POL 241 G

The Politics and Government of Global Powers

COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2014

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Vesalius College

Course: Monday 8:30-11:30 AM (The Hague room)
Office Hours: Friday 11AM-12 PM

1. Prerequisites
2. Course Description and Course Objectives
3. Course Materials
4. Teaching Method and Course Elements
5. Assignments and Assessment
6. Course Schedule
7. Literature and Session Instructions
1. PREREQUISITES

At least one politics/international affairs course - background knowledge in Comparative Government or knowledge of one/several of the case studies is recommended.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course analyses the challenges of Global Governance and the role played by emerging countries (BRICS) in the new global order. It analyses the policy-making of these countries, the rationale behind their engagement in international multilateral organizations/institutions and the ways they try to change the balance in the global system. Firstly therefore, this course reviews global governance structures, their roles, the way they operate and the challenges they face. Second, it looks at the political and government structures of emerging world powers; country case studies focus on China, India, Brazil, and Russia. In addition the position and role of each country in the global context are assessed - as appropriate for each country. We will look at the ways these states engage into the international governance structures, the tools they use and the efforts that they make to influence or redesign current structures. Third, we will envision possible scenarios for global structures in the future.

The course aims to help students gain a deeper appreciation of how Global Governance works (or not) and how it is evolving. It also makes them reflect on the constraints and opportunities it poses for effective policy making— from the standpoint of governments, the private sector, NGOs, or multilateral international organizations/institutions. The course also provides the students with a better understanding of global problems and challenges, including the complexities inherent to policy-making, foreign policy decisions and implementation at times dictated by real politik. It will further give them an insight into the factors that contribute to the shaping of foreign policy today.

In the course of the semester, guest professors/practitioners may come and deliver lectures on specific topics addressed in the course.

By the end of the course, it is hoped that students will have a firm grasp of

-in terms of substantive knowledge:
  - Understanding of global governance and assessment of the current challenges to global order;
  - Knowledge of political systems of major emerging global powers in comparative perspective;
  - Competence in the principles and factors that guide policymaking;
  - Analysis of the impact of Emerging Powers on Global Governance
  - Acquiring the skills and abilities to apply theoretical and conceptual knowledge to real-life cases and issues.

-and in terms of skills:
  a) Critical thinking about current challenges for established and emerging global powers;
  b) Ability to critically compare different types of political systems;
  c) Ability to examine, understand, synthesize and utilize core texts on comparative government and politics;
  d) Ability to carry out independent, in-depth research using a wide range of sources;
e) Ability to structure and compose a concise research essay, focused on the key issues at hand.

f) Ability to present work concisely and coherently, presentation and seminar-leading skills, including effective team-work.

- **Major International Affairs Attitudes expected from students include:**

  a) A passion for life-long learning, commitment to one's work and the ability to be open and critical towards one's own and others' perspectives;

  b) An international mind-set, multicultural openness and a strong capacity for interaction and networking in a variety of professional and cultural settings (including networking skills);

  c) A sense of professionalism, integrity and a self-critical attitude towards one's abilities, limits and constant urge for self-improvement.

3. COURSE MATERIALS

There is no text book. All assigned readings are required. Reading material will be handed out in the form of a **Reader which will be made available to you through Dropbox or Poincaré.**

Furthermore, for current affairs awareness, you are required to keep yourself up-to-date through the Guardian, the Economist, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, the New Open Democracy, The New Yorker and International Herald Tribune websites. For a more in-depth coverage, access the electronic version of *Foreign Affairs* through your electronic account.

For additional, deeper scholarly research, you should refer to the following journals:

*International Organization*  
*International Affairs*  
*Foreign Affairs*  
*American Politics Research*  
*Chinese Journal of International Politics*  
*Brazilian Political Science Review*  
*Global Governance*

The following book-length studies are also recommended:

4. TEACHING METHOD AND COURSE ELEMENTS

The course will be taught on Mondays (8.30-11.30 AM) in “The Hague” classroom (-1 level). During the first 15 minutes of each session, you will be provided with the opportunity to display your knowledge and understanding of the weekly reading material in the form of a brief multiple choice test (which will count towards your participation grade – see below). Thereafter, the lecturer provides an introduction and general overview of the key issues and arguments of relevance to the session’s topic. The second part of the session will be started by a student presentation on one of the research questions (see below under assignments). This is followed by a seminar-style student discussion in which students are encouraged to discuss and critically exchange their views on main contentious points and arguments arising from the reading, lecture, and presentation.

All students are required to come to classes well-prepared with all of their reading assignments promptly and thoroughly completed. Under-preparedness will be reflected in the class participation grade. Students are also encouraged to keep a reading-log with which they can structure their note-taking and deepen their understanding of the set texts.

5. ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Students will be assessed in two exams as well on their research, writing and presentation skills – as evident from their term paper, presentation, class participation and preparedness.

Essays and seminar presentation.

Students are required to submit one Essay with a strict limit of 3,000-4,000 words. The Essay is complemented by a 5min class presentation (see above). Suggested essay questions will be distributed during the second class – but students are encouraged to come up with their own Essay question. The Essay must include reference to at least three country case studies that are dealt with throughout this course, at least one of which must be an emerging power and one an established power. Papers are not intended to be summaries of the reading material. Rather students should provide a critical analysis of the issue at hand, providing different viewpoints and referring to relevant literature. Quotes should be kept to a minimum.

The Research Proposal should be emailed to the professor by 5pm two days before the relevant day of class. The Research Proposal can be emailed in until 2h before the start of class.

The Essay is due at 8 AM of the day of the last class. Students presenting on that day can hand in their Essay by 8 AM on the last day of class also.

The weighing of the grades for the assignments will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Participation</th>
<th>20 %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Out of which:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Tests</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance, Contributions and Preparedness in Class</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>
Written Essay (Research Proposal + Essay) 30%
Out of which:
Research Proposal 10%
Written Essay 20%
Mid-Term Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%

Letter grades are given as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Scale of 20</th>
<th>Scale of 100</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>17.0-20.0</td>
<td>85-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>16.1-16.9</td>
<td>81-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>15.3-16.0</td>
<td>77-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>14.5-15.2</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>13.7-14.4</td>
<td>69-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>13.1-13.6</td>
<td>66-68</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>12.3-13.0</td>
<td>62-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>11.5-12.2</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>10.7-11.4</td>
<td>54-57</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>10.0-10.6</td>
<td>50-53</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-9.9</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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Assessment Criteria for the Research Proposal/Essay are:

• Capacity to analyse and to develop a critical assessment of both empirical as well as theoretical materials.
• Ability to form a coherent, balanced, and analytical argument
• Empirical precision: correct interpretation and reproduction of factual information.
• Capacity to synthesize arguments and to apply theory to empirical information.
• Referencing, use of academic sources (academic journals, monographs).
• Language, style, clarity, organization of papers and work.

Assessment Criteria for the Exams are:

• Ability to demonstrate individual thinking and a clear grasp of the issues at hand.
• Capacity to develop a systematic and coherent argument based on theory and practice.
• Capacity to grasp and convey factual, conceptual and theoretical knowledge.
• Capacity to synthesize and apply concepts and theory to the answers.
6. COURSE CALENDAR

| Part 1. Introduction to Global Governance and Politics of World Powers |
|---|---|
| Week 1 | 20 January | Introduction to the Course. Overview of Syllabus and Requirements. Core Concepts: Global Governance and Politics of World Powers |
| Week 2 | 27 January | Established powers in the global system: US, Germany, UK, France |

| Part 2: Country Case Studies- emerging powers |
|---|---|
| Week 3 | 03 February | Changing the Global Paradigm? Government and Politics of China |
| Week 4 | 10 February | India Foreign Policy in the Global Governance context |
| Week 5 | 17 February | Russia Foreign Policy in the Global Governance context |
| Week 6 | 24 February | Brazil Foreign Policy in the Global Governance context |

Mid-Term Exams

| Week 8 | 10 March | Global Organizations/Institutions: UN Peace & Security Mandate |
| Week 9 | 17 March | Global Organizations/Institutions: UN Peace & Security Mandate |

| Week 11 | 31 March | Global Governance Challenges: International Terrorism and Failed states |
| Week 12 | 21 April | Global Governance Challenges: Climate Change & Environment |
| Week 13 | 28 April | Foreign Policy input and output: how to influence the Global Order? |
| Week 14 | 05 May | What Global Scenarios for the future? |
| Week 15 | 12 May | FINAL EXAMS |

7. LITERATURE AND SESSION INSTRUCTIONS

**Week 1: What is Global Governance?**

Introduction to the Course. Overview of Syllabus and requirements. Introduction to Global Governance and the Politics of World Powers

**Reading**


**Guiding Questions:**
1. What do we understand by government and governance? What do we mean by Global Governance?
2. Does Global Order require Global Governance institutions/organizations, and what are the key challenges these institutions/organizations face?
3. Why do so many institutions suffer a “democratic deficit”, and how does this limit their legitimacy?
4. Which specific institutions/organizations or actors are seen to embody different positions in this power distribution? What purposes are attributed to these? What are the sources of change in the Global Order?

