discussions. Students must be present and actively involved to receive these points.

Course Assignments:

5 Quizzes

Quizzes will usually consist of short answer questions and or short essay questions. No make-up quiz will be given.

Exams (Midterm + Final)

Exams may not be taken early, made-up, or turned in late. Students must comply with all applicable instructions to receive credit. The Exams will include essay questions, with the options to choose to let us say three out of five essay questions given. During these exams, each student must work individually without consulting others.

An Essay (10-12 pages) examining a specific problem in international studies, based on the analysis of applicable issue or issues of student's interest discussed in class. A student will need to meet with the instructor by the end of the second week to discuss the proposed topic for the essay. A short oral presentation of the major points of the essay will be required by the end of the semester.

Course Assessment:

Quizzes	- 15%
Essay	- 25%
Midterm	- 25%
Final Exam	- 35%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
98-100	93-97	90-92	88-89	83-87	80-82	78-79	73-77	70-72	68-69	63-67	60-62	<60

Academic Integrity:



Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Class 1:

Material: Introduction to the scope and the requirements of the course, a brief overview of the political map of the world and discussion of current problems facing human worldwide, such as pandemic, inflation, poverty, climate change etc.

Topics: Review of the syllabus, introduction to the scope of the course and the textbook content, review of requirements and the detailed requirements of the written assignments. A brief introduction to the methodology of reading and understanding various maps and geographical statistics. A brief discussion of current issues such as COVID-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, energy crisis, inflation, etc.

Class 2:

Material: Chapter 1 (S&D) – Global Interactions and Global Tensions

Topics: We review and describe the four major global forces that drive global interactions; we discuss the scope of international studies and how it differs from the globalization concept; we introduce the possibilities and opportunities for students for careers in international arena, in international studies; we provide examples from different areas and various parts of the world to illustrate topics.

Class 3:

Material: Chapter 2 (S&D) – The Making of Our Global Age: Forces, Interactions and Tensions since 1800



Topics: We provide chronological timeline and discuss implications of events in the First Global Age, spanning 1815 to 1914, from Pax Britannica to the World War I; we discuss the issues between the First and Second Global Ages, up to the end of the World War II (to 1945), such as post WWI politics, universal suffrage, global depression, rise of extremism such a fascism and WWII.

Class 4:

Material: Chapter 2 (S&D) – The Making of Our Global Age: Forces, Interactions and Tensions since 1800, continued

Topics: We continue with exploring global forces in the aftermath of the WWII; we examine The Cold War and the bipolar world, the Bretton Woods financial system, decolonization and rise of dependency, fall of communism, and the re-emergence of China in the world affairs; we study the major forces the Second Global Age – explosion of global finance, war on terror, internet age, and the rise of new powers.

Important Websites:

War on Terror – Global Issues: <https://globalissues.org/issue/235/war-on-terror/>

Class 5:

Material: Chapter 3 (S&D) – States: Shapes and Subjects of Global Interactions

Topic: We focus on the understanding what the states are, where the idea of statehood comes from, and how they work in theory and practice, as the states have been and remain the key actors in the international affairs.

Class 6:

Material: Chapter 4 (S&D) – Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO's), Sites of Global Governance

Quiz no. 1, (Chapters 1-3)

Topics: We will be discussing the concepts of realism, liberalism, and constructivism and analyze how the IGO's play its role among other international actors; what the IGO's do and if they matter in today's world.

Important websites:

World Trade Organization website: <http://www.wto.org/> International documents on intergovernmental organization collection, with links to organization websites, maintained by Northwestern University Library - <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/libraries-collections/evanston-campus/government-information/international-documents>

The Library of Congress's Newspaper and Current Periodicals Reading Room website on international organizations - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/io.html>



The Foreign Affairs archival collection on international economic, legal, and security institutions. <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/features/collections/international-institutions>

Class 7:

Material: Chapter 4 (S&D) – Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO’s), continued.

Topics: We discuss the role of international organizations, with special focus on the United Nations and specialized agencies.

