PS 125: GLOBAL POLITICS AND BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE, SPRING 2006  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00--12:15, HHH 100

Ali R. Abootalebi
Schneider 229A
abootaar@uwec.edu
http://www.uwec.edu/abootaar

Office Hours: T, Th 1:00-2:30
Phone: 836-5969 & 836-5744
And by Appointment/email

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Political Science 125 is an introductory course designed to introduce students in general, and business students in particular, to a wide array of important international political issues influencing international economics, business and commerce. The focus of the class is therefore not on global business per se but on global politics and its impact on global affairs, including global business and commerce. In doing so, we will focus, after a quick overview of the Cold War period, on major characteristics of global political economy (e.g., globalization, global institutions and organizations like the IMF, WB, UN, GATT, WTO and EU, and global wealth and power distribution). We will read three major texts and selected articles from the Internet. We will also keep track of important domestic and international issues relevant to the general goals of this class by reading some major sources of international news (e.g., New York Times, Washington Post, BBC News, etc.). This will encourage you to develop a habit of keeping up with world events in global political economy. We will dedicate a great deal of our time on Thursdays to discuss these issues. Class participation is very crucial to the success of this class, and students are expected to read the assigned materials prior to class lectures and presentations on every Thursday. In order to maximize class participation and contribution, a well-qualified student is assigned in this class to help lead group discussions on every Thursday. This will begin in Week V. I will provide you with detailed information as we proceed with the class. [The goals of this class will match the following University’s Baccalaureate Goals: Goal 3, An ability to inquire, think, and analyze; Goal 6, An historical consciousness; Goal 7, International and intercultural experience; Goal 10, An understanding of values; Goal 11, An understanding of human behavior and human institutions.] For a complete list of Baccalaureate goals, go to http://webportfolio.uwec.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
In addition to the three required texts assigned for this class, students are encouraged to regularly read at least one major source of international news and be ready to comment on pre-assigned articles. In order to maximize student participation, I will on every Thursday or Friday email all students a list of articles from the Internet on selected topics pertinent to our topical discussion of global politics and business. In the following Thursday, the selected group(s) will present and lead discussions by first giving a brief analysis of the issues discussed in these articles and then engaging the class in a lively debate and exchange of ideas. Your mentors will be there to oversee and evaluate your individual and group performances. Our expectation is that everyone is ready for this forum to help the entire class learn. (I will provide you with additional information in class.) Tuesday classes, on the other hand, are dedicated to lectures and the
discussion of text materials. The precise outline of topics covered in this class is provided below. We will try to follow the outlined schedule, but I will inform you of necessary amendments should there be any. There will be no make-up exam or extension on assignments given, unless a prior written notice is provided by the student, explaining the circumstances under which he or she is forced to miss the exam or assignments. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions are required. Students whose names are called and are not present will be penalized.

ABOUT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
In accordance to the University handbook, “I consider any academic misconduct in this course as a serious offense, and I will pursue the strongest possible academic penalties for such behavior.” The disciplinary procedures and penalties for academic misconduct are described in the UW-Eau Claire Student Services and Standards Handbook (http://www.uwec.edu/sdd/publications.htm) in the section titled, “Chapter UWS 14—Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures.”

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING:
Your final grade will be based on (1) your individual contribution to THREE group activity and presentations (30%), (2) midterm and final examinations (60%), and (3) class participation/attendance (10%). Both Midterm (20%) and the final (30%) are take-home exams that will consist of long essay questions, 8-10 pages each. Your final grade is thus based on:

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP ACTIVITY (30%)
MIDTERM (30%)
FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)
CLASS ATTENDANCE/ PARTICIPATION (10%)

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:


4. Selected articles on the Internet.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:
Midterm --------------- Thursday, March 16
Group Activity---------- Every Thursday, beginning in Week V
Final Exam Week -------- Mon--Friday, May 15-19
SOME ADDITIONAL BOOKS OF INTEREST:


SOME USEFUL INTERNET SITES:

International Monetary Fund® [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)
World Trade Organization® [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)
The Bretton Woods Committee® [www.brettonwoods.org](http://www.brettonwoods.org)
International Atomic Energy [Agency@www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org)
The State Department® [http://www.state.gov/](http://www.state.gov/)
Global Security® [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org)
Center for International and Strategic Studies® [http://www.csis.org/](http://www.csis.org/)
The Brookings Institution® [http://www.brook.edu/fp/](http://www.brook.edu/fp/)
CORP Watch® [http://www.corpwatch.org/](http://www.corpwatch.org/)
PART I: THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Week I (January 23-27)
a) Syllabus/ warm up
b) What is Global Politics and How to Study It?
c) Actors in Global Politics/Levels of Analysis and the Study of Global Politics

Readings: None

Week II (January 30-February 3)
International Political Economy in the 1990s: Issues and Questions

Readings:
William Keylor, Chapters 10-13, pp. 310-418

Week III (February 6-10)
The Cold War: What was it and who won it?

