

POLS 492 Capstone Seminar: The International Politics of the Everyday

Spring 2015, TR 11-12:15, Clark C349

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Office Hours: M and T: 1:30-2:30; by appointment

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OVERVIEW

The capstone seminar enables students to apply concepts, theories and methods acquired in the political science major to an in-depth exploration of a particular area of study. Through discussions of course readings as well as a semester-long original research project, students will explore the inter-connections between our daily lives and world politics by using international relations theories and concepts to investigate the social, political, economic and environmental dimensions of our everyday practices. We will consider how these activities are deeply embedded in the world political economy and linked to violent conflict, geopolitical struggles, poverty, development, and environmental degradation. We will examine the role of states, businesses and civil society actors as well as the effectiveness of various types of governance arrangements. This course will be taught as a seminar and will rely heavily on active student participation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- describe the broad contours and key debates in the field of international relations (*reading journals, research paper, presentation*);
- apply international relations theories and concepts to analyze the international politics of everyday practices (*reading journals, participation, research paper, presentation; reflective essay*);
- design and carry out original research in international relations (*peer-reviews, research paper, presentation*); and
- communicate complex ideas in a variety of oral and written formats (*reading journals, participation, research paper, presentation, reflective essay*).

BOOKS

Gavin Bridge and Philippe Le Billion. 2012. *Oil*. London: Polity Press. ISBN: 9780745649269.

Gavin Fridell. 2014. *Coffee*. London: Polity Press. ISBN: 978-0-7456-7077-5

Michael Nest. 2011. *Coltan*. London: Polity Press. ISBN: 978-0-7456-4932-0

Laura Roselle and Sharon Spray. 2012. *Research and Writing in International Relations, 2e*. New York: Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780205060658.

ASSESSMENT	DUE DATE	GRADING
Reading Journal	Multiple (thru 4/14)	80 points
Participation	Ongoing	40 points
Peer-Reviews of draft papers	4/7 and 4/21	40 points
Research Paper	4/28	160 points
Presentation	4/30-5/13	40 points
Reflective Essay	5/13	40 points

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Show up.

- ✓ It's hard to contribute to the collective learning experience if you don't come to class so students are expected to attend class regularly.
- ✓ Please make every effort to be seated by 11:00 so as not to disrupt class.
- ✓ As a common courtesy, I always appreciate a brief e-mail letting me know you're not going to be in class, even if it is not an excused absence

Come prepared.

- ✓ Students should expect to spend 6 hours per week (on average) on course-related work outside of the classroom.
- ✓ Readings and assignments should be completed before class on the day they are listed on the syllabus.
- ✓ Bring copies of readings and assignments to class to facilitate discussion.
- ✓ Regularly check the course website to see if there are any changes to the schedule and/or new assignments.

Be a team player.

- ✓ A successful seminar requires that students contribute to the active learning process in a meaningful way. Each student will participate in discussions of course readings and several group activities related to the research project.
- ✓ Each student will start with 30 points (75%) for participation. Students will lose points for missing more than 2 class sessions without a university-approved excuse. Students can gain points by making regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions, actively engaging in group activities, and generally displaying a willingness to help others work through course concepts.
- ✓ Students may consult with the instructor at any time for an assessment of participation.

Be courteous.

- ✓ Part of what makes the study of political science interesting is the opportunity to engage in debates about controversial issues. In order to facilitate open debate and exchange, it is essential that students recognize and respect the right of each individual to "engage in discussion, to exchange ideas and opinions, and to speak, write and publish freely, in accordance with the guarantees and limitations of our state and national constitutions" (University General Catalog, p. 37).
- ✓ This also means you should avoid doing other things that disrupt the learning environment such as habitually coming in late, using your cell phone (including texting), playing games on your computer, reading the newspaper during class, etc.
- ✓ For general e-mail etiquette with instructors, visit <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. In particular, please include the course number (POLS 362) in the subject line and NEVER start your e-mail with the word "hey."

Complete assignments in a timely manner.

