

POLI101: Introduction to Global Politics

Jieun Byeon

Spring 2026

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Office Hours: T 2:00-4:00 PM or by appointment

Office: Gambrell 308

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Class Hours: T/TH 4:25 PM - 5:40 PM

Class Room: Sloan College 112

Due to the instructor's attendance at a conference, there will be **no class meetings on January 13 and January 15**. The first day of class will be **January 20, 2026**. Instead of meeting during the first week of the spring semester, students will complete an online quiz (Quiz 1) on Blackboard. This quiz includes questions about the syllabus, and the score will count toward your overall course grade. Please complete the quiz before January 20 to receive these easy points.

Course Description

This course introduces students to a wide range of key topics in global politics, such as interstate disputes, civil conflict, human rights, international political economy, international organizations, and international law. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills by identifying major actors in political events, understanding core concepts in the field, and building a solid foundation in the study of international relations. Emphasis is placed on connecting theoretical ideas to real-world developments, using current events to highlight recurring patterns and processes in global politics. Through engagement with current global issues, students will strengthen their understanding of present-day international affairs while developing the analytical skills necessary to evaluate and make sense of future challenges in a complex global environment.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. *Understand fundamental concepts and ideas of Global Politics*
 - Students will deepen their understanding of concepts and ideas to global political dynamics, enhancing their expertise in a specialized field relevant to international affairs.
2. *Analyze political developments using core political science concepts*
 - Students will learn how to identify and analyze major political developments by applying basic political science concepts to real-world cases, fostering analytical thinking and problem-solving skills.
3. *Develop a foundation for upper-level courses in Political Science*
 - As an introductory class, this course provides the foundational knowledge and analytical skills necessary for success in upper-level Political Science courses.

Class Materials

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*. W. W. Norton & Company.

Class materials will draw on this textbook, which will serve primarily as a background and reference resource. Students are encouraged, but not required, to purchase the textbook. Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard after each class.

Course Requirements

Course Formats

1. *Participation in Discussion* (10 × 2% each = 20%)

- Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Students will earn 2 points for each class session in which they participate by making comments relevant to the course topics or by answering the instructor's questions. The maximum participation score is 20 points, which requires participation in 10 class sessions. Students are responsible for self-reporting their participation points on Blackboard. Participation points must be recorded on Blackboard on the same day as the class session in which the participation occurred (students are encouraged to record their participation immediately after class). Only participation points recorded on Blackboard will be counted toward the final grade.

2. *Quizzes* (10 × 2% each = 20%)

- There will be **12 quizzes** throughout the semester, designed primarily to record attendance and to assess students' understanding of basic concepts from the previous lecture. **Only the highest 10 quiz scores will be counted toward your final grade**, including the syllabus quiz held at the beginning of the semester. Each quiz will consist of two simple multiple-choice questions, with one point awarded for each question. This means that each quiz is worth 2 points, and with ten quizzes in total, quizzes account for 20 points overall. Each quiz will be taken **in the classroom** and accessed via Blackboard using an access code written on the board at 4:25 PM; the quiz will automatically close at 4:30 PM. Students who have difficulty using a laptop may request a paper-based quiz.

3. *Country Report* (20%)

- Students will write a report of approximately 800–1,000 words on a country of their choosing. The report is due on April 2 at 10:00 PM and must be submitted as a PDF via Blackboard. Further instructions will be provided on Blackboard.

4. *Midterm/Final Exams* (2 × 20% each = 40%)

- The midterm and final exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer questions. Each exam is worth 20 points, for a total of 40 points. Exams will be taken in person during class and conducted through Blackboard. The access code for the exam will be written on the board at the start of the exam. Students who have difficulty using a laptop may request a paper-based exam.
- Study guides will be posted on Blackboard prior to each exam. Students who need to take an exam on a different date must first contact the Office of Student Advocacy. Make-up exams will be conducted in accordance with university policy.

Rubric

The following grading scale maps the final grade-points to letter grades.

A: 90-100; B+: 85-89; B: 80-84; C+: 75-79; C: 70-74; D+: 65-69; D: 60-64; F: 0-59

Important Dates

- Midterm (In-person): **March 5** (4:25 PM - 5:40 PM)
- Country Report : **April 2** at 10:00 PM

3. Final Exam (In-person): **May 5** (4:00 PM - 5:30 PM)

Course Communication

I will communicate with students regarding grades and assignments throughout the semester. Email is the preferred method of contact, and I will generally respond within 24 hours. Please include “POLI 101” in the subject line when emailing me. Email: jbyeon@email.sc.edu

Accommodations

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Student Disability Resource Center. All disability accommodations must be approved through the Student Disability Resource Center. For more information, see [Student Disability Resource Center](#). Special accommodations are also available for veterans on duty and for parents.

Technical Support

If you have questions or problems related to your computer or software, or if you need technical support (including Blackboard support), please contact the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) Service Desk at (803) 777-1800, submit an online request through the [Self-Service Portal](#) or visit the [Carolina Tech Zone](#). The Service Desk is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Time). You may also visit DoIT’s website for [available technology resources](#). If you have computer issues, there is a computer lab available at the Thomas Cooper Library and in certain campus classroom buildings.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects of this course. For the detailed policy of the University of South Carolina regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, see the University Honor Code: [Academic Responsibility – The Honor Code](#). If you have any questions about potentially improper research citations or references, or about any activity that may be interpreted as academic dishonesty, please see me before the assignment is due.

Personal Integrity

I am committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. I will not tolerate discrimination and harassment on the basis of identity or status, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, genetics, or veteran status. For more information on the University Student Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy, see [Student Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy](#). If you wish to speak to someone about an incident involving harassment, sexual assault, or interpersonal violence, you may call 803-777-8248 to speak with a trained interpersonal violence advocate.

Additional Information

Students are responsible for knowing both university and course schedules.

The academic calendar is available at: [University Registrar](#).

For undergraduate academic regulations, see: [Undergraduate Academic Regulations](#).

Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topic	Quiz / Notes
T	Jan 13		No Class
Th	Jan 15		No Class / Quiz 1
T	Jan 20	Course Introduction & Global Politics	First day of class
Th	Jan 22	History of the Discipline	
T	Jan 27	Interests, Institutions, and Interactions I	Quiz 2
Th	Jan 29	Interests, Institutions, and Interactions II	
T	Feb 3	Interests, Institutions, and Interactions III	
Th	Feb 5	Interstate Conflict I	Quiz 3
T	Feb 10	Interstate Conflict II	
Th	Feb 12	Interstate Conflict III	
T	Feb 17	Bargaining I	Quiz 4
Th	Feb 19	Bargaining II	
T	Feb 24	Civil War	Quiz 5
Th	Feb 26	Terrorism	
T	Mar 3	Review for Midterm	Quiz 6
Th	Mar 5	Midterm	
T	Mar 10		Spring Break (No Class)
Th	Mar 12		Spring Break (No Class)
T	Mar 17	International Political Economy I	
Th	Mar 19	International Political Economy II	Quiz 7
T	Mar 24		No Class – ISA Conference
Th	Mar 26	International Political Economy III	
T	Mar 31	Development	Quiz 8
Th	Apr 2	Environment	Country Report Due (Blackboard, 10 PM)
T	Apr 7	Human Rights I	Quiz 9
Th	Apr 9	Human Rights II	
T	Apr 14	Global Governance I	Quiz 10
Th	Apr 16	Global Governance II	
T	Apr 21	A Look to the Future I	Quiz 11
Th	Apr 23	A Look to the Future II	
T	Apr 28	Review for Final	Quiz 12
Th	May 5	Final Exam	