

Seton Hall University

eRepository @ Seton Hall

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2013

DIPL 1101 Emergence of the Contemporary World

Naaborle Sackeyfio PhD
Seton Hall University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi>

Recommended Citation

Sackeyfio, Naaborle PhD, "DIPL 1101 Emergence of the Contemporary World" (2013). *Diplomacy Syllabi*.
3.
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/3>

The School of Diplomacy and International Relations
SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
Emergence of the Contemporary World
DIPL 1101
Fall 2013

Dr. Naaborle Sackeyfio

Wednesday: Tuesday and Thursday; Section AA: 9:30am-10:45am; Section AB: 12:30pm-1:45pm, Duffy Hall Rm. 80 & 61

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 11:00am-12:00pm and by appointment-McQuaid Hall Rm. 109

Email: naaborle.sackeyfio@shu.edu

Course Overview

This course examines the nature of political phenomena and a variety of issues in world politics. Students will gain a basic understanding of the historical, cultural, geographical, and institutional factors that shape the contemporary world. We examine key analytical concepts and contemporary international political issues through lectures, discussions, film and documentaries. The course aims to foster critical inquiry by exploring the intersection between a variety of actors on the global stage, political institutions, ideology, and the structure of the international system governs relations between them.

The course is divided into six parts. Part I introduces the study of world politics and analyzes the recent changes in the international system. Part II looks at the variety of political systems and the various models and theories that help us understand contemporary politics. Part III looks at the important role of democracy and its global impact. Part IV questions the notions of civility in today's age. Part V examines the role of political violence. Part VI wraps-up the course by asking, is there a coming anarchy?

*Please note that I may make adjustments to the syllabus during the course of the semester.

Required Texts

Magstadt, Thomas (2012) *Understanding Politics: Ideas, Institutions, and Issues*, 9th or 10th Edition. Thomson/Wadsworth.

Kaplan, Robert D (2001). *The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War*. Vintage Publishing.

Course Objectives

- Describe key concepts and their analytical value.
- Critique major aspects of liberal democratic and nondemocratic regimes.
- Evaluate common theories about the relationship between economics and politics and the common mechanisms states have developed to govern the interaction between these aspects.

- Assess the impact of history, culture, key institutions, interest groups, cleavages and major political conflicts of several contemporary political systems.
- The relationship between political ideology and political institutions explored in the course.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance**-Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time and remain for the duration of each class. The penalty for excessive absence is a reduction in your attendance grade for the semester.
2. **Leading class discussion**- Each student will start off a class discussion by presenting a 5-minute summary and analysis of the day's readings. You should present the main thesis, outline the author's argument, identify the evidence, and provide the conclusion. Is the argument logically coherent? Does the author provide empirical evidence in support of the main thesis? Offer your own well-reasoned ideas on the topic.
3. **Group Work**-Working in groups of 4-5 individuals, students will discuss a number of questions that pertain to material we cover during a given session in conjunction with short articles we read in-class. Guidelines will be offered prior to the start of any group session.
4. Three reactions papers- Each student will write three 1 ½ to 2 page reactions papers based on either short films, documentaries and lecture material we cover. Guidelines for reaction papers will be provided before the due dates.
5. The **midterm** and **final** exams will be in-class; and with the format to be determined at a later date. The midterm will count for 25% while the final exam will count for 30%.

Course Policy

6. In an effort to be considerate to fellow classmates and the professor, it is expected that once class begins cell phones are cut off or placed on a silent ring tone.
7. **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**- Students are expected to honor the standards of academic integrity as outlined in the University catalog. Any work, drawn from sources other than one's own must be properly documented-that is cited and attributed accurately. If any policies seem unclear, feel free to contact the professor for additional clarification.
8. From time to time, I will include articles accessible in PDF form. I may periodically include articles accessible on **blackboard, through the library or other sources.**
9. **Missed exam policy**-Students who miss an exam owing to unexpected circumstances should notify me as soon as possible. Accommodations for makeup exams will be made only in the case of a documented emergency. Students who miss an exam must notify me as soon as possible for alternative accommodations.

10. **Assignments-** All assignments are to be handed to me in class. Emailed assignments will not be accepted because from time to time glitches with email can result in mishaps. Hence I will only accept assignments handed to me personally or left in my mailbox at McQuaid Hall per my specification. On another note, late assignments will suffer a penalty of 5 points off per each day late (except in the case of a documented emergency).
11. **Disabilities-** Let me know of any disabilities that require prescribed attention and keep in mind that your disability should be on file with the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), which is located in Duffy Hall, Room 67. To receive assistance, please self-identify. The staff at DSS will help you to develop a plan for accommodations. For more information contact DSS at (973) 313-6003.
12. **Laptops-** Laptops are allowed for note taking as long as they do not distract you from participation in discussion. However, this policy is subject to change.
13. **Emergency conditions:** In case of unexpected conditions be it weather or otherwise that may possibly disrupt our regular schedule please check your email and/or the School Administrator before class for any updates.
14. **Email Policy-** I will do my best to get back to you within a minimum of 24 hours. However, I am not available on the weekends.

