

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE 240 THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

Leigh Sink [alsink@uncg.edu](mailto:alsink@uncg.edu) Curry Building 311A 336.870.4167

**Course Description:** We live in an active and changing world that holds both promise and peril for the international system. This course is designed to provide you with some of the analytical concepts and tools necessary to make sense of the various issues facing the international system today. To do this, the course is divided into four sections. In the first section, we will cover some of the basic events that have shaped our world and the concepts and theories that are used to help explain these events and predict the future. The final three sections of the course will build upon this foundation and examine the international system in the areas of international conflict, international political economy, and transnational politics.

**Course Objectives :** This is a general education course with both global (GL) and social and behavioral science (GSB) markers, and the student learning objectives for this course have been designed with both in mind. By the end of this course you should be able to:

- Define different types of actors and identify their interests within the international system.
- Explain how these actors interact within the areas of international conflict, international political economy, and transnational politics.
- Apply theories of international relations--e.g., realism, liberalism, and constructivism--to explain and predict outcomes within these areas of international politics.

**Students are expected to understand and abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy. It is available here: <http://sa.uncg.edu/dean/academic-integrity/violation/>**

**Failure to properly cite sources is plagiarism and will be punished as a violation of the Integrity Policy. The submission of your first assignment acknowledges that you have read, understood and abided by the policy.**

**Before you submit any assignments, you must complete the Plagiarism and Citations Module ( available under Modules in canvas). I will not grade any other assignments until that is completed.**

### **Required Text:**

Bova, How the World Works, A Brief Survey of International Relations, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ISBN: 0-205-08240-8  
Learning Area in Canvas

It is possible that other readings could be posted on canvas as necessary.

## **Technical Help**

While I am familiar with the course content, I am not as familiar with the technology as our Help Desk counterparts. If you encounter technical issues, you should contact the Help Desk immediately. They should be your first point of contact if you have technical issues and other Canvas course management questions. The number is 336-256-TECH, or 256-8324.

## **Grades:**

There is a possible total of 1000 points for the course. The assignments are divided in this fashion:

There will be 8 Discussion Forums (listed as DF) and each DF will be worth 30 points. To receive the full 30 points, you must first post an original response to the discussion question and then you must post at least one thoughtful ( That means something far beyond simply telling your classmate you agree with them.) response to a classmate's post. There will be two discussion forums for each of units 1-4. All of these posts will be done within your groups. Click on the People icon on the left of the Canvas opening page for the class to find your group. Tell me right away if you have not been assigned to a group.

The first discussion board post to each forum must be posted by each Wednesday night at 11:59 PM. Your response to a classmate and any other discussion must be posted by 11:59 each Sunday night. Anything posted over 48 hours late will not be graded and you will receive a zero. Late work will be penalized.

You should consider these posts formal writing. I expect proper grammar and real paragraphs. Please check for typos before you hit SUBMIT. Any more than one stray typo will mean deductions from your grade for the post. If you need help with your writing, please consult with the Writing Center. Here is their web page:

<http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/default.php>

There is no extra charge. You are already paying for this in your tuition. And they do online consultations as well. No need to drive to campus.

Even if you adamantly disagree with someone, make sure that all posts are done in a respectful manner. If you have any concerns about a fellow's students' posts, please notify me

immediately. Respect is one of the core values of the UNCG Code of Student conduct and it will be demanded in this course. <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

### **Tests:**

Units 1-4 will each have a test, with 30 multiple choice questions, worth 3 points each, plus one 60 point essay questions. There will be a strict time limit of one hour, 15 minutes set each test. If you go over the allotted time, the test will receive a zero. If you encounter technical problems, it is your responsibility to notify me immediately, either through email or a call or text. (336.870.4167) Each test will be open from Friday through Sunday. If you do not know the material before you open the test, you will not have time to look for it. Study. Be prepared.

**Final:** The final will be worth 160 points. It will be one essay of no less than 500 words. The questions will focus on Unit 5, but it will also integrate ideas from the entire course. It will not be timed.

### **Here's the Grading Break Down:**

8 Discussion Forums ( 30 pts. Each)		240
4 tests		
30 multiple choice( 3 pts. Each)	90	
One essay	60	
		600
Final		160

### **Calendar:**

#### **Week of June 16-26**

Bova, ch. 1-3

Learning Area, Intro, Unit1

DF 1 and 2 ( The first post to each discussion board must be posted by 11:59 PM, Wednesday, June 22. The second post must be before 11:59 PM, Sunday June 26. )

TEST ( The test will be open from Friday morning, June 24 through Sunday, June 26 11:59PM.)

**Week of June 27-July 3**

Bova, ch. 4,5

Learning Area, Unit 2

DF 3 and 4 ( The first post to each discussion board must be posted by 11:59 PM, Wednesday, June 29. The second post must be before 11:59 PM, Sunday July 3. )

TEST ( The test will be open from Friday morning through Sunday 11:59PM.)

**Week of July 4-10**

Bova, ch. 7

Learning Area, Unit 3

DF 5 and 6 ( The first post to each discussion board must be posted by 11:59 PM, Wednesday , July 6. The second post must be before 11:59 PM, Sunday July 10. )

TEST ( The test will be open from Friday morning through Sunday 11:59PM.)

**Week of July 11-17**

Bova, ch. 6, 8

Learning Area, Unit 4

DF 7 and 8 ( The first post to each discussion board must be posted by 11:59 PM, Wednesday, July 13. The second post must be before 11:59 PM, Sunday July 17)

TEST ( The test will be open from Friday morning through Sunday 11:59PM.)

**Week of July 18-22**

Bova, ch.9

Learning Area, Unit 5

FINAL: Must be submitted by 11:59 PM Friday, July 22