Recommended Optional Reading:

Mwagwabi, Lawrence Wesley, “The Theory of Collective Security and its Limitation in Explaining International Organization: A Critical Analysis” (November 7, 2010). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2948271> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2948271>

Brunnée, Jutta and Toope, Stephen J., “Norms, Institutions and UN Reform: The Responsibility to Protect” *Journal of International Law and International Relations*, Vol. 2, pp. 121-137, 2006, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1182882>

Peters, Anne, “International Organizations: Effectiveness and Accountability” *Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law & International Law (MPIL) Research Paper No. 2016-01*, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2770606> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2770606>

Class 8:

Material: Chapter 5 (S&D) – Civil Society: Agents of Change in Global Interactions.

Topics: We introduce the students to the Tocquevillian and Gramscian views of the civil society; we analyze how civil society activism frames the debate about the nature and impact of advocacy networks and rise of global social movements, e.g., anti-poverty, LGBTQ issues, environmental issues, and animal rights movement.

We watch a documentary:

“In the crosshair of the state assault on civil society” (2021), 42 minutes, directed by Sebastian Weiss

Class 9:

Material: Chapter 6 (S&D) – Social Identities & Culture: Shaping Interactions on Individual and Social Levels

Topics: We explore how ideas, meaning, and identities are fundamental to how people behave and how the world works; we analyze most important social identities and emphasize their



importance; we discuss why tradition and culture matters in international affairs; and we discuss the differences between primordialism, instrumentalism, and constructivism.

Important websites:

Responsibility to Protect (R2P) website: <http://www.r2pasiapacific.org/>

Amnesty International website: <https://amnesty.org/en/>

Class 10:

Quiz no. 2 (Chapters 4-6)

Material: Chapter 7 (S&D) – Money: Propelling Global Interactions

Topics: We look why global money matters, especially now in the times of global inflation, energy crisis due to the war, and post-pandemic world; We analyze the origin and understanding of capitalism as an historically particular way of organizing social life, and that this form of social organization entails political, cultural, and economic aspects which need to be understood as a dynamic ensemble of social relations; we look at different trade theories – liberalism, mercantilism, structuralism, and then current trade issues facing the world.

Class 11:

Material: Chapter 7 (S&D) - Money: Propelling Global Interactions, continued.

Topics: We analyze the global capitalism in the 21st century, development of global finance; and how financial globalization and ‘shadow banking’ is linked to financial instabilities in the world. We look at the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic; the US-China trade war, Eurozone crisis, and the role and actions of the WTO, World Bank, and IMF.

Class 12:

MIDTERM (chapters 1-7)

Class 13:

Material: Introduction section, and “The Roads to the East” (NSR)

Topics: Introduction to the scope of the book “The New Silk Roads” and review of the impact of the impact of Asia and the East on the world affairs.

Readings:

NSR: Introduction (20 pgs.) and pp. 3-25

Class 14:

Material: NSR: “The Roads to the Heart of the World” and “The Roads to Beijing”



Topics: We examine the key debates of the West vs. Asia and the impact of China in on the world stage.

Readings:

NSR: “The Roads to the Heart of the World” pp. 26-61

NSR: “The Roads to Beijing” pp. 62-112

Class 15:

Material: NSR: “The Roads to Rivalry” and “The Roads to the Future”

Topics: US vs. China and other tensions, and post-Trump world and the roots of current political situation in international arena.

Readings:

NSR: “The Roads to Rivalry” pp. 113-156

NSR: “The Roads to the Future” pp. 157-217

Class 16:

Material: Chapter 8 (S&D) – “Democracy and Representation: Struggles for Freedom and Efforts to Restrict it”

Topics: We discuss the basic ways that democracy is defined and measured; we analyze the development of different trends in democratization; we look at the causes of why some democracies survive and why some descent into authoritarianism. We analyze democratic movements in various parts of the world, including the Arab Spring, or the US elections.

