

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2018
Discipline:	Political Science
Course Number and Title:	POLS 131 Current World Problems
Division:	Lower
Faculty Name:	Prof. Larry Martinez
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to current world problems, as well as the analytical tools, rules, and mechanisms that have been created by the international community to address them. This course examines politics as a factor affecting relations among nation-states, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, exploring how politics operates to promote both collaboration as well as conflict among a growing number and diversity of actors composing the international system. Students will focus on the relationships between domestic political systems (i.e., “democratic” or “authoritarian”) and countries’ foreign policies as revealed from the perspective of governments addressing globalization-related issues. The course employs a comprehensive approach analyzing how nation-states are compelled to operate alongside inter-governmental actors such as the UN, NATO, and the EU on an increasingly crowded global stage as non-governmental actors such as Amnesty International, Facebook, and Islamic State, attempt to assert their vision for change as issues such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, global warming, and the international drug trade transform configurations of world political, economic, strategic and “soft” power.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will be able to identify geographic representations of the international system.
- Students will be able to identify and outline competing theoretical frameworks for understanding international events and processes, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical approaches.
- Students will be able to identify and outline competing theoretical frameworks for understanding the varied developmental experiences of individual countries in various parts of the world.

- Students will be able to identify and outline the major political ideologies that have accompanied and shaped the developmental paths of individual countries and the international system.
- Students will be able to explain the connections among gender, race, class, sexuality and nation, as well as their influence on individual countries and the international system.
- Students will be able to explain different historical experiences, views and practices of democracy.
- Students will be able to explain the role of globalization in the development of individual countries and the international system.
- Students will be able to identify the major causes of international conflict, war, and terrorism.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Richard J. Payne
 TITLE: *Global Issues: Politics, Economics, and Culture*
 PUBLISHER: Pearson
 ISBN 13: #978-013420205-1
 ISBN 10: #013420205-8
 DATE/EDITION: 2017/5th ed.

The eBook version of this text may be used and is encouraged by the Professor.

AUTHOR: The Economist
 TITLE: *The World in 2018*
 PUBLISHER: The Economist
 DATE/EDITION: November 2017

This text is only available through [The Economist Store](#). Pre-orders are presently being taken. Pre-orders will be shipped in late November 2017. An electronic, downloadable version will also be available in late November 2017.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico – January 5

A1—January 7: Introduction to the Course

Assignment: None

A2—January 9: Introduction to the International System

Payne, Chapter 1, *Global Issues: Challenges of Globalization*

A3—January 11: The Systemic Level of Analysis

Payne, Chapter 2, The Struggle for Primacy in a Global Society

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

A4—January 14: The Sub-systemic Level of Analysis

The State and its institutions; Democracy: How does it work?

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

A5—January 17: The Individual Level of Analysis

Ideology, Leadership,

No Class — January 19

A6—January 20: Human Rights

Payne, Chapter 3: Human Rights

A7—January 22: Promoting Democracy

Payne, Chapter 4, Promoting Democracy

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29: Global Terrorism

Payne, Chapter 5, Global Terrorism

Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1

In-Transit — February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5

A9—February 6: Disarmament and Weapons Control

Payne, Chapter 6, Weapons Proliferation

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13

A10—February 14: Global Finance in Crisis

Payne, Chapter 7, The Global Financial Crisis

No Class –February 16

A11–February 17: Patterns and Trends in Global Trade

Payne, Chapter 8, Global Trade

Yangon, Myanmar – February 19-23

A12–February 24: Global Inequality

Payne, Chapter 9, Global Inequality

A13– February 26: Global Inequality (cont.)

Readings: TBA

Cochin, India – February 28 – March 5

A14–March 6: A Crowded, Congested, and Competitive World: Environmental Issues

Payne, Chapter 10, Environmental Issues

No Class – March 7

A15–March 9: Environmental Issues amid Climate Change

Readings: TBA

Port Louis, Mauritius – March 11

A16–March 12: People on the Move: Immigration

Payne, Chapter 11: Population and Migration

A17–March 14: Global Crime

Payne, Chapter 12, Global Crime

A18–March 16: Global Drugs Inc.

Readings: TBA

Cape Town, South Africa – March 18-23

A19–March 24: The Globalization of Disease

Payne, Chapter 13, Global Health Challenges

A20—March 26: Clash of Civilizations and Cultures

Payne, Chapter 14, Cultural Clashes and Conflict Resolution

A21—March 28: The Online Culture: Virtual Globalization

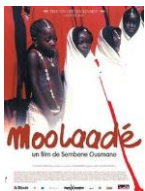
Readings: TBA

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1

Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

A22—April 4: The Globalizing Politics of Gender

Readings: TBA – Films – Moolaadé



Film: Moolaadé (2004)

Moolaadé ("magical protection") is a 2004 film by the [Senegalese](#) writer and director [Ousmane Sembène](#). It addresses the subject of [female genital mutilation](#), a common practice in a number of African countries, from [Egypt](#) to [Nigeria](#). The film was a co-production between companies from several [Francophone](#) nations: Senegal, France, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Morocco, and Tunisia. It was filmed in the remote village of Djerrisso, [Burkina Faso](#). The film argues strongly against the practice, depicting a village woman, Collé, who uses moolaadé (magical protection) to protect a group of girls. She is opposed by the villagers who believe in the necessity of female genital cutting, which they call "purification"... Roger Ebert of the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) called it "for me the best film at Cannes 2004, a story vibrating with urgency and life. It makes a powerful statement and at the same time contains humor, charm and astonishing visual beauty".^[4] Dana Stevens of [The New York Times](#) found "To skip Moolaade would be to miss an opportunity to experience the embracing, affirming, world-changing potential of humanist cinema at its finest Melissa Levine of Dallas Observer said "It's not easy to pull off a good morality tale. That's why Moolaadé, the new film from 81-year-old Senegalese writer-director Ousmane Sembene, feels like such an exceptional success. Its moral center is painfully clear, but so is its humanity". (Source: Wikipedia, at <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moolaad%C3%A9>).

A23—April 6: The Great Disruption

Martinez, "Disintermediation of Electoral Politics"

Study Day – April 8

A24– April 9: Review

Casablanca, Morocco – April 11-14

A25–April 15: Final Exam

Arrive Bremerhaven, Germany – April 19

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Field Class & Assignment

The Field Class for this course will take place on **Thursday, February 8, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.**

Field Class details are forthcoming.

Independent Field Assignments

While in port, students should be watchful to spot examples of how conflict or human rights abuses have impacted the respective society. Students should also consider the extent to which the international community has responses or could respond to such situations. Students will submit a short reflection paper after one port visit.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory/Poor

Failing

97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%:
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

Grades will be evaluated on the following assignments:

Early Assessment Quiz:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Field Class Report:	20%
Film Review:	20%
Final Exam:	20%

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds

value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

None.

FILM REQUEST:

None.

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

Will be provided by instructor.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None.