

POLITICAL SCIENCE 277 MAKING A GLOBAL WORLD

SYLLABUS PART I: GOALS, ASSIGNMENT TYPES, AND POLICIES

Class meetings: MW 2.30 – 3.45 pm Agricultural Engineering Building 119
Course Moodle Site at <https://moodle.umass.edu/> (requires UMass login)

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor MJ Peterson	Thompson 326 mjp@polsci.umass.edu	T 1.30-5 and W 9-11 or by appointment
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This is a General Education Course in Historical Studies (HS)

Like all General Education courses, this one will encourage you to broaden your knowledge of the world, examine your assumptions, sharpen your critical thinking, and engage in intellectual dialogue. As an HS course it is designed provide a long-term view of some set of events in human life, and to enhance your understanding of how different societies organize their own political, economic, and social norms and institutions.

This particular course focuses on tracing how the world of 1450, a set of very distinct regions having few or no interactions with others, was transformed into today's highly connected world with pervasive cross-region interaction. By the end of the term, you will have been provided with conceptual frameworks and substantive knowledge that will help you place current debates about the extent, impact, and desirability of "globalization" into perspective by understanding how and why the connections have grown and eroded in different eras. The assignments provide opportunities for developing analytical skills that you can apply to refining your knowledge of the world and enhancing your ability to be an informed and effective citizen.

LEARNING GOALS

Increased Knowledge

- improved understanding of when major changes occurred
- refined awareness of developments in different parts of the world
- understanding how physical, political, economic, social, and technological conditions all contribute to processes of global, regional, and national change

Increased Intellectual Skill

- using analytical tools to analyze events and trends
- effective written communication
- understanding and working with primary materials
- finding and evaluating journalistic and academic materials available on the internet
- understanding the perspectives of people in other parts of the world

ASSIGNMENTS

This course includes four sets of written assignments:

Information Exercises: These are a set of Moodle quizzes designed to help you assess and improve your skills in finding information online and in assessing the reliability of what you find.

Work with Primary Documents: These Moodle activities will help you appreciate and use primary documents – transcripts of speeches, news reports, official documents, maps, and other writings produced by people directly involved in or closely observing events when they occurred – to understand the motives, beliefs, and concerns that shaped what people did or thought at the time.

Data Exercises: These quizzes and short paragraph assignments on Moodle will provide opportunities to assess and enhance ability to understand data presented in various types of tables and graphs. Each assignment is accompanied by a video explaining the type of data presentation involved.

Writing: One short “writing practice” using a simple grading scheme (submitted = 100 and not submitted = 0) providing a “baseline” for instructor comments on your writing, plus three take-home essays. The essays will not require outside research, but will require you to draw together material from readings and more than one class session to answer an analytical question. Writing assignments will be submitted through Moodle. The grading guidelines for these essays are also posted on Moodle.

WARNING

Missed Deadlines: Late submission will be accepted only when a) the delay arises from a last-minute situation or b) the reason needing an extension has been explained to Professor Peterson in advance and an alternate deadline arranged. Do not wait until the deadline to communicate; that really erodes your credibility. Delayed communication will meet with understanding only when the situation requiring an extension arises just before the deadline. Short of being in the hospital unconscious, you need to communicate about last-minute situations within 2 days of the deadline. Failure to arrange extensions in advance or within the 2-day window for last minute situations will result in earning a grade of 0 (no effort) for that assignment. *Last-minute situations do not include trouble uploading to Moodle unless the system goes down.* If you have trouble with Moodle, e-mail me a copy of the assignment before the deadline and upload it to Moodle as soon as you can.

The **classroom participation** part of your grade is based on being in class and using your clicker to answer questions. Grading is based on answering, not on correct answers.

The Essay Guidelines are posted in the Essay Submission area of the Moodle site. Read them before writing your essays.

*reliable access to the readings and a computer notebook or electronic places for notes
UMass login (for access to Moodle)
i-clicker
your brain in gear during class and study time*

needed
for this
course

Determining Course Grades

Each individual assignment submitted by the deadline or extended deadline is graded on a 55 to 100 scale; Each missing assignment is graded as 0. The weights given to each assignment are given in the formula:

Grading Formula

Writing Practice	2%
Information Exercises	8% (2% each)
Work with Primary Sources	9% (3% each)
Data Exercises	16% (4%each)
Classroom participation	7%
Essay 1	14%
Essay 2	19%
Essay 3	25%
Total	100%

Converting Numbers to Letter Grades

F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
0-59	60-66	67-69	70-72	73-76	77-79	80-82	83-86	87-89	90-92	93-100

University Policies governing the Course (details you may want to ignore but should not)

Students registering for this course are assumed to be aware of The Academic Regulations and the Code of Student Conduct. They can be accessed at:

www.umass.edu/registrar/media/academicreg.pdf (Academic Regulations)

and

www.umass.edu/dean_students/code_conduct (Code of Student Conduct)

Academic honesty is essential to excellent study and research. Thus all forms of academic dishonesty (which include cheating, fabrication of data, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty) are prohibited in all programs at the University. See the Ombuds Office notes at <http://www.umass.edu/ombuds/honesty.php>

Consistent with its commitment to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students, the University encourages students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities that they believe will interfere with their learning to consult with Disability Services (DS) regarding their situation. Those with disabilities documented by DS who need reasonable academic accommodations to help them succeed in this course should notify Professor Peterson privately within the first two weeks of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Individually-addressed e-mail communications relating to the course will be sent to your @umass.edu (or five college e-mail) address. If you prefer using another e-mail account, set up automatic forwarding or check your school address often. Communications to all students will be posted on the course mainpage in Moodle. Really urgent messages (such as what we will do if the campus is closed on a class day) will also be delivered as individual e-mails.