- ✓ Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due at the beginning of class (within first 5 minutes). If late submissions are allowed, they will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B+ to a B) for each 24-hour period they are late (including weekends).
- ✓ Extensions without penalty will be given only in the event of an unforeseen emergency (e.g. illness, death in the family, etc.) or with a university-approved excuse.
- ✓ Computer malfunction does not constitute a valid excuse so don't wait until the last minute to print out your assignment.
- ✓ Every effort should be made to make arrangements prior to the due date (and may require written documentation).
- ✓ **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLETE ALL COURSE ASSESSMENTS WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE.**

Respect academic integrity.

- ✓ Cheating (using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work) and plagiarism (using another's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) are serious offenses and may result in a failing grade for a particular assignment, failing grade for the course and/or disciplinary action by the university. For

clarification on what constitutes violations of academic honesty, go to <http://learning.colostate.edu/integrity>.

- ✓ This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Colorado State University has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 Page 1).
- ✓ Students will be asked to write and sign the following honor pledge for all major writing assignments and exams: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."
- ✓ All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services for possible further disciplinary action.

GRADING

Final grades will be calculated by determining percentage of total points possible (400) using the following scale: A+ 97-100; A (Excellent) 93-96; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B (Good) 83-86; B- 80-82; C (Average) 70-79; D (Poor) 60-69; F (Fail) 0-59.

- No political science course earning a grade lower than a C will be permitted to fulfill political science major requirements.
- Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please see me to discuss your individual needs as soon as possible. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A verifying memo from Resources for Disabled Students may be required before any accommodation is provided.
- I will not discuss grades over e-mail. If you have a question about your grade, please stop by during office hours or make arrangements to meet at another time.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

	READING DISCUSSIONS	RESEARCH PROJECT
	<i>Note: Reading Journal Entry is required each day except 1/22. Submit on Canvas.</i>	
T 1/20	Introduction to Course (no readings)	
R 1/22	IR Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read *Mingst and Arreguin Toft ch. 3 (available on Canvas) 	
T 1/27	<i>Coltan</i> ch. 1	
R 1/29	<i>Coltan</i> ch. 2	
T 2/3	<i>Coltan</i> ch. 3	
R 2/5	<i>Coltan</i> ch. 4	
T 2/10	<i>Coltan</i> ch. 5	
R 2/12		Topic Selection and Question Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Roselle and Spray ch. 1 and chs. 5-9 according to interest • Complete "Research Topic and Questions" assignment
T 2/17		Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Roselle and Spray chs. 2 and 10
R 2/19	<i>Coffee</i> chs. 1-2	
T 2/24	<i>Coffee</i> ch. 3	
R 2/26	<i>Coffee</i> ch. 4	

T 3/3		Research Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Roselle and Spray ch. 3 • Annotated Bibliography DUE
R 3/5	<i>Coffee</i> ch. 5	
T 3/10		Research Design (con't) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Roselle and Spray pp. 58-60 • Research Design DUE
R 3/12	<i>Coffee</i> ch. 6	
SPRING BREAK		
T 3/24		Analysis and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roselle and Spray chs. 4, 11 and 12 • Complete Plagiarism self-test
R 3/26	<i>Oil</i> (pp. 1-34)	
T 3/31	<i>Oil</i> (pp. 35-82)	
R 4/2	<i>Oil</i> (pp. 82-124)	
T 4/7		Analysis and Writing (con't) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft #1 DUE by midnight on Sat. 4/4 • Complete 2 peer-review worksheets
R 4/9	<i>Oil</i> (pp. 125-167)	
T 4/14	<i>Oil</i> (pp. 167-205)	
R 4/16		Presentations (no readings)
T 4/21		Analysis and Writing (con't) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft #2 DUE by midnight on Sat. 4/18 • Complete 2 peer-review worksheets
R 4/23		TBD
T 4/28		FINAL PAPERS DUE
R 4/30		Student Presentations
T 5/5		Student Presentations
R 5/7		Student Presentations
5/13 (6:20-8:20pm)		Student Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflective Essay DUE