Honolulu Community College
General Education – DIVERSIFICATION DESIGNATION
Certification and Recertification
Application Form
Spring 2012

APPLICANT: Larry Meacham

E-MAIL: meacham@hawaii.edu

COURSE ALPHA and NUMBER: Pols 120

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to World Politics

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SECTIONS:
  Fall: 2
  Spring: 2

APPLICATION IS FOR:
  □ New Course  □ Modified Course  X Existing Course  □ Re-designation

  X Certification  □ Re-Certification. Date of last certification:

DIVERSIFICATION AREA DESIGNATION SOUGHT:
  □ DA (Arts)  □ DP (Physical Sciences)
  □ DB (Biological Sciences)  X DS (Social Sciences)
  □ DH (Humanities)  □ DY (Laboratory)
  □ DL (Literature and Language)

What percentage of the CONTENT of this course focuses on this diversification area?  100%

What percentage of CLASS MEETINGS focuses on this diversification area?  100%
Guidelines and explanatory notes for the following questions are located at the end of this document.

1. **Hallmarks and SLOs.** Please explain how course-specific SLOs align with the diversification area’s hallmarks.

   **DS.1 Uses the terminology of theories, structures, or processes of the social or philosophical sciences.**
   The SLOs use the terminology of theories (e.g., Idealist and Realist), structures (e.g., the World Bank and IMF) and processes (theories of development).

   **DS.2 Involves concepts, models, practices, or issues of concern in the study of these theories, structures, or processes.**
   The SLOs use concepts (e.g., international law), models (e.g. definitions of sovereignty, nations and states), practices (e.g., types and theories of war, military strategies, alliances and treaties) and issues of concern (e.g., population, human rights and environmental issues).

   **DS.3 Demonstrates inquiry that is guided by quantitative and/or qualitative methods employed in the scientific study of the structures or processes of these sciences.**
   The SLOs use qualitative analysis (e.g., factors affecting foreign policy) and quantitative analysis (e.g. Global North and South) to study the structures and processes of world politics.

**Pols 120 Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives:**
- world politics in their personal lives;
- Idealist, Realist & other theories;
- system, national and individual analysis;
- definitions of sovereignty, nations, states;
- factors affecting foreign policy;
- WWI, WWII and the Cold War;
- Post-Cold War system characteristics;
- the UN, EU, World Bank, IMF, WTO, etc.;
- differences between Global N. & S.;
- theories of development;
- types and criticisms of globalization;
- types and theories of war; military strategies, alliances and treaties;
- sources of international law;
- population, human rights and environmental issues

2. **Assessment strategies.** Explain assessment strategies you have used (or plan to use) to measure the degree to which students exit the course with the course-specific SLOs. If there are multiple sections of the course taught by different instructors, please discuss how assessment is (or will be) carried out across instructors.

   Students are given short-answer practice quizzes after each unit, short answer quizzes in the 5th and 10th week, and a comprehensive final exam of short answer questions. All the SLOs are measured with these tools.

   At the end of the course, students take a knowledge survey, which has been shown to correlate at 0.8 with actual learning. Weaknesses in any part of either of the knowledge inventory or final
exams results in restructuring and/or lengthening of the units dealing with those particular subject areas and more emphasis on addressing those subjects in the practice quizzes.

In addition, students must write a 5-page paper, typically addressing both sides of an issue such as free trade, arms treaties, etc.

There is only one instructor teaching this subject at HCC.

3. **Assessment of assessment.** How have you used (or plan to use) the assessment findings to modify or improve this course? If there are multiple sections of the course taught by different instructors, please discuss how review of assessment results is (or will be) carried out across instructors.

Each semester, weaknesses in any part of either of the knowledge inventory or final exams results in restructuring and/or lengthening of the units dealing with those particular subject areas and more emphasis on addressing those subjects in the practice quizzes.
DIVERSIFICATION BOARD DECISION:

☑ Approved
Re-Certification Due: 5/21/17

☐ Not approved
If not approved, reasons for disapproval:

Diversification Board Chair Signature: [Signature]
Date: 4/24/12
Pols 120/#23415 - Intro. to World Politics - Honolulu Community College - Fall 2012 - Meacham

Partial fulfills the HCC and UHM social science requirement and the HCC ethics requirement. Students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations. Please contact me.