Readings:
1. William Keylor, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-92
2. Handout, a review of major post WWII international events (through email)
3. Cold War Policies 1945-91: Negotiation 1945--------Web Site

Optional Readings:
Sharing the Atom Bomb (James Chace, *Foreign Affairs (FA)*, Jan/Feb 1996).

**Week IV (February 13-17)**
The Cold War: What was it and who won it? (Cont.)

**Readings:**
1. William Keylor, Chapters 4-6, pp. 93-174
2. Forwarded Emails
3. Coercion 1950-1968------------------------------------Web Site
   http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Mock group presentation on Week IV with your Mentors

**Week V (February 20-24)**
The Cold War Continues

**Readings:**
1. William Keylor, Chapters 7-9, pp. 175-309
2. Forwarded Emails

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Presentation: Groups 1 & 2

**Week VI (February 27-March 3)**
International Monetary Regime: Bretton-Woods and Its Aftermath

**Readings:**
1. Begin Reading Jagdish Bhagwati’s *In Defense of Globalization*
2. Bretton Woods: Background and Present Status @
3. Forwarded Emails

**Optional Readings:**
The Next Ideology (Graham Fuller, FP, Sprig 1995).
The Land Mine Crisis (Boutros Boutros Ghali, FA, Sept/Oct 1994).
Dateline Tehran: A Revolution Implodes (Robin Wright, FP, Summer 1996).
Canada's Continuing Identity Crisis (Conrad Black, FA, March/Apr.1995).
The Last Ambassador (Warren Zimmermann, FA, Mar/Apr. 1995).

Presentation: Groups 3 & 4

**Week VII (March 6-10)**
International Trade Regimes and Corporations: GATT, WTO, MNCs

**Readings:**
1. Continue Reading Jagdish Bhagwati’s *In Defense of Globalization*
2. World Trade Organization Webpage @ [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)
3. Forwarded Emails

Presentation: Group 1

**Week VIII (March 13-17)**
International Monetary Regime: IMF and the World Bank

**Readings:**
1. Continue and Finish Reading Jagdish Bhagwati’s *In Defense of Globalization*
2. IMF and World Bank Sites @ [www.IMF.org](http://www.IMF.org) and [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
3. Forwarded Emails

Presentation: Group 2

**TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM IS DUE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 16**
Week IX (March 20-24)        SPRING RECESS

Week X (March 27-31)
International Organizations: The European Union

Readings:
1. Begin Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
2. European Union @ http://europa.eu.int/index_en.htm
3. Forwarded Emails

Presentation: Group 3

Week XI (April 3-7)
International Organizations: The United Nations

Readings:
1. Continue Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
2. The United Nations @ www.un.org
3. Forwarded Emails

Optional Readings
- Global Leadership After the Cold War (Boutros Boutros Ghali, FA, March/April 1996).
- Paying for Peace and Development (Ruben P. Mendez, FP, Fall 1995).

Presentation: Group 4

Week XII (April 10-14)        APRIL 14-17 IS APRIL BREAK
The Rich and the Poor in the International System

Readings:
1. Continue Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
2. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs @
3. Forwarded Emails

Presentation: Group 1
Week XIII (April 17-21)
The Rich and the Poor in the International System

Readings:
1. Continue Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
2. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs @ http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm
3. Forwarded Emails

Presentation: Group 2

Week XIV (April 24-28)
America’s Global Future

Readings:
1. Continue Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
2. U.S. Department of State at http://www.state.gov/
3. International Relations and Security Network @ http://www.isn.ethz.ch/
4. Forwarded Emails

Optional Readings:
- Pivotal States and U.S. Strategy (Robert S. Chase, Emily B. Hill, Paul Kennedy, FA, Jan/Feb 1996).

Presentation: Group 3

Week XV (April May 1-5)
America’s Global Future

Readings:
1. Continue Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
2. U.S. Department of State at http://www.state.gov/
3. International Relations and Security Network @ http://www.isn.ethz.ch/
4. Forwarded Emails

Optional Readings:
- Reforming NATO (Karl Kaiser, FP, Summer 1996).
- The Folly of Rapid NATO Expansion (Karl-Heinz Kamp, FP, Spring 1995)
- Containing Ethnic Conflict (Charles W. Maynes, FP, Spring 1993).
A Plan for Europe (Zbigniew Brzezinski, FA, Jan/Feb 1995).
Global Jobs Crisis (Ray Marshall, FP, Fall 1995).
The Return of infectious disease (Laurie Garrett, FA, Jan/Feb 1996).

Presentation: Group 4

Week XVI (May 8-12)
Review Session

Readings:

1. Continue and Finish Reading Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty*
4. Forwarded Emails

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM IS DUE ON TUESDAY, MAY 9