

Sample Syllabi – Subject to Change

Pathways in World Politics

Call Number: PLSC 10200

Course Instructors: Professor Paul Poast

I. Course Description:

Why is there no world government? What are the consequences of not having a world government? These are the fundamental questions of interest to scholars of international relations. International relations offers conceptual tools for understanding the causes of and possible solutions to many of the challenges facing the world today, including wars, nuclear proliferation, economic crises, and climate change. This three-week course will introduce students to the scientific study of world politics, focusing on such issues as the creation of international organizations like the United Nations, the regulation of the global economy, and applied diplomacy. Students will come away with a comprehension of politics among nations, which can bolster a future career in business, government, journalism, education, law, or nonprofit organizations, as well as make students better informed global citizens poised to make informed decisions and interventions in an increasingly complex world.

II. Course Organization

Each week will be a combination of lectures by the instructors, discussion sessions with the teaching assistant, and simulations of actual diplomatic encounters (e.g. model UN Security Council). Besides engaging in these experiences, students will be asked to read scholarship on the topic and write papers that either reflect on the topic or prepare the student to participate in the simulations.

III. Course Schedule

Each of the three weeks in the course will have a theme and will be led by a different instructor.

- Week 1: Overview of World Politics and International Order
- Week 2: International Political Economy
- Week 3: Global Human Rights