Grading

Attendance and Leading Class Discussions	10%
Reaction Papers	15%
Group Work	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Evaluation: Final Grades will based on the following scale:

A 94-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
A- 90-93	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 60-66
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	F 0-59

Course Schedule

Week 1: Aug 27 & 29

Class introductions, course outline, and expectations for class assignments, questions
Why Study Politics? Chapter 1

Week 2: Sept 3 & 5

The Idea of the Public Good: Ideologies and Isms

Chapter 2

Additional Reading TBA

Week 3: Sept 10 & 12 *International Relations: The Struggle for Power*

Chapter 17

Film #1: TBA

Part II: Political Systems: Models and Theories

Week 4: Sept 17 & 19 *Utopias*

Chapter 3

Constitutional Democracies

Chapter 4

Reaction Paper #1 Due

Midterm Exam!!! Oct 10

Fall Break Oct 15!

Week 5-8: Sept 24-Oct 17

Authoritarianism: Myth and Reality

Chapter 5

Part III: Established and Emerging Democracies

Parliamentary Democracy

Chapter 7

Week 9: Oct 22-28 *States and Economies in Transition & The Other World: Development or Anarchy?*

Chapter 8, pgs180-197 Chapter 9, pgs210-237

Part IV: Is Politics Really all that Civil?

Week 10: Oct 31

Film #2: Triumph of the Will

Part V: Political Violence: Revolution, War, and Terrorism

Week 11: Nov 5 & 7 *Revolution & War*

Chapter 15

Reading TBA-Arab Spring or Mideast Autumn: Syria's Uprising and the Battle for Egypt

Reaction Paper #2 Due Nov 5!

Week 12: Nov 12 & 14 *Terrorism*

Chapter 16 Reading TBD

Film #3: The Devil Came on Horseback

International Organizations and the Quest for Order

Chapter 18 Reading TBD

Part VI: The Coming Anarchy?

Week 13: Nov 19 & 21 *The Coming Anarchy*

Kaplan, Chapter 1

The End of Democracy?

Kaplan, Chapter 2

Reaction Paper #3 Due

Week 14 & 15: Nov 26-Dec 3 *Idealism and Limitations*

Thanksgiving break Nov 28!

Kaplan, Chapter 3

The Creeping Security Sector & Challenges

Kaplan, Chapters 4 & 5

Week 15: Dec 5 (Last week of class): *Re-imagining a New Foreign Policy*

Kaplan, Chapter 6

The Value of Realism

Kaplan, Chapters 7 & 8

Wrap-up session

Final exam tentatively scheduled for Dec 12

Some On-Line Sources:

News Sources:

All Africa News: www.allafrica.com

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm>

Christian Science Monitor: <http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/>

Daily Mail & Guardian: <http://www.mg.co.za/>

Le Monde: <http://www.lemonde.fr/>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>

Human Rights Organizations:

Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org/>

Global Witness: <http://www.globalwitness.org/>

Human Rights Watch: <http://hrw.org/>

IDMC Monitoring Center: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

International Organizations:

African Union: <http://www.africa-union.org/>

United Nations: <http://www.un.org/>

International Think-Tank Research:

Brookings Institution: <http://www.brookings.edu/>

Ford Foundation: <http://www.fordfound.org/>

Freedom House: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=1>

International Crisis Group: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?l=1>

Institute for Security Studies: <http://www.issafrica.org>

United States Agency for International Development (USAID): <http://www.usaid.gov/>

Wilson Center: <http://wilsoncenter.org/>

Non-Governmental Organizations:

Care: <http://www.care.org/>

Concern: <http://www.concernusa.org/>

Doctors Without Borders: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

GTZ: <http://www.gtz.de/en/>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): <http://www.icrc.org/>

International Rescue Committee (IRC): <http://www.theirc.org/>

Oxfam: <http://www.oxfam.org/>

Save the Children: <http://www.savethechildren.org/>

World Vision: <http://www.worldvision.org/>

Trade Websites:

African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA): <http://www.agoa.gov/>

Mercosur: <http://www.mercosurtc.com/>

NAFTA: <http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/en/view.aspx>

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): <http://www.nepad.org/>

World Trade Organization (W.T.O.): <http://www.wto.org/>