

Course Title	LAI304 World Politics	Instructor(s)	Rui Saraiva
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Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	Mondays 14:00~17:00
Track	Global liberal arts	Mode of Instruction	Single
Credits	2	Allocated Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> year, Spring
Active Learning	2.3. Presentations, 4.1. Interactive lectures, 4.3. Free discussions, 4.4. Case studies, 4.8. Informal debates, 4.9. Group work on questions, 4.10. Think-pair-share and Think-group-share.	Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	<p>This course introduces students to the shifting and volatile landscape of world politics in the 21st century. We'll begin by exploring core concepts and theories and start by examining globalization and its impact on the current world order. Next, we will examine the emergence of the modern international system through key events and case studies of the 20th century, including major wars and the dissolution of empires. We will analyze the transition from the Cold War and its aftermath to a new world order marked by the rise of Asia and powerful nations like the BRICS. Through this lens, we will examine the evolving concept of war and explore alternative security paradigms beyond traditional approaches. The course also explores other critical contemporary issues, tackling challenges like environmental degradation, forced migration, violent extremism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, along with global efforts to address them. Finally, we will engage in critical discussions surrounding human rights and humanitarian interventions and we will conclude by exploring a range of world politics theories, from liberal internationalism to postcolonial and poststructuralist perspectives.</p>		
Course Objectives	<p>This course aims to equip students with a deep and nuanced understanding of the dynamics shaping world politics. By examining a variety of topics, from the genesis of the modern international order to the current global security challenges, students will develop the ability to critically analyze and contribute to current debates on complex global issues. Students will gain a well-rounded perspective that enables them to address the most pressing issues of our time with knowledge rooted both in historical context and contemporary theories. As part of the course, students are encouraged to reflect critically on their role in a rapidly changing, volatile, and unpredictable world.</p>		
Prerequisite			
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Introduction: From International Politics to World Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	2	Globalization and Global Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	3	The Rise of a Modern International Order	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.

	4	International Politics of the Twentieth Century	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	5	Rising Powers and the Emerging New Global Order	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	6	War and World Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	7	Review and Assessment	Midterm Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points
	8	International and Global Security	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	9	International Environmental Issues	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	10	Refugees and Forced Migration	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	11	Violent Extremism and Globalization	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	12	Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	13	Global Human Rights Structure & Humanitarian Interventions in World Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	14	Theories of World Politics	Preparatory readings and analysis assignments.
	15	Final Review	Final Evaluation Preparation: Overview and Key Points.
Grading	In-Class participation: 20% Assignments and presentations: 20% Mid-term examination: 30% Final examination: 30%		

Textbooks	Students will be asked to read sections of the book listed in the reference section. Other relevant reading materials will be provided by the instructor.
References	Baylis John Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. 2023. <i>The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations</i> . 9th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press
NOTES	To succeed in this course, your active participation is crucial. Doing well in this course will also depend on completing the readings before class. Students are expected to discuss textbook materials, readings, and current events during class. A two-hour preparation and review period is required for each class.