



WORLD POLITICS
Political Science 120, Section 2 (3 Credit Hours)
12:45-2:00pm Wednesdays
Class Location: Health Professions Building, Room: 321
Instructor: Sina Mirzaei
Spring 2025
Department of Politics and International Affairs
Northern Arizona University

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:05PM - 4:05PM (or by appointment)

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REQUIRED TEXT

Essentials of International Relations, 9th edition. By Karen Mingst, Heather Elko McKibben and Ivan Arreguin-Toft, W.W. Norton and Company, 2021.

Additional required readings are located on the Canvas shell for this course. They are listed by module.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

This course introduces the study of international relations and world politics. We will examine key issues in world politics, including power, war, hegemony, international institutions, trade, and environmental issues. This course will focus both upon theories that help us understand world politics, and actual events taking place in the international system today. The goal of the course is to familiarize the student with the workings of the international system and the means by which political scientists try to understand and study international relations. This course fulfills the Social and Political Worlds Knowledge Area.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to do the following:

- Define the major theories of international relations and apply them to major world events.
- Discuss global problems and their potential solutions
- Explain important concepts of international relations and their impact on the world.
- Apply historical, economic, observational, comparative, and analytic methods to understand human identities, systems of communication, and interactions in local and global institutions.
- Effectively find, evaluate, and use information sources.
- Judge the utility, quality, and extent of information needed in making decisions.

CAREER READINESS SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

In every class students take at NAU, you learn professional skills and competencies that can support your future career. There are tons of ways an interdisciplinary education can help you meet and excel at your job goals and life desires. Below is a list of in-demand skills and career competencies from National Association of Colleges and Employers ([NACE](#)) you learn and practice in this class:

- *Critical Thinking*: gather and analyze information from a diverse set of sources and individuals to fully understand a problem. In this course you will have weekly after class assignments that will require you to discover trustworthy sources of information and then use that information to answer the prompts and back up your answers.
- *Communication (Written and Verbal)*: clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with persons inside and outside of your field. The after-class assignments will require you to write in a clear and focused way, and class discussions and simulations will give you the opportunity to practice your spoken communication.
- *Equity & Inclusion*: address systems of privilege that limit opportunities for members of historically marginalized communities. This class will examine the impacts of colonization, globalization, and other forces, and will consider how these forces have impacted different groups across societies in the world.
- *Technology*: manage technology to integrate information to support relevant and effective strategic goals. Students will utilize the InQuizitive software that is required for the weekly after class assignments, and use the ebook for the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course will require a moderate amount of reading. The textbook is required. It is an ebook and can be purchased through the NAU Bookstore. There are weekly required InQuizitive assignments that are linked directly to the book. You cannot complete the course without purchasing the book and the InQuizitive software. In order to successfully complete this course, you are required to keep up with the reading and to attend lectures regularly. Lecture attendance is mandatory. You are responsible for reading the

assigned material **before** the lecture for which it is listed. I expect students to be prepared for, and to participate in, discussions of the topic we are examining.

This course will teach and require such skills as analysis, synthesis, and comparison as well as critical thinking, critical reading, and effective writing. I expect you to read, analyze, and understand the course materials, and then relate them to the other works in the class. You will do this verbally, in the context of class discussion, and in writing, in the context of essay exams and assignments.

This course has been designed as a blended course, which means that the course blends components of a traditional face-to-face class with aspects of an online course. Therefore, a significant portion of the class will take place online, through the Canvas course shell. Students will attend a mandatory **face-to-face class** one day a week. In addition, students are expected to complete a series of readings and assignments each week **online**, and to turn them in by the required deadlines.

The flow of the class each week will be as follows:

BEFORE CLASS:

1. First, read your assigned reading
2. Second, complete the required before class assignments on Canvas by 11:59pm on **Tuesday**.

DURING CLASS:

3. Third, come to class on **Wednesday** ready to pay attention and contribute.

AFTER CLASS:

4. Fourth, submit your after-class assignment on Canvas by 11:59pm on **Monday**.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be assessed in both the face-to-face meetings, and also in the online environment.

