

Political Science 10200: Pathways in World Politics

Summer Session

Course Number: PLSC 10200

Class Meetings: Week Days

Class Sessions & TA Sessions: 9am till ? (can vary daily; see weekly schedules once available).

Course Organizer: Professor Paul Poast

Course Instructors: Professor Paul Poast; Professor Robert Gulotty; Professor Rochelle Terman

Course Teaching Assistant: David Crabtree

Course Web page: On Canvas

Class Location: Harper Memorial Library, Room 130 (note: this room itself is [well known](#); Also, since we'll be in Harper, you'll want to see the [reading room](#)!)

Overall Course Description: International relations explores the consequences of the world having multiple, interacting national governments, rather than a single world government. As an academic discipline, international relations offers conceptual tools for understanding the causes of and possible solutions to many of the challenges and existential risks facing humanity today, including wars, nuclear proliferation, economic crises, global pandemics, and climate change. This three-week course will introduce students to the questions, concepts, theories, and methods involved in the scientific study of world politics, with applications to issues ranging from the creation of international organizations like the United Nations, the regulation of the global economy, and the role of norms and ethics in diplomatic practice. The course is a combination of standard classroom material (lectures, readings, and discussion) and diplomacy simulations.

Students will come away with a comprehension of politics among nations, which can assist in high school activities such as speech and debate and model United Nations, as well as bolster an interest in a future career in international business, government, journalism, education, law, or nonprofit organizations. Most of all, the course can make students better informed global citizens poised to make informed decisions and interventions in an increasingly complex world.

Overall Course Organization: Each week will be a combination of lectures by the instructors, discussion sessions with the teaching assistant, simulations of actual diplomatic encounters (e.g. model UN Security Council), and, when possible, experiential field trips. Besides engaging in these experiences, students will be asked to read scholarship on the topic and write papers that either reflect on the topic or prepare the student to participate in the simulations.

Overall Course Schedule:

Each of the three weeks in the course will have a theme and will be led by a different instructor. A detailed syllabus for each week will be provided prior to the start of each week (and accessible by clicking on the active links below).

- Week 1: [Overview of World Politics and The Global Security Order](#) (led by Professor Paul Poast)
- Week 2: [Trade and the Politics of the World Economy](#) (led by Professor Robert Gulotty)
- Week 3: [Global Human Rights and Global Institutions](#) (led by Professor Rochelle Terman)

REPRESENTATIVE SYLLABUS