**Week 2 : Established Powers in the Global system: USA + Germany, UK, France**

**Reading**

3. Ian Buruma (2008) *After America – is the West taken over by the Rest?* The New Yorker (Review Article), online at [www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2008/04/21/080421crat_atlarge_buruma](http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2008/04/21/080421crat_atlarge_buruma) pp.1-4

**Guiding Questions:**

1. In what way (if any) is the global role of the US changing?
2. To what extent has the “War on Terror” been an effective use of US power?
3. Should a country such as UK, France, Germany focus on improving its relation with the EU or should it focus on enhancing its role as a global player?
**Week 3: Changing the Global Paradigm? Government and Politics of China**

**Reading**


**Recommended**


**Guiding Questions:**

1) What are China foreign policy goals?
2) How have China image and role changed in the Global system?
3) How is China influencing the global order?

**Week 4: India Foreign Policy and the Global Governance**

**Reading**


**Recommended**

Guiding Questions:

1) How does India position itself in the Global Order?
2) What happens if the ‘developing country identity’ conflicts with the aspiring ‘great power identity’?
3) What is India vision of Global Governance in the 21st century?
4) What are key challenges to India foreign policy?

Week 5: Russia's Foreign policy and the Global Governance

Reading

1. Dimitri Trenin. Russia Reborn. Re-imagining Moscow’s Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, 2009

Recommended


Guiding Questions:

1) To what extent does Russia have the resources to be a ‘great power’? Is Russia an emerging power?
2) How does the fact that Russia is in many dimensions in decline affect its foreign policy?
3) To what extent and how has Putin reasserted Russian power in the ‘near abroad’?

Week 6: Brazil Foreign policy and the Global Governance

Reading

3. Whose side is Brazil on?, The Economist, August 13, 2009
4. Sotero, Paulo and Leslie Elliott Armijo. Brazil: To be or not to be a BRIC? Asian Perspective, 2007

Recommended


**Guiding Questions:**

1) Is Brazil still an emerging power?
2) What are its foreign policy goals and how is Brazil pursuing them?

**Week 7: Mid-Term Exams**

**Weeks 8-9: Global Organizations/Institutions: UN Peace and Security Mandate**

**Reading**


**Guiding Questions:**

1) Have the United Nations failed? Does the Organization still fulfil its purpose?
2) What are the UN key challenges today, and what reform(s) does it need to undergo to handle them?
3) To what extent does the UN successfully and effectively promote peace and stability in the world?
4) What does “Responsibility to Protect” principle mean? What are its interpretations and implications?
Week 10: Global Governance Challenges: Financial Institutions and Economic Crisis

Core Reading

2. Harold James, Fixing Global Finance: Who broke global finance, and who should pay for it?, Foreign Affairs, 2009

Guiding Questions:

1) Describe Bretton Woods, IMF, World Bank, G8, G20, CEB, and their respective roles.
2) Which financial institutions are best suited to regulate international finance in the future?
3) What does “power” mean in global political economy? What role do emerging markets play in the new global financial architecture? Should economic power be re-distributed?
4) Do we really need the WTO? What is its underlying philosophy?

Week 11: Global governance and challenges: International Terrorism and Failed states

Core Reading

2. Fixing a broken world, The Economist, January 29, 2009
4. Gause, Gregory F. Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?, Foreign Affairs, Sept/ October 2005
5. Falkenrath, Richard. Grading the War on Terrorism, Foreign Affairs, Jan/ February 2006

Guiding Questions:

1) What is the role of Global Governance institutions when states fail? Do we have a Responsibility to Protect, or the obligation to observe state sovereignty?
2) How do established powers’ views differ from emerging powers in this respect?
3) What are the ‘new threats’? Who exactly is the enemy? Is it possible to fight a ‘war on terrorism’? Can such a war be won, and if so, how?
Week 12: Global Governance and Climate Change

Core Reading


Guiding Questions:

1) Can we use our current international structures to effectively deal with Climate Change, or do we need new mechanisms?

Week 13: Foreign policy input and output: how to influence Global Order?

Core Reading


Guiding Questions:

1) What is the importance of international environment in shaping foreign policy?  
2) What is the importance of domestic factors in shaping foreign policy?  
3) What are the different ways a state can pursue policy goals?

Week 14: Future scenarios and Revision Session

Core Reading


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Questions:

1) What does the future of Global Governance look like? What scenario(s) could be envisioned for it on the 2025 horizon?
2) Can the newly emboldened G20, which met in Pittsburgh in September 2009, become a legitimate and effective regime? Or is Security Council Reform the way to truly democratize Global Governance?
3) How will emerging powers use their new weight to influence the process?

Week 15: FINAL EXAMS

NB: Students are encouraged to email any concrete questions about the content of the course and the issues that were studied to the tutor. Questions that seem relevant will be forwarded before the revision sessions to all students so that the group can discuss these appropriately.