



PLS 241—International Relations

Elite Learning—Fall 2018

Supporting Colleges: WCC VHCC

Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network

Contact Information

Instructor: Kyle Scanlan

Office/Office Hours: Online

Telephone: Asynchronous times each week.

E-mail: The best way to reach me is by sending a message within your Moodle course; however, my email address is kscanlan@mecc.edu. My email should only be used as a last resort. Students should expect to receive message responses within 24 hours during the week and no more than 48 hours during the weekend. I will post in the Announcements if I will not be available, so be sure to read the Announcements!

Online hours responses will occur within 24 hours of emails sent M-F. Please note: weekend (Saturday/Sunday) email/contact may take longer.

Course (Catalog) Description

VCCS Master Course Description: This course teaches the geographic, demographic, economic ideological and other factors conditioning the policies of countries and discusses conflicts and their adjustment.

Students who are successful in this course will receive three college credits for PLS 241—International Relations.

Prerequisite: Placement tests may be required. Contact your school counselor for more information.

Course Materials

No textbook is required for this course. Online resources will be used for all course content. All course materials were selected to meet the course goals and objectives. Students should contact their facilitator or guidance counselor if there are problems accessing the sites at your school. If you are unable to receive materials within the first few days of class, contact the instructor.

Time & Location of Class Meeting:

This course is asynchronous, which means you will be able to access your course material at any time of the day or night. You should have a specific time in the day that you will be assigned to work on your assignments for this course at school. It is critical to log into your course on a daily basis.

Technology Requirement:

Students will be required to complete and submit assignments by using Moodle, the learning management system for Elite Learning. The course can be accessed at www.svetn.org. Students will need use of the Internet for all coursework. Access to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are also required.

Technical Support:

Technical problems are not common but occur from time-to-time. To receive prompt support, students must submit a trouble ticket by going to www.svetn.org and then selecting the Contact tab. The trouble ticket Form will be distributed to the informational support team. You should receive a response within 24 hours (usually

much sooner). After you have submitted the trouble ticket, please send me an email or message to let me know what problems you are having.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the complexities of international policies.

Goals and Specific Objectives: Under examination conditions and with a 60% accuracy, the student should be able to:

1. To understand vocabulary and terms used in an international political and legal context.
2. To be aware of the importance of international affairs and their potential effect on daily life.
3. To appreciate the importance of international political affairs in their implications for a citizen of a democratic nation.
4. To improve analytic writing, and verbal communication skills.
5. To understand some of the fundamental difficulties and global realities of the world.

Core Competencies: This course satisfies VCCS Core Competencies in the following categories:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Cultural and Social Understanding
- Information Literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Soft Skills

Teaching Methods:

The class will be divided into topic assignments. There will be multiple learning topics labeled by subject area to complete. Due dates will be posted well ahead of time as each module becomes due. Please note that material will be presented in units, and part of success is learning to study significant amounts of material at once. That being said, if the reading assignments are complete, and there is active participation in the online discussion board success shouldn't be an issue.

Method of Evaluating Student Achievement

The course will consist of a variety of assessments that should appeal to all learning styles. Preparation is the key to student success. Completing assignments on time is essential. No credit will be given for late assignments. Online programs are challenging at times, however, with timely communication and meeting schedule deadlines, this course will be a success.

Grading Policy & Scale:

This course will be graded on a ten-point scale:

100-90 %= A 89-80 % = B 79-70 % = C 69-60 % = D 59 % or less = F

Grades are divided into categories:

- Written Summary of Each Chapter (18):
- Chapter Forum Test Question Assignment (18):
- Chapter Activity (18):
- World News Blog Assignment (5):
- Module Tying it Together (5):
- Paper Assignment:

- Midterm Exam:
- Final Exams:

In the Moodle Grade Book you can see a running total of points earned and assignments as they are averaged.

All grades will be reported by SVETN to each school with a numeric grade and a recommended letter, but assignment of a final letter grade will be at the discretion of the student's school.

Students should expect to receive feedback from the instructor on all discussion board posts within 48 hours. Because it takes much longer to grade papers, you can expect feedback within 7 days of your submission (usually sooner).

Late Work Policy: Please be aware that this is a rigorous college course which requires disciplined work habits and the meeting of deadlines. Due dates are located on the calendar and throughout the course. You should give yourself plenty of time on assignments and don't wait until the last minute. For example: An assignment has been open for an entire week. You don't attempt the quiz until 30 minutes before it closes but then you have technical problems. You will not be given an extension because ample time was given on the quiz. I will not extend deadlines unless I am contacted by your school with an approved excuse. I will not reopen an assignment after it has closed. Plan accordingly if you will be out of school on trips, out of town, etc.