Course Description: Contemporary world politics, including theories and analysis; historical background; nations, states and nonstate actors; economic development and globalization in the North and South; war; international law; human rights; and, the environment. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 22/60 or ESL.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives: By the end of class, students will be able to describe:
- world politics in their personal lives;
- Idealist, Realist & other theories;
- system, national and individual analysis;
- definitions of sovereignty, nations, states;
- factors affecting foreign policy;
- WWI, WWII and the Cold War;
- Post-Cold War system characteristics;
- the UN, EU, World Bank, IMF, WTO, etc.;
- differences between Global N. & S.;
- theories of development;
- types and criticisms of globalization;
- types and theories of war; military strategies, alliances and treaties;
- sources of international law;
- population, human rights and environmental issues

Introduction  "Who Are We Bombing Now?" (Jon Stewart, The Daily Show)
We live in a shifting, confusing and controversial world situation. On 9/11, radical Islamists killed 3,000 Americans by crashing airplanes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The U.S. responded by overthrowing the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq, even though Saddam had no weapons of mass destruction and no connection to 9/11. Today, we face continual attacks in both Iraq and Afghanistan and radical Islamists have attacked in Spain, Britain, Morocco, Bali, etc.

The U.S. has the strongest military, but is running such large budget and trade deficits (i.e. buying more foreign imports than we sell exports to other countries) that we owe the Chinese $1 trillion and the value of the dollar has fallen 40%. Meanwhile, American corporations have been moving jobs overseas, first in manufacturing and lately in professional sectors such as financial research and software engineering. (In India, software designers get $5,000 a year vs. $60,000 in the U.S.) The recent U.S. sub-prime mortgage meltdown has spread to the entire financial sector and caused problems all over the world.

The background for many of these changes is the end of the 40-year Cold War between the U.S. and the Russia-dominated Soviet Union, which collapsed in 1991. Since then, Russia had a turbulent political and economic history. Today it is an oil-dependent authoritarian state. Meanwhile, the former communist regime in China has continued a series of capitalist reforms while repressing all political dissent and modernizing its military. With its fast-growing economy, ambitions for regional power and active diplomacy, it is emerging as a challenge to U.S. interests worldwide.

Japan, the model for developing countries, is still in a 20-year recession caused by the collapse of the 1990s 'bubble economy,' and faces population decline. South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore have boomed overall, while Ireland and Estonia have boomed in software.

However, ethnic violence within Yugoslavia, Rwanda and India has punctured dreams of a peaceful post-Cold War 'New World Order.' Religious conflicts, thought to be a relic of the past, have surfaced among fundamentalist Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists.

There is fierce debate about what all this means. For instance, we have a global economy. But the resurgence of nationalist conflicts shows that this does not mean the end of nation states, as some had predicted. Will international organizations such as the United Nations become more powerful and effective, or will nation states remain the primary actors? Should the United States be more or less involved in international politics? Should we encourage free trade? We will discuss these issues.
Method of Instruction/Class Requirements:
- Keep up with the readings and the world news (e.g. at nytimes.com, washingtonpost.com, cnn.com).
- Take the quizzes. Quizzes will be short-answer (Example: "Briefly outline the two main theories of world politics.") and will be preceded by a full review.
- Write a clear, well-organized paper on a topic of your choice, upon my approval, with 5 pages of double spaced text, references and a bibliography. It is due on 5/2. It can be an expansion of one of the topics in the course, a profile of a world leader or organization, an in-depth analysis of a problem, etc.

Text: Kegley & Raymond, The Global Future, A Brief Introduction to World Politics, 4th ed. The text is helpful but not essential. Lecture notes and copies of text are available at the HCC Library front desk.

Grades: Class participation, 20%. Quizzes 1 & 2, 20% each. Final Quiz 20%. Paper 20%. A=85%+, B=75%+, C=65%+, D=55%+, F=45%+. Nothing accepted over three weeks late.

Ofc hrs: MW 12-1 PM, Bldg 7 Rm 617 or by appt. Telephone: 845-9161. Email: meacham@hawaii.edu

Tentative Schedule:


Unit 2 (1/16-1/22) Theories of World Politics. Idealists, realists, neo-conservatives. Kegley, Ch. 2.


Unit 4 (1/30-2/5) Great Power Rivalry and the Rise of the Modern World System. European colonial expansion in the 1500s and 1600s. Britain vs. France in the 1700s/1800s. The Concert of Europe, the rise of Germany, WWI, WWII, the Cold War. Kegley, Ch. 4.

Quiz Review. Quiz 1: Approximately 2/6-2/12.

Unit 5 (2/13-2/19) Nonstate Actors. IGOS, NGOs and other international organizations. Kegley, Ch. 6.


Spring Break 3/26-3/30


Paper Due 5/2. Final Review. Final Quiz: Wednesday, May 9th, 10 AM-12:50 PM

This syllabus conforms to the Honolulu Community College syllabus guideline adopted July 26, 1999. http://www.honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachhlp/sylab-1.htm