

# PSC-230-Course Syllabus

## Syllabus

PSC 230 GEO-POLITICAL STUDIES

Instructor:

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Schedule of office hours:

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Office Hours:

Monday: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

And 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 P.M.

Wednesday: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 -12:00 noon

And by Appointments.

Course Description:

Geo-Political Studies is designed to clarify public issues and invite public deliberation. This course is an introduction to the responsibilities of citizenship at the local, national, and international levels. Emphasis in the course is oriented toward understanding and making critical judgments on political and geopolitical issues from the local to the international arena.

Course Objectives:

Students must be able to

1. Identify the trends, concepts, and actors of the global stage.
2. Examine world politics from a historical perspective.
3. Explore policy objectives of states/power of states.
4. Discuss diplomacy and foreign policy decisions.
5. Explain the Just-War Theory and other principles of war.

6. Compare international cooperation with international terrorism.
7. Identify several twenty-first century views of global politics.

## UNIT I – Introduction and Overview

Objective: This unit is designed to enable students

1. Identify trends, concepts, actors, and perspectives of the world

around us.

2. Examine the geographic scope of city-states and empires.
3. Understand four types of international systems and their historical

significance.

### **Exam # 1- July 6 (Multiple-Choice Exam & Essay).**

## UNIT II - State Security and Statecraft

Objective: This unit is designed to enable students

1. identify policy-making conflicts and political capabilities
2. explain diplomatic immunities and incentives
3. understand rationality's and causes of war.

### **Exam # 2 - July 13th (Multiple-Choice Exam). NOTE: DISCUSSION POINTS ARE DUE 2ND WEEK.**

## UNIT III - International Security

Objective: This unit is designed to enable students

1. examine domestic terrorism
2. discuss the causes and extent of terrorism
3. scrutinize transnational crimes

### **Exam # 3 - July 20 (Essay Exam-See announcements)**

(The essay will include title, thesis statement, body, and conclusion. The paper should be written in APA style. Please use the American Psychological Association's [APA] writing manual found online)

Cheating is not accepted. No credit will be given to work in which plagiarism and other forms of cheating are involved.

## Unit IV - Civil Society and the Global Economy

Objective: This unit is designed to enable students

1. examine growth areas of international law
2. discuss global politics and capitalism
3. take a look at international trade and the global economy

## UNIT V- Identity and Civil Society

Objective: This unit is designed to enable students

1. Examine nations and ethnic groups/nation-states and nations without states.
2. Explain how values transcend cultures
3. Look at human rights issues and refugees
4. Local Political Issues

The last day of class.

## **Final Exam - July 27 (Multiple-Choice Exam)**

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to:

1. acquire a copy of the required text,
2. complete all assignments by their due dates,
3. complete all tests, quizzes and examinations,
4. attend any special symposia, lectures, exhibitions, performances, or other events required by individual instructors,
5. attend all classes regularly and punctually (see Stillman College Catalog),
6. read pertinent material prior to class attendance (pop quizzes will be given,
7. and please note that several in-class writing assignments as well as short out of class writing assignments will be required. These assignments can help a borderline grade.

90 and above = A

80 to 89 = B

70 to 79 = C

60 to 69 = D

Below 60 = F

## CALENDAR

Textbook: No Textbook is required. See Pages and reading list below.

Reading List:

### Books about geopolitics

1. [A must-read book for any American interested in geopolitics \(Links to an external site.\)](#): *Legacy of Ashes* by Tim Weiner.
- [The Constitution: wonderful, if we can keep it \(Links to an external site.\)](#): *If We Can Keep It* by Chet Richards.
- [Valuable new insights about the culture of war... a preview \(Links to an external site.\)](#)— *The Culture of War* by Martin Van Creveld (a preview)
- [A history book to help us better understand our rapidly changing world \(Links to an external site.\)](#) — *The Culture of War* by Martin Van Creveld
- [Diagnosing the Eagle, Chapter II — book recommendations for 2008 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)— Three great books, each telling much about 21st America.
- [Diagnosing the Eagle, Chapter III — reclaiming the Constitution \(Links to an external site.\)](#)— about *Closing of the American Mind* by Allan Bloom.
- [Diagnosing the eagle, chapter IV - Alienation \(Links to an external site.\)](#)— about *The Culture of Narcissism* by Christopher Lasch.
8. [Lest we forget, “Black Hawk Down” \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Least we forget: lessons for us from the Battle of Ia Drang \(Links to an external site.\)](#)— about *We Were Soldiers Once... and Young*.
10. [The Changing Face of War: Lessons of Combat, From the Marne to Iraq \(Links to an external site.\)](#), by Martin van Creveld — one of the major books about 4GW.
11. [New Books, with insights about our changing world \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
12. [Gift ideas – Books to get or give \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
13. [My movie recommendation for 2010: Virtual JFK \(the book is also great\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
14. [“Generals read Ender’s Game” and see their vision of the future Marine Corps \(Links to an external site.\)](#),
15. [The little-known dark side of Ender’s Game \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
16. [America’s Defense Meltdown \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
17. [The Pentagon Labyrinth: 10 Short Essays to Help You Through It \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

18. [Why Americans should love Tolkien's Lord of the Rings – we live there \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
19. [Martin van Creveld explains the essence of Airpower Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
20. [Bing West tells us about \*Grit, Strategy and the Way Out of Afghanistan\* \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
21. [A Recipe for Change – a review of “Warfighting and Disruptive Technologies: Disguising Innovation” \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
22. [“What Goes Around Comes Around \(Links to an external site.\)”](#), a review by Thomas X. Hammes of *Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice* by David Galula (1964)
23. [The Last Valley – Dien Bien Phu, the battle the doomed the French Empire and led American into Vietnam \(2004\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 3 March 2012
24. [Invasion 1940: Did the Battle of Britain Alone Stop Hitler? \(2005\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 4 March 2012
25. [“COIN of the Realm” – reviewing one of the books driving our strategy in the Long War \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 18 March 2012
26. [The Robot Revolution arrives, and the world changes \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 18 April 2012 — About *Race Against the Machine* by Brynjolfsson and McAfee

Here is a list of information sources and books I have found useful: [You might find these info sources useful — I do! \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Articles about the works of Thomas Barnett

1. [The Myth of Grand Strategy \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 31 January 2006
- [America's Most Dangerous Enemy \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 1 March 2006

Here are archives of online articles by some major writers about 4GW:

- [The Essential 4GW reading list: chapter One, Martin van Creveld \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [The Essential 4GW reading list: Chapter Two, Donald Vandergriff \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [The Essential 4GW reading list: chapter 3, David Kilcullen \(Links to an external site.\)](#)