NOTE: Late submissions may be permitted with appropriate documentation of a medical or dire emergency. Documentation should be sent to me by your guidance counselor or proctor.

Attendance Policy:

At least once every school day, you are required to log into MOODLE and perform three tasks:

- Check your inbox for new messages.
- Check for new course announcements under "Latest News."
- Check through the due dates listed on the course page to see what work is due.

You should then proceed to work on the assignments within the current unit.

The school and/or parents will be notified if a student has not logged into their course for a three-day period. Contacts will also be made if a student is logging into their course with only a minimum amount of work each day. Expect no less than 60-90 minutes of work each day.

How to be successful:

Make sure you read through this entire document. There is useful information here.

In addition, there are 2 other documents in the beginning of the course:

Everything you Need to Know goes into great detailed instructions on each of the assignments.

Grading Rubric explains how each type of assignment will be

Stay on task by printing off your assignment sheets and keeping them in a notebook with a calendar. Plan ahead, and do not procrastinate. The dual enrollment classes are college classes. An asynchronous class requires discipline. If you are not self-disciplined in your studies, then you need to rethink your decision to take this class. You must stay focused and keep a steady pace, or you will fall behind. Technical difficulties may occur. Remember that technical difficulties happen with online courses. Report technical problems as soon as possible by submitting a trouble ticket at www.svetn.org under the Contact tab.

Students with Disabilities:

Disabilities Students who participate in this class are also high school students. Each high school has resources available for students with disabilities (IEP). Please contact the guidance counselor at your school to request academic accommodations. Each community college also has the Office of Student Services, which may be able to provide additional services. A representative from your school (guidance counselor) may make a request for

services at the college. That office will evaluate the request and make recommendations for appropriate and reasonable accommodations, which the student will provide to the instructor. Please contact your guidance counselor or SVETN for more information.

Emergency Policy:

Follow all emergency policies for your home school.

Academic Integrity:

Each student will be bound by the academic codes of their school. Any violations will be reported to the student's school for appropriate disciplinary action. Cheating will not be tolerated. Because these courses are considered college courses, each student is considered a responsible adult. It is assumed that students will maintain standards of conduct appropriate to membership in Elite Learning as well as the community college. Emphasis is placed on standards of student conduct rather than on limits or restrictions. Guidelines and regulations governing student conduct are developed by the Elite Learning faculty, staff, and administration. More detailed information is found in the Elite Learning Student Guide.

Honor Code:

All local (and Elite Learning) Honor Codes are in place in this course and are expected to be followed at all times. The said Honor Code will be enforced and abided to in this course.

It is critical that all students read the Elite Learning Guide for Students. This guide is located at www.svetn.org as well as within your course. Contact Dawn Stafford, SVETN Executive Director, if you have questions or concerns.

How do I complete this course?

All Assignments under each bolded category are expected to be completed by the due date given by the instructor (via Moodle). Under each category you will find readings, resources, and presentations. For best results complete all work assigned, all readings and all supplementary assignments, not merely graded work. This will help you to grasp the material in an online environment, interact with your peers as well as prepare you for each topic examination. There will be an assessment at the end of each chapter, occasional project assignments (weighted as tests), a midterm multiple-choice exam and a final multiple-choice exam.

Course Information

Below is an outline of the content of the course. Additions and changes in expectations are at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Outline:

Part 1-The Basics

Module 1---Chapters 1-4

- Chapter 1: The Making of the Modern World
- Chapter 2: Diplomacy
- Chapter 3: One World, Many Actors
- Chapter 4: International Relations Theory

Module 2----Chapters 5-9

- Chapter 5: International Law
- Chapter 6: International Organizations
- Chapter 7: Global Civil Society
- Chapter 8: Global Political Economy

- Chapter 9: Religion and Culture

Part 2-Global Issues

Module 3----Chapters 10-12

- Chapter 10: Global Poverty and Wealth
- Chapter 11: Protecting People
- Chapter 12: Connectivity, Communication, and Technology

Module 4----Chapters 13-15

- Chapter 13: Voices of the People
- Chapter 14: Transnational Terrorism
- Chapter 15: The Environment

Module 5----Chapters 16-18

- Chapter 16: Feeding the World
- Chapter 17: Managing Global Security Beyond "Pax Americana"
- Chapter 18; Crossings and Candles

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Course syllabus and schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.