In-class Assessments:

Exam #1 (September 19)	10%
Exam #2 (October 24)	15%
Final exam (December 12)	25%

Online Assessments:

Weekly before class assignments	25%
Weekly after class assignments	25%

The In-class Assessments will be written **exams** and may include short answer and multiple choice questions. These exams will be based upon the information covered in the face-to-face lectures. They will not be cumulative, but will cover only the information from the preceding lectures. **Students who miss a midterm exam for any reason must take a makeup exam right after the scheduled final exam period.**

The Online Assessments will be completed through the Canvas shell for this class. Each week, students will complete online **before class assignments** on the Canvas shell, which must be completed by 11:59pm Tuesday. You are also required to write and submit an **after-class assignment**, based upon a weekly prompt, by 11:59pm Monday night. Details will be listed in the Canvas modules. There are no make-ups at all for any missed online assessments. **The lowest two scores for the weekly before class assignments and weekly after class assignments will be automatically dropped.**

The grading system is as follows:

90-100% A,
80-89% B,
70-79% C,
60-69% D,
0-59% F.

I reserve the right to curve the scale.

Cheating and/or plagiarism will be dealt with in the most severe manner possible. Students will receive a grade of zero on the paper or exam on which the cheating and/or plagiarism occurred, and an F in the course. To be clear, here is NAU's definition of plagiarism:

Plagiarism: Using or representing another's original words, ideas, materials, or other creative output as one's own and not giving proper credit to the author or source. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

1. Copying.
2. Improper paraphrasing or making a small change to a passage or paper without appropriate citation.
3. Insufficient citation.

See NAU's entire Academic Integrity Policy at <https://www9.nau.edu/policies/Client/Details/1443>.

Artificial Intelligence: The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to create or generate any part of your assignments is forbidden.

This course (or assignment) expects that any work submitted by students that contributes toward the course grade, including all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, and final work, will be generated entirely by the students themselves, working individually or in groups as directed by class assignment instructions. Any use of generative artificial intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT, constitutes an academic integrity violation. Students caught using AI the first time will receive a grade of zero on the assignment. Students caught using AI the second time will receive a grade of F for the course.

A Supplemental Instructor (SI) is available for free to help you succeed in this course. They hold open tutoring hours as well as scheduled tutoring appointments. They can help with note-taking and study skills, studying for exams, and course advising. See the class Canvas shell for more information.

Students with extenuating circumstances who request any sort of modification must provide appropriate documentation.

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus at any time. Welcome to the course. I hope you have a good semester.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

In-class

Online

January 15	Module 1-Introduction: What is World Politics and why are we studying it? Mingst et al, Chapter 1	January 19	Module 1 Before and After Class assignments due
January 22	Module 2-The Historical Context: How has history shaped the world we have today? Mingst et al, Chapter 2	January 21	Module 2 Before Class assignments due
January 29	Module 3-International Relations Theories: How do different theories help us understand world politics? Mingst et al, Chapter 3	January 27	Module 2 After Class assignments due
February 5	Exam #1	January 28	Module 3 Before Class assignments due
		February 3	Module 3 After Class assignments due
February 12	Module 4-Levels of Analysis: What are different explanations for international events? Mingst et al, Chapter 4	February 4	Study for Exam #1
		February 10	No assignments due
February 19	Module 5-The State: How do states shape the international system? Mingst et al, Chapter 5	February 11	Module 4 Before Class assignments due
		February 17	Module 4 After Class assignments due
		February 18	Module 5 Before Class assignments due
		February 24	Module 5 After Class assignments due