Class 17:

Quiz no. 3 (issues from NSR and chapters 7 and 8)

Material: Chapter 9 (S&D) - Human Rights: The Challenge of Setting and Enforcing Global Norms

Topics: We address the concept of the human rights regime, includes analysis of human rights treaties, role of specialized institutions, regional bodies, and nongovernmental organizations; we discuss the power of human rights regime in light of human rights problem in places such Myanmar, Sudan, or Latin America.

Class 18:

Material: Chapter 10 (S&D) – Development: The Challenge of Global Poverty

Topics: This discussion will bring the overview of important terms in the study of development with special emphasis on global poverty and poverty measurement; we analyze different causes



of poverty; we introduce the ideas of modernization theory, dependency theory; poverty traps, neoliberalism, developmental issues and examples of good governance; we discuss the good and bad of foreign aid and the role of the World Bank.

Optional Recommended Readings:

Singer P. (1972) “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”; *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1 (2) pp. 229-43

Class 19:

Material - Chapter 11 (S&D) – Civil Wars and Terrorism: New Global Security Challenges and Efforts to Manage Them

Topics: We will look at contemporary security threats; we will discuss and analyze causes of major civil wars, look at the patterns and trends in warfare around the world and the consequences of such wars; we investigate the rise of terrorism and gang violence; we discuss current threats of cybersecurity.

Class 20:

Quiz no. 4 (chapters 9-11)

Material: Chapter 12 (S&D) – Migrations: Confronting the Myths of Human Movement

Topics: We provide an overview of the trends in migration over time and between countries; we will seek to clarify the difference between a refugee, a migrant, an asylum seeker, and a stateless person; we discuss the issues of “brain drain” vs. brain gain” in light of different immigration policies; we introduce the issues of sex-trafficking, global care chains, modern slavery, child labor, and global response to these issues within various organizations.

Important websites:

The Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs: <http://www.cceia.org/index.html>.

Class 21:

Material: Chapter 13 (S&D) – Global Health: Addressing Inequalities in Outcomes

Topics: We look at the major health issues around the world; we analyze how global health is conceptualized and understood; we take a deep look into COVID-19 crisis and other global health issues, such as maternal and women health, infectious diseases, AIDS, and HIV impact; we look at potential progress and international cooperation, we analyze the role of the WHO.

Class 22:

**Material: Chapter 14 (S&D) – Global Environment: Confronting the Challenge of Climate Change**

Topics: We review and analyze some global environmental challenges, such as clean water, or spread of invasive species, but we place special focus on the climate change; we look at the main causes of climate change, the effects of it, the human and nonhuman consequences of it; we provide examples from around the world.

Optional Recommended Readings:

Akyar, Mehmet S., et al., “How Recent Developments in Climate Change Could Result in Some Changes in International Relations?” *International Journal of Afro-Eurasian Research*, vol 6 (11), Jan. 2021, 34-50.

Kish, Kaitlin, and Stephen Quilley. "Core and periphery in the global economy: How does green politics in the ‘North’ relate to development in the Global South." *Ecological Limits of Development* (2021): 49-62.

Orecchia, Carlo and Zoppoli, Pietro, “Consumerism and Environment: Does Consumption Behavior Affect Environmental Quality?” November 1, 2007). *CEIS Working Paper No. 261*, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1719507> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1719507>

Important websites:

Institute for Environmental Security: <http://envirosecurity.org>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Stockholm Resilience Centre: [http:// www.stockholmresilience.org/21/research/research-programmes/planetary-boundaries.html](http://www.stockholmresilience.org/21/research/research-programmes/planetary-boundaries.html)

Third World Network: <http://www.twn.my/>

Class 23:**Quiz no. 5 (Chapters 12-14)****Material: Chapter 15 (S&D) – Global Food: How Can We Solve World Hunger?**

Topics: Overview of the major theories of global food control and the food versus fuel debate; we discuss the difference between the food security and the food sovereignty approaches to global hunger; we analyze commodity chains, such as cocoa/chocolate, look at hunger issues due to COVID-19 and current war in Ukraine, and impact of 2007 Global Food Crisis.

Class 24:

Deadline for submission of both written essays

Individual short presentations of the essays

Class 25: - FINAL EXAM



A written essay exam