February 26	February 25 Module 6-War and Security: What are types of, causes of, and ways to prevent war? Mingst et al, Chapter 6	Module 6 Before Class assignments due March 3
		Module 6 After Class assignments due
March 5	March 4 Module 7-Terrorism: What is terrorism, why do people take part in it, and what does it accomplish? Various readings under “READ: Terrorism Simulation”	Module 7 Before Class assignments due March 10
		Module 7 After class assignments due
March 12	March 11 NO CLASS/SPRING BREAK	No assignments due
	March 17	No assignments due
March 19	March 18 Exam #2	Study for Exam #2
	March 24	No assignments due
March 26	March 25 Module 8-International Political Economy: How does economics impact world politics? Mingst et al, Chapter 8	Module 8 Before Class assignments due March 31
		Module 8 After Class assignments due
April 2	April 1 Module 9-Intergovernmental and Nongovernmental Organizations: What are they and how do they work? Mingst et al, Chapter 9	Module 9 Before Class assignments due April 7
		Module 9 After Class assignments due
April 9	April 8 Module 10-Human Rights: What are they, and what do they look like in the world today? Mingst et al, Chapter 10	Module 10 Before Class assignments due April 14
		Module 10 After Class assignments due
April 16	April 15 Module 11-The Environment: How do environmental issues impact world politics? Mingst et al Chapter 11	Module 11 Before Class assignments due April 21
		Module 11 After Class assignments due
April 23	April 22 Module 12- Human Security: What are the things that most threaten human security in the world today? Mingst et al, Chapter 12	Module 12 Before Class assignments due April 28
		Module 12 After Class assignments due

To be announced **Final Exam**



SYLLABUS REQUIREMENTS

SYLLABUS POLICY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

NAU expects every student to firmly adhere to a strong ethical code of academic integrity in all their scholarly pursuits. The primary attributes of academic integrity are honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and responsibility. As a student, you are expected to submit original work while giving proper credit to other people's ideas or contributions. Acting with academic integrity means completing your assignments independently while truthfully acknowledging all sources of information, or collaboration with others when appropriate. When you submit your work, you are implicitly declaring that the work is your own. Academic integrity is expected not only during formal coursework, but in all your relationships or interactions that are connected to the educational enterprise. All forms of academic deceit such as plagiarism, cheating, collusion, falsification or fabrication of results or records, permitting your work to be submitted by another, or inappropriately recycling your own work from one class to another, constitute academic misconduct that may result in serious disciplinary consequences. All students and faculty members are responsible for reporting suspected instances of academic misconduct. All students are encouraged to complete NAU's online academic integrity workshop available in the E-Learning Center and should review the full *Academic Integrity* policy available at <https://www9.nau.edu/policies/Client/Details/1443?whosLooking=Students&pertainsTo>All>

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies bring both opportunities and challenges. Ensuring honesty in academic work creates a culture of integrity and expectations of ethical behavior. The use of these technologies can depend on the instructional setting, varying by faculty member, program, course, and assignment. Please refer to course policies, any additional course-specific guidelines in the syllabus, or communicate with the instructor to understand expectations. NAU recognizes the role that these technologies will play in the current and future careers of our graduates and expects students to practice responsible and ethical use of AI technologies to assist with learning within the confines of course policies.

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

All lectures and course materials, including but not limited to exams, quizzes, study outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. These materials may not be shared, uploaded, distributed, reproduced, or publicly displayed without the express written permission of NAU. Sharing materials on websites such as Course Hero, Chegg, or related websites is considered copyright infringement subject to United States Copyright Law and a violation of NAU Student Code of Conduct. For additional information on ABOR policies relating to course materials, please refer to ABOR Policy 6-908 A(2)(5).

COURSE TIME COMMITMENT

Pursuant to Arizona Board of Regents guidance (ABOR Policy 2-224, *Academic Credit*), each unit of credit requires a minimum of 45 hours of work by students, including but not limited to, class time, preparation, homework, and studying. For example, for a 3-credit course a student should expect to work at least 8.5 hours each week in a 16-week session and a minimum of 33 hours per week for a 3-credit course in a 4-week session.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Membership in NAU's academic community entails a special obligation to maintain class environments that are conductive to learning, whether instruction is taking place in the classroom, a laboratory or clinical setting, during course-related fieldwork, or online. Students have the obligation to engage in the educational process in a manner that does not interfere with normal class activities or violate the rights of others. Instructors have the authority and responsibility to address disruptive behavior that interferes with student learning, which can include the involuntary

withdrawal of a student from a course with a grade of "W". For additional information, see NAU's *Disruptive Behavior in an Instructional Setting* policy at <https://nau.edu/university-policy-library/disruptive-behavior>.

NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT

NAU prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender, gender identity, race, color, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status and genetic information. Certain consensual amorous or sexual relationships between faculty and students are also prohibited as set forth in the *Consensual Romantic and Sexual Relationships* policy. The Equity and Access Office (EAO) responds to complaints regarding discrimination and harassment that fall under NAU's *Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment* policy. EAO also assists with religious accommodations. For additional information about nondiscrimination or anti-harassment or to file a complaint, contact EAO located in Old Main (building 10), Room 113, PO Box 4083, Flagstaff, AZ 86011, or by phone at 928-523-3312 (TTY: 928-523-1006), fax at 928-523-9977, email at equityandaccess@nau.edu, or visit the EAO website at <https://nau.edu/equity-and-access>.

TITLE IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. In accordance with Title IX, Northern Arizona University prohibits discrimination based on sex or gender in all its programs or activities. Sex discrimination includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. NAU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that it operates, including in admission and employment. NAU is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination based on sex or gender and provides a number of supportive measures that assist students, faculty, and staff.

One may direct inquiries concerning the application of Title IX to either or both the Title IX Coordinator or the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, Office of Civil Rights. You may contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office for the Resolution of Sexual Misconduct by phone at 928-523-5434, by fax at 928-523-0640, or by email at titleix@nau.edu. In furtherance of its Title IX obligations, NAU promptly will investigate or equitably resolve all reports of sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment, or sexual misconduct and will eliminate any hostile environment as defined by law. The Office for the Resolution of Sexual Misconduct (ORSM): Title IX Institutional Compliance, Prevention & Response addresses matters that fall under the university's Sexual Misconduct policy. Additional important information and related resources, including how to request immediate help or confidential support following an act of sexual violence, is available at <https://in.nau.edu/title-ix>.

ACCESSIBILITY

Professional disability specialists are available at Disability Resources to facilitate a range of academic support services and accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability, you can request assistance by contacting Disability Resources at 928-523-8773 (voice), 928-523-8747 (fax), or dr@nau.edu (e-mail). Once eligibility has been determined, students register with Disability Resources every semester to activate their approved accommodations. Although a student may request an accommodation at any time, it is best to initiate the application process at least four weeks before a student wishes to receive an accommodation. Students may begin the accommodation process by submitting a self-identification form online at <https://nau.edu/disability-resources/student-eligibility-process> or by contacting Disability Resources. The Director of Disability Resources, Jamie Axelrod, serves as NAU's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and Section 504 Compliance Officer. He can be reached at jamie.axelrod@nau.edu.

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Students who engage in research at NAU must receive appropriate Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. This instruction is designed to help ensure proper awareness and application of well-established professional norms and ethical principles related to the performance of all scientific research activities. More information regarding RCR training is available at <https://nau.edu/research/compliance/research-integrity>.

MISCONDUCT IN RESEARCH

As noted, NAU expects every student to firmly adhere to a strong code of academic integrity in all their scholarly pursuits. This includes avoiding fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism when conducting research or reporting research results. Engaging in research misconduct may result in serious disciplinary consequences. Students must also report any suspected or actual instances of research misconduct of which they become aware. Allegations of research misconduct should be reported to your instructor or the University's Research Integrity Officer, Dr. David Faguy, who can be reached at david.faguy@nau.edu or 928-523-6117. More information about misconduct in research is available at <https://nau.edu/university-policy-library/misconduct-in-research>.

SENSITIVE COURSE MATERIALS

University education aims to expand student understanding and awareness. Thus, it necessarily involves engagement with a wide range of information, ideas, and creative representations. In their college studies, students can expect to encounter and to critically appraise materials that may differ from and perhaps challenge familiar understandings, ideas, and beliefs. Students are encouraged to discuss these matters with faculty.

Last revised